

Genesis Ch. 40

V: 1 “After these things” – All part of a continuing story.

- After Potiphar’s wife had made her false accusation of attempted rape and Joseph subsequently being thrown into prison.
- “Butler” – like Nehemiah who was the cup bearer to king Artaxerxes.

V: 2 Pharaoh was “wroth” / angry – with his “officers”.

- “Officers” = eunuch’s – most of the important “ministers” in Pharaoh’s court were eunuch’s to keep them not only from getting involved with the king’s harem, but also to keep them from trying to take over – no heirs to leave their throne to.
- It is interesting to note that Joseph would later be an exception to this rule.

V: 3-4 The butler and the baker are put into the same prison as Joseph, and they are assigned to his care.

V: 5 Both men have dreams that they do not understand.

V: 6-8 Joseph is checking on his charges, and sees that they are out of sorts – perplexed as it turns out by their respective dreams.

- He is still using his skills as a shepherd.
- From the time that Joseph was sold by his brothers up until this time has been somewhere around 10-11 years.
- During this time he hasn’t lost sight of God working in his life – he’s looking to and encouraging others to see God’s wisdom.

V: 9-11 The butler / cup-bearer relates his dream.

V: 12-13 Just that fast God gives Joseph the interpretation, which he gives to the butler.

V: 14-15 Don't forget me when you are restored unto Pharaoh.

- Joseph lived a good life when he was with his family.
- His brothers were very sinful, disobedient, and jealous.
- Originally they plotted his murder, but settled on selling him for a profit.
- Having done so, he's sold to Potiphar – where he serves well – Potiphar's household is blessed because of Joseph.
- Again Joseph stands out amongst all the rest.
- Potiphar's wife stirs up trouble with her attempted seductions and seeking to gratify herself with Joseph.
- Being spurned – she falsely accuses Joseph who ends up in prison.

- Now he's been in prison for a year or two and he sees a chance or possibility of getting out.

- The message is tell Pharaoh that I got a bum rap.

- He hadn't done anything to deserve where he's ended up.

- As Joseph makes his petition to the butler, we see that while Joseph was given great favor by the warden, this wasn't the place where he wanted to stay – it was difficult and un-pleasant, but he'd made the best of it.

V: 16-17 Again the dream is related to Joseph, and just as quick God gives the interpretation.

V: 18-19 The interpretation starts off the same as the other – “three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head”

- Then 3 keys words are added: “from – off – thee”
- Joseph who is a type of Jesus hears the dreams of the two men, one about the cup, another about the bread; all about Jesus.

V: 20-22 The prophetic fulfillment of both dreams.

- The butler is restored to the court of Pharaoh.
- The baker is executed and hung on a tree for the birds to eat.

V: 23 The chief butler forgot about Joseph.

Isaiah 49:15-16 ¹⁵“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. ¹⁶Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.”

- Joseph was probably very hopeful that the butler would present his case to Pharaoh in the hope of being released – and that didn't happen.
- The butler would forget him, but God would not.
- What was God teaching Joseph during this time?
- Possibly that his only hope was in God Himself, not in man. (**Psalm 20:7**)

Jeremiah 29:11-12 “¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. ¹²Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you.”

- Because we know the end of this story, we don't always get the full impact of what is going on here.
- If the story ended here we might be questioning the goodness or the fairness of God, or His love – but Joseph did none of these things.
- So often in our own lives, we haven't seen the end of the story – there is more yet to come and we need to keep our faith, keep our hope, keep our eyes on Jesus and allow Him to bring the rest of it to pass.
- In the end, He will be glorified!

Genesis Ch. 41

V: 1 Two years later... Pharaoh has a dream.

- The dreams that Joseph deals with always seem to come in pairs:
 - 2 dreams about his brothers and parents.
 - 2 dreams of the 2 servants in prison.
 - 2 dreams of Pharaoh.

V: 2-8 Out of the Nile Rivers come up 7 fat cows, 7 skinny cows. 7 fat ears, 7 blighted ears. (stalks)

- Behold it was a dream – more like a nightmare.
- Pharaoh was troubled, un-settled.
- Pharaoh sent for the magicians and all the wise men – but none were able to interpret the dream.

- Pharaoh had some pretty sharp people at his disposal.
- Later when Moses and Aaron would confront a different Pharaoh, when Aaron cast down Moses' staff it turned into a serpent.
- Pharaoh's servants did the same, but the staff / serpent of Moses consumed those of Pharaoh.
- The "magicians" and wise men no doubt were into dark magic, Satanism, and the occult.
- They might have been able to interpret dreams from the enemy – but these dreams were from God, with whom they had no power or ability. (**1 Cor. 2:14**)
- Later in the book of Daniel, we see the same thing.
- King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that no one can interpret – except God – who would speak through His servant Daniel.

V: 9-13 The butler finally remembers about Joseph, how he had properly interpreted the previous dreams of the butler and the baker – and how each of the interpretations had been accurate.

