



Meant it for Good: Redemption  
Passing Tests Pays Off  
March 14, 2021

*Passing tests pays off. And we never know  
what tests people are passing.*

Genesis 41:38–57 (NLT)

38 So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?"

39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are.

40 You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours."

41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt."

42 Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck.

43 Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, "Kneel down!" So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt.

44 And Pharaoh said to him, "I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval."

45 Then Pharaoh gave Joseph a new Egyptian name, Zaphenath-paneah.

He also gave him a wife, whose name was Asenath. She was the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. So Joseph took charge of the entire land of Egypt.

## Two Challenges from Joseph's Eventual Reward

**Hope: God can make your tomorrow radically different than your today.**

47 As predicted, for seven years the land produced bumper crops.

48 During those years, Joseph gathered all the crops grown in Egypt and stored the grain from the surrounding fields in the cities.

49 He piled up huge amounts of grain like sand on the seashore. Finally, he stopped keeping records because there was too much to measure.

50 During this time, before the first of the famine years, two sons were born to Joseph and his wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On.

51 Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family."

52 Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."

46 He was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. And when Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he inspected the entire land of Egypt.

53 At last the seven years of bumper crops throughout the land of Egypt came to an end.

54 Then the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had predicted. The famine also struck all the surrounding countries, but throughout Egypt there was plenty of food.

55 Eventually, however, the famine spread throughout the land of Egypt as well. And when the people cried out to Pharaoh for food, he told them, "Go to Joseph, and do whatever he tells you."

56 So with severe famine everywhere, Joseph opened up the storehouses and distributed grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout the land of Egypt.

57 And people from all around came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph because the famine was severe throughout the world.

## **Humility: We don't see people the way God does.**

John 8:15 (NASB95)

15 "You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone.

Ephesians 4:31 (GNB)

31 Get rid of all bitterness, passion, and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort.

Romans 14:4 (NLT)

4 Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the Lord's help, they will stand and receive his approval.

## **Jesus Christ didn't judge you. He hoped for you.**