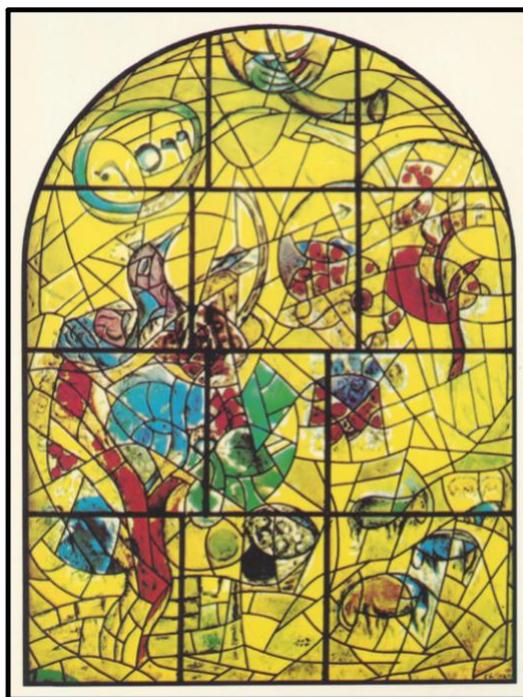


**Weeping May Tarry for the Night,
but a Shout of Joy Comes in the Morning**

Genesis 41:37-52



*The Tribe of Joseph – Marc Chagall
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Background: It's difficult to imagine how a youth from a despised race (a "Hebrew") could immediately rise out of a prison cell and be installed as the second in command of the most powerful nation on earth. And yet, this will not be the only time this happens in the Scriptures. Joseph prefigures Moses, Daniel, and ultimately Jesus. And in the broader sense what God intends for all humankind (Psalm 8) redeemed in Christ (Isa 49:7b). You ask, "How can that be?" Come and see.

Sermon Text: Gen 41:37-52 (ESV)

I. The Exaltation of Joseph (41:37-45)

A. Pharaoh's praise (41:37-40)

³⁷ This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. ³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. ⁴⁰ You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you."

B. Joseph's installation (41:41-45)

⁴¹ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." ⁴² Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. ⁴³ And he made him ride in his

second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁴ Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." ⁴⁵ And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

II. Joseph's rule according to plan (41:46-57)

A. The seven years of plenty (41:46-49)

⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁷ During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly, ⁴⁸ and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of Egypt, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it. ⁴⁹ And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.

B. Sons of a new era (41:50-52)

⁵⁰ Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him. ⁵¹ Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." ⁵² The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

C. The seven years of famine (41:53-57)

⁵³ The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end, ⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. ⁵⁵ When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do." ⁵⁶ So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. ⁵⁷ Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
- b. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- c. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

2. Sermon questions

- a. What was the best news you heard from the service Sunday?
- b. (*Note: Repeat from two weeks ago*) As Joseph was exalted by Pharaoh, have you ever earned the trust of a non-believer, gained their respect, and received the privilege of influencing them or others for God? What was that like for you?
- c. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be **in** the world but not **of** the world. Consider this in your life.
 - Where are you currently **in** the world? How do you keep yourself from becoming **of** the world in those places? Name practical ways you can be/are salt and light in those places where you are **in** the world.
 - Are there places where you have intentionally withdrawn from the world? Why or why not?
 - Can you put into words how to keep the balance of being **in** the world but not **of** it?
 - Respond to this statement: The church is here for the sake of the world.
- d. After years of suffering, Joseph was elevated by the Lord and flourishing beyond his dreams. In appreciation to the Lord, he named his two sons in praise of God's faithfulness to him. If you were to name a son and daughter in praise of God's faithfulness in your life, what would be their names?
 - **Extra Credit:** Write a letter or poem to God in response to this question.