- Symbolically both cattle and grain represent wealth, in this case the wealth of a nation – seeing them consumed probably eased any reservations Pharaoh might have had about consulting a Hebrew prisoner – since no one else could help.

V: 14 Joseph is brought out of prison and cleaned up.

- It is sometimes funny how the Bible gives us little details, but they are always significant even if we don't understand the meaning – Joseph shaved.
- The Hebrews pointedly didn't shave, they allowed their beards to grow out – and only shaved them off as a sign of grief or mourning.
- To the Egyptians it was an abomination not to be shaved.

V: 15-16 This is so common with men who are truly used of God – they give the glory, all the glory to God.

2 Corinthians 3:5 “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.”

Isaiah 42:6 “I am the Lord: that is my name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images.”

V: 17-24 Pharaoh relates his dreams to Joseph, he elaborates slightly about how when the skinny cows consumed the fat cows, that they didn't look any different.

V: 25-31 Joseph explains to Pharaoh that the dreams are the same and that God is showing Pharaoh what He is about to do.

- The 7 fat cows and the 7 good ears of grain are 7 plentiful years.
- These are followed by 7 skinny / blighted cows / ears of grain which are 7 years of famine which will consume the 7 good years.

V: 32 Joseph explains that the dream was doubled to show him that these things will shortly come to pass. (Deut. 17:6, 19:15 – by the mouth of 2 wit's)

V: 33-36 Joseph counsel's Pharaoh – boldness!

Matthew 10:19-20 ¹⁹“But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. ²⁰for it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.”

- Pick someone and act now.
- Start setting food aside, 20%.
- What is set aside can be used when the famine begins.

V: 37 Pharaoh and everyone else saw the wisdom in what Joseph spoke.

James 3:17 “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

V: 38-39 Pagan Pharaoh and all the others recognized the Spirit of God working in and through Joseph.

“Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this...”

- Joseph had a good witness, because God was the One glorified – not Joseph.

V: 40-45 Pharaoh takes Joseph's counsel and picks someone who is discreet and wise – someone who follows the Lord.

- Pharaoh gave Joseph his signet ring – symbol of his authority.
- Joseph had all the authority of Pharaoh throughout Egypt.
- Pharaoh re-names Joseph: Zaph-nath-pa-a-ne-ah" which means "revealer of secrets".
- He is given a wife: "Asenath" – "Belonging to Neith" (goddess of war)

V: 46 Joseph was 17 when he was sold into slavery, he's spent 13 years between slavery and prison – all the while honoring God.

- Joseph had been through God's training program and was now ready to be used of God.
- King David was anointed as king when he was but a youth, but he wasn't crowned until he'd spent years in God's training program running from Saul, and was finally crowned when he was 30 years old as well.
- Moses was 40 years old when God took him out into His wilderness training program, then 40 years later brought him back to Egypt to eventually free his people.

Isaiah 55:8-9 ⁸"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

- The Lord is with Joseph and giving him favor still, having prepared him for the task at hand.
- Joseph gets busy with the task at hand.

V: 47-52 As the Lord had said: 7 years of abundance, wheat was stored up like "the sand of the sea" in such large quantities that they stopped counting it.

- The land was fruitful, and so what Joseph.
- Two sons: Manasseh & Ephraim.
- Both sons were reminders of God's goodness in Joseph's life:

Manasseh: "Forgetting" – forgetting the toil and hardship.
Ephraim: "Fruitful"

V: 53-57 The years of plenty end, and the 7 years of famine begin.

- Not long thereafter the people cry out to Pharaoh, and Pharaoh sends them to Joseph.
- Joseph then opens the storehouses and begins to sell grain to those who need it.
- People start to come from far and wide to buy food – eventually including the sons of Jacob.

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- Joseph was sent by his father to his brothers – and rejected.
 - The Father sent Jesus the Son to his brethren – and was rejected as well.
 - Joseph found himself condemned to prison with two other prisoners, one who lived and one who died.
 - Jesus was condemned with two mal-factors, one who lived and one who died.
 - Joseph's brother's threw him into a pit.
 - Jesus descended down into the pit because of his brothers.
 - As Joseph was brought out of the pit & the prison to stand before Pharaoh.
 - So Jesus ascended out of the pit and into the presence of His Father.
 - As Joseph moved about Egypt the command went out, "bow the knee!"
 - Just as at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow...
 - No one could do anything without Joseph's permission.
 - Jesus said: "... apart from Me you can do nothing."
 - Joseph was given great authority, Jesus is given all authority.
 - Joseph was 30 years old as he stood before Pharaoh and started his ministry.
 - Jesus was 30 years old when He began is public ministry.
 - Joseph takes a gentile bride.
 - Jesus takes a gentile bride called the church
 - Joseph's bride is identified during the times of plenty, but not seen again as the 7 years of tribulation begin.
 - Jesus' bride is also "missing" from the earth during the great tribulation.