

Genesis 40

Joseph Interprets Dreams

Then it came about after these things, *that* the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt. ² And Pharaoh was furious with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. ³ So he put them in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, in the prison, the *same* place where Joseph was imprisoned. ⁴ And the captain of the bodyguard put Joseph in charge of them, and he took care of them; and they were in confinement for some time. ⁵ Then the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, both had a dream the same night, each man with his *own* dream *and* each dream with its *own* interpretation. ⁶ When Joseph came to them in the morning and saw them, behold, they were dejected. ⁷ So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?" ⁸ And they said to him, "We have had a dream, and there is no one to interpret it." Then Joseph said to them, "Do interpretations not belong to God? Tell *it* to me, please."

⁹ So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph, saying to him, "In my dream, behold, *there was* a vine in front of me; ¹⁰ and on the vine *were* three branches. And as it was budding, its blossoms came out, *and* its clusters produced ripe grapes. ¹¹ Now Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; so I took the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I put the cup into Pharaoh's hand." ¹² Then Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: the three branches are three days; ¹³ within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office; and you will put Pharaoh's cup into his hand as in your former practice when you were his cupbearer. ¹⁴ Only keep me in mind when it goes well for you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this prison. ¹⁵ For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon."

¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that he had interpreted favorably, he said to Joseph, "I also *saw* in my dream, and behold, *there were* three baskets of white bread on my head; ¹⁷ and in the top basket *there were* some of all kinds of

baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head.”¹⁸ Then Joseph answered and said, “This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days;¹⁹ within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head from you and will hang you on a wooden *post*, and the birds will eat your flesh off you.”

²⁰ So it came about on the third day, *which was* Pharaoh’s birthday, that he held a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants.²¹ He restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh’s hand;²² but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them.²³ Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

Pauls Observations and insights

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1. It just so happened that the baker and the cup bearer were put into jail at the same time Joseph was there.
2. Did this ‘just happen’ or did God instigate this encounter?
3. What do you think about God intervening in the affairs of men?
4. Now, you’ve got the chief baker and the chief cupbearer being guarded by the captain of the bodyguards!
5. Even in the prison environment Joseph’s character shines through and he is elevated once again, to a position of leadership and the taking charge of the prison.
6. So it is Joseph who is in a position to take care of these high ranking prisoners.
7. Now, both of them, on the same night, have a dream with a meaning. What are the chances of them both having a dream, with a meaning, on

the same night, being looked after by a man who has the gift of interpreting dreams?

8. Now the dream caused both of them great concern and they were left disturbed. Have you ever experienced a dream that caused you great concern?
9. Joseph asked why they looking so sad that morning. He reveals his sensitivity to the feelings of others.
10. Why are some people sensitive and some people not?
11. The thing that had disturbed them was, not knowing what the dream meant. It is always the unknown that causes us the greatest anxiety. But does knowing really help?
12. Joseph's confidence in Almighty God's ability is admirable.
13. Interpretation of the cup bearers dream was a positive outcome. Could you have interpreted this dream?
14. Three branches equals three days and a restoration of his position.
15. Joseph's conviction and confidence that the dream would come to pass as he explained, provoked him to ask the cup bearer, to remember him when he was restored into Pharaoh's court.
16. Joseph attempts to tell the cup bearer and the baker his story of woe. Do you think that they were listening or that they even cared?
17. The chief baker mistakenly gains false hope in his heart as a result of Joseph's interpretation of the dream.
18. He anticipates a blessing to himself from the dream and sadly the dream declares the end of his life!
19. Could you have interpreted the bakers dream? Three baskets equals three days, you will be hung on a tree.
20. How does the baker feel now that he knows he will die very soon?
21. It just so happens it is Pharaoh's celebration birthday party in three days and the things Joseph says about the dreams, come to pass.
22. Unfortunately for Joseph, the cup bearer did not remember Joseph to Pharaoh! Why do you think that was?
23. Isolation, rejection, abandonment and loneliness are bad frenemies. Joseph is feeling forgotten!