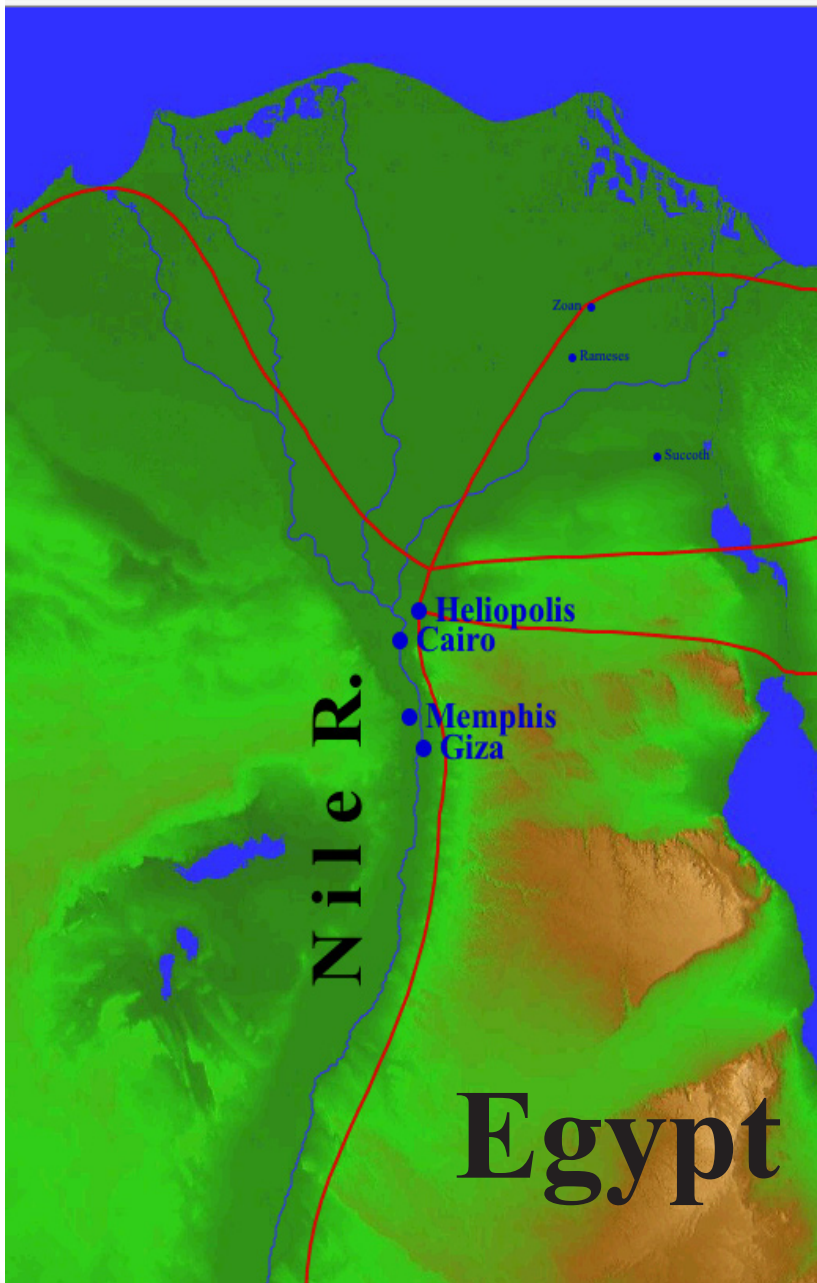


Area Of Joseph's Rulership In Egypt

■ Major Highways ■ Minor Highways



Intoxicating Power

Long Beach Alliance Church • October 22nd, 2006 • Pastor Chris Lankford

GOD WAS WITH HIM, AND RESCUED HIM FROM ALL HIS AFFLICTIONS, AND GRANTED HIM FAVOR AND WISDOM IN THE SIGHT OF PHARAOH, KING OF EGYPT, AND HE MADE HIM GOVERNOR OVER EGYPT AND ALL HIS HOUSEHOLD. NOW A FAMINE CAME OVER ALL EGYPT AND CANAAN, AND GREAT AFFLICTION WITH IT...

