

# When Dreams Come True

Genesis Chapter 40 35:14

Gen 40:1

## 1) Positioned to Interpret Dreams vs 1-8

Then it came about after these things, the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt.

- *Cupbearer = (butler) He was responsible for tasting the Pharaoh's drink to make sure it was not poisoned.*
- *Most popular drink in Egypt was beer not wine*
- *Chief Baker was responsible for preparing meals on demand*
- *Both risked their lives Cupbearer in tasting the Baker in having to prepare for Pharaoh's taste demands even if the produce was in season or not.*

Gen 40:2

Pharaoh was furious with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker.

- *The text doesn't say what they did but we know both were put in jail. Possible because something went wrong and Pharaoh wasn't sure who was responsible and threw them both in.*

Gen 40:3

So he put them in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, in the jail, the {same} place where Joseph was imprisoned.

Gen 40:4

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.

- *Genesis 39:1 this Captain of the Bodyguard was Potipher.*
- *Potipher is taking care of Joseph. Gives him a position in jail. Possible Potipher knows that he will end up looking good if Joseph prospers in jail like he did in his house.*

Gen 40:5

Then the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt, who were confined in jail, both had a dream the same night, each man with his {own} dream {and} each dream with its {own} interpretation.

Gen 40:6

When Joseph came to them in the morning and observed them, behold, they were dejected.

Gen 40:7

He asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?"

- *Joseph noticed others. He could see if they were sad or content. When sad he asked. He pressed in to care for them.*
- *Why questions are good. They require more than a yes / no answer. Are you sad? Is different that Why are you sad?*
- *We need to notice other people, discern and press in to give them aid.*

Gen 40:8

Then they said to him, "We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell {it} to me, please."

- *Joseph has had encounters with dreams. Dreams that God knows the key. It is amazing that after all these circumstances, that Joseph would get involved again in dreams. But you see he had learned something about dreams.*
- *Interpretations belong to God. Both he and his brothers interpreted his dreams in chapter 37:5-9 and while they may have had a touch of accuracy they were still way off on what and why and how those things would come about.*
- *Joseph had learned that God really knew the interpretations of dream.*
- *It is kind of like the two boys who were walking together. One boy said to the other "Me and my dad know everything." The other boy asked a tough question. The 1<sup>st</sup> boy replied, "That one's for my dad."*
- *Jbn*
- *Dreams are used by God to speak to man. Genesis 20:3; 28:12; 31:11; 31:24; Numbers 12:6; 1 Samuel 28:6; Joel 2:28; Matthew 1:20; 2:13; 2:22*
- *A WARNING: Scripture also warns us not to consider all dreams are from God*
  - *Ecclesiastes 5:3,7 "A dream comes through much activity ...For in the multitude of many dreams and many words there is also vanity"*
  - *Jeremiah 23:25-28 & Deuteronomy 13:1-5 warn of false prophets using dreams to give themselves a sense of authority.*

Gen 40:9 **2) The Cupbearer's Dream** vs 9-15

So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "In my dream, behold, {there was} a vine in front of me;

Gen 40:10 and on the vine {were} three branches. And as it was budding, its blossoms came out, {and} its clusters produced ripe grapes.

Gen 40:11 "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."

Gen 40:12 Then Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: the three branches are three days;

- *The purpose of Dream Interpretation is not to demonstrate a man's insight into future events, nor is it to demonstrate how God gifts a man to do the supernatural.*
- *The purpose of this Dream Interpretation is to set up Joseph so that Israel would be preserved. That the seed through Judah is spared through the famine. So that the people from whom Jesus would come and be crucified would exist. So that You and I can worship on a Sunday or Wednesday. This is the purpose of this Dream Interpretation.*
- *Don't get so caught up on what Joseph is doing, thinking can I do that. Grab onto what God is doing, thinking about what is God doing today.*

Gen 40:13 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 according to your former custom when you were his cupbearer.

Gen 40:14 "Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house.

Gen 40:15 "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."

- *Joseph interprets the dream and the dream is favorable for the Cupbearer. 3 Days he will be restored to his position before Pharaoh.*
- *3 Days Joseph would be known if he made this up or not. Joseph was not afraid of delivering the message as he received it. (3 Days! This time table put him on the hot seat.)*
- *Egyptian culture believed that the one who correctly interprets the dream also had the power to cause the events to happen. So, in the Egyptian mind, this was more than just seeing it but also creating it.*
- *But Joseph asks for favor from the Cupbearer. To be remembered and for the Cupbearer to use his influence before Pharaoh to get Joseph out of prison.*

Gen 40:16

### 3) The Chief Bakers Dream vs 16-23

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;

Gen 40:17

and in the top basket {there were} some of all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."

Gen 40:18

Then Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days;

Gen 40:19

within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head from you and will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh off you."

- *This would be funny if it wasn't so tragic for the Chief Baker. The Chief Baker sees a favorable interpretation for the Cupbearer and with excitement for a possible release, he tells Joseph his dream. Joseph tells the Good message and he tells the tough message. So should we.*
- *If you are now drawing lines between 3 baskets and 3 days, Birds eating out of the basket and Birds eating flesh you are trying to figure out a pattern for dream interpretation. It really doesn't work that way. While there may be some similarities there are other elements that do not connect between the dream and interpretation. The interpretation, as Joseph correctly declared in verse 8, belongs to God. Someone who interprets a dream received it from God not that he was able to re-define the elements of the dream.*

<u>Dreams Interpreted</u>	
Joseph Interpreted:	
The Cupbearer's Dream	Gen 40:12
The Chief Baker's Dream	Gen 40:18
Pharaoh's Dream	Gen 41:25
Daniel Interpreted:	
Nebuchadnezzar's 1 <sup>st</sup> Dream	Dan 2:31
