

## **BREAD BASKET FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

In our lesson text, Egypt became the Bread Basket for the Middle East.

(Gen.41:54) “And the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said, then there was **famine in all the lands**, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.”

(Gen.41:57) “The people of the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the earth.”

<p><b>This lesson will answer six questions regarding Egypt becoming the Bread Basket for the Middle East.</b></p>
--

**1<sup>st</sup> question** - How was it possible that a pagan nation like Egypt could become the Bread Basket for Middle East when the severe famine hit them just the rest of the nations of the Middle East?

**Answer:** Pharaoh was told ahead of time in a spiritual dream that only one person in the entire Middle East could interpret (Gen.41:9-13).

(Gen.41:12-13 “Now a **young Hebrew** was there with us, a servant of the captain of guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream. And the things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was hanged.” (Gen.41:25, 32)

(Ps/119:133) “Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.”

(Prov.16:9) “The mind of man plans his ways, but the Lord direct his steps.”

**2<sup>nd</sup> question** - What was the reason for God sending a starvation famine upon the Middle East?

**Answer:** To bring two nations together peaceably in the plan of God: Israel and Egypt.

- **Israel:** “God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by great deliverance.” (Gen.45:7; 47:13; 46:3-4, 27)
- **Egypt:** “God said to Abram, ‘**Know for certain** that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed for 400 years.’” (Gen.15:13; Ex.6:6-8; 7:5; 11:6-8; 12:40-41)

**3<sup>rd</sup> question** – Why did God need to move Joseph from his family, community, and nation to Egypt?

**Answer:** Joseph had it!

(Gen.50:20) “As for you (brothers), you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, **to preserve many people alive.**”

(Gen.37:4) “His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and **so they hated him and could speak to him on friendly terms.**” (Gen.37:4, 5, 8, 11, 18-20)

**4<sup>th</sup> question** – Why was Joseph chosen by God from among Jacob’s family to be the preserver of two nations in the plan of God?

**Answer:** Once again, Joseph understood!

(Gen.45:7) “God sent me before you to preserve life.” (Gen.45:5-8; 50:20-21)

(Gen.45:8) “Now therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but **God**; and **He has made me a father to Pharaoh** and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.”

**5<sup>th</sup> question** – What spiritual training method did God use with Joseph as a spiritually advancing believer?

God used diverse types of authority for training from the pit - to Potiphar’s home to prison (Gen.40:15).

**Answer:** The doctrinal method was UNDESERVED SUFFERING.

(Phil.1:29-30) “For to you, it has been granted for Christ’s sake, **not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for his sake**, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.” (1 Pet.1:6-9; 4:12-19)

(1 Pet.4:19) “Therefore, those who also suffer according to the will of God shall **entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right**.”

**Principle:** Because Joseph didn’t resist or fight this authority training, his spiritual growth and undeserved suffering went faster (Gen.41:37-40).

- **Prayer:** (Heb.4:14-16) “Let us approach the throne of grace with **confidence**, **so that** we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
- Relaxed Mental Attitude (RMA) (2 Cor.12:9-10) - “For **when** I am weak, **then** I am strong.”

**6<sup>th</sup> question:** Why wasn’t Jacob or Judah chosen to be the Preserver of the remnant of God?

**Answer:** Jacob and the other 11 children were unwilling to go through spiritual training to reach and maintain the spiritual growth maturity status of super grace believer (2 Pet.3;18; James 4:6).

Therefore, they missed the super-grace blessing of having an historical impact in the Plan of God that Joseph achieved.

They operated from OMCD most of the time not NMDV thinking (Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2).

- If you want to see Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) [worldly thinking] in action, take note of Jacob’s complex answer to Pharaoh’s simple question (Gen.47:8-10).

His answer suggests something like, ‘**I am a believer, but I don’t recommend it.**’ Apart from Joseph, Jacob’s family is struggling with the doctrinal principle that their time on earth was allotted by God’s grace, not their experiences in it (Eccl.3; James 4:).

- **Therefore, Jacob and the brothers were on the receiving side while Joseph was on the giving side of this BREAD BASKET MINISTRY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST.**