

## From Prison to Power: When God Opens a Door

Genesis 41

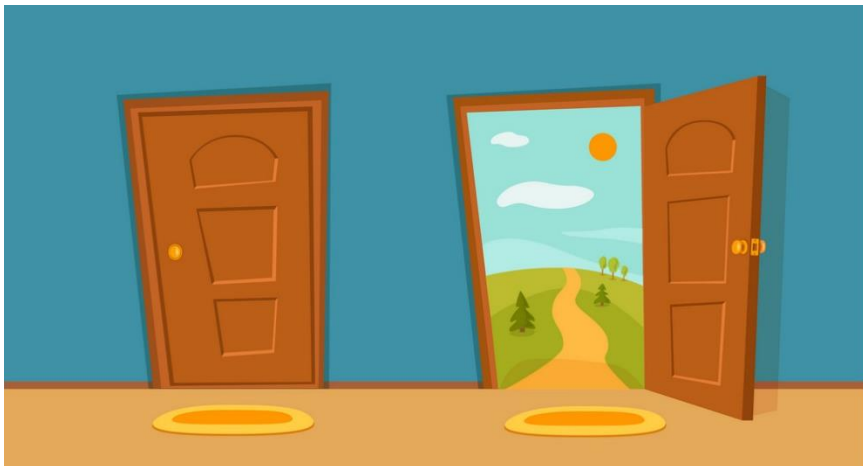
Living as a Christian in the world can feel like a fish out of water! We are *aliens and strangers*, but *greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world!* God is preparing us for service in a hostile environment, we just don't know how or when. So *be ready!*

### Pharaoh dreams, God reveals, Joseph stunningly rises to power

- *Troubling dreams, and man's limited understanding (1-8)*
- *Mature Joseph interprets dreams and counsels Pharaoh (9-36)*
- *Joseph rules wisely without compromising his faith (37-57)*

### When God Opens a Door: Being prepared and staying faithful

- *Trust God in your 'now' – He knows your future.*
- *As you walk in faith, ask for wisdom, and be prepared to act.*
- *Always humbly honor God, who always remembers you!*



1. Genesis 41 is an account of stupendous change in the life of Joseph. In one stunning day, he goes from being an imprisoned slave, to being arguably the second-most powerful man in the world! In terms of life change, only Acts 9, the conversion of Saul from rabid persecutor of Christians to believer in Christ as Savior, comes close! Both stories have one thing in common: The providential intervention of God! How many times can you identify the 'divine hand' guiding the action in Gen. 41?
2. The theme of *faith* runs through the Joseph story. Hebrews 11.1 gives a definition of faith: *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* We know Joseph maintained his faith during years of slavery and imprisonment, but Pharaoh also shows faith in God. Nothing Joseph said could be proven, so what convinced Pharaoh to literally turn over his empire to Joseph? What had God developed in Joseph during years of suffering? How does the Spirit of God prepare us and use us today to convince people to believe His Word?
3. We may never interpret dreams, but there is a principle at work in Joseph's life that is still true today: Believers have wisdom that comes from God. In 1 Cor. 2.13-14, what is the source of our wisdom? Why doesn't the world receive it? In Matt. 13.11-13, why did Jesus speak in parables? Who was His truth hidden from? In Rom. 1.18-22; what causes those who have 'wisdom of this world' to be 'fools'? In 1 Cor. 1.18-25, what is God's wisdom, and how does one receive it? How does having God's wisdom residing in you affect the way you live your life?
4. Perhaps a *big* lesson Joseph learned in 13 years of slavery and prison was *humility*. If you contrast Joseph as a youth bragging about his dreams of ruling his family, with Joseph as the ruler of Egypt, you see this. Humility before exaltation is always the pattern in Scripture. See James 4.10 and 1 Peter 5.6. How can we humble ourselves – what does that *look like* – so that God can exalt us?