~ACTS 7:9C-11A (NASB)

1) From The Pit To The Pinnacle

- A) Joseph was sold into slavery around the age of seventeen (cf. Genesis 37:2). He is called into Pharaoh's court to interpret dreams when he is thirty years old (41:46). The thirteen years between have been filled with difficulties.

- B) But now, in the same way that Pharaoh was suddenly awakened from his nightmares (cf. 41:4, 7) and given peace by God (41:37), Joseph is pulled from the pit of his nightmare (37:24, 28; 40:15; 41:14) by the hand of God.

- C) Joseph, who has been a prisoner (39:20), is now elevated to "second in command" behind Pharaoh (41:40-41). His life has shifted from the pit to the pinnacle in only a day!

2) Dressed In All The Power Of The King

- A) When Joseph is brought from prison for an audience with Pharaoh, his appearance is "Egyptianized" (41:14). This would begin a string of events which would challenge Joseph's Hebrew (i.e., the chosen people) ancestry.

- B) After Joseph faithfully delivers God's message (cf. 41:16) to Pharaoh regarding a plan for averting disaster from the impending famine (41:33-37), Pharaoh appoints Joseph to be the man who will lead Egypt (41:38-41).

- C) In order to accomplish this task, Pharaoh empowers Joseph with visible objects of power. Pharaoh gives Joseph his own signet ring (which bore the hieroglyph of the Pharaoh). This gave Joseph the ability to operate in Egypt with Pharaoh-like authority for all legal matters (41:42).

- D) Pharaoh dressed Joseph in fine linen (a transparent garment which hung from shoulders to ankles), a sign of the powerful and well-connected in Egypt (41:42).

- E) Pharaoh also put a gold necklace onto Joseph, another sign of power and influence. The necklace would be easily seen by others as indicating Joseph's role as Pharaoh's personal representative to all of Egypt (41:42).

- F) Finally, Joseph is announced to the kingdom with a chariot ride through the local region (probably near Cairo, perhaps also to the North in Heliopolis, also known as On, and to the South in Memphis). Everyone (except Pharaoh) in Egypt is under Joseph's authority and rule (41:43-44).

3) The New Life Of Zaphenath-Paneah

- A) Pharaoh renames Joseph with an Egyptian name, Zaphenath-paneah (41:45). His new name probably means, "God speaks and he [God] lives," in Egyptian. However, it is never mentioned in the text again, indicating relative unimportance.

- B) Pharaoh also presents Joseph with a new wife, Asenath (41:45). Asenath was the daughter of the priest of On (the center of worship for the sun-god, Re). This family was ultra-aristocratic, even supplying the Pharaoh's with wives at different points in history.

- C) In a very short time, Joseph is dressed as an Egyptian, his name is Egyptian, his language was Egyptian, his wife was Egyptian, and his father-in-law was the leading Egyptian sun-worshiper. The text is revealing Joseph's dangerous predicament of being completely Egyptianized.

4) The Faithfulness Of Joseph

- A) Before the famine (41:40), during the time of fruitfulness in Egypt, Joseph and Asenath have two children, Manasseh & Ephraim (41:51-52).

- B) The names of Joseph's children are notable first for their meaning. Manasseh was named as a reminder that God had gifted Joseph with grace over his past (41:51). Ephraim was named as a reminder that God had blessed Joseph abundantly in Egypt (41:52).

- C) The names of Joseph's children are most notable for their origin. Joseph, despite his "Egyptianization," shows his allegiance to God and faith in God by giving his boys Hebrew names. Joseph's family shined as being God's chosen in the midst of a foreign nation (cf. Philippians 2:20-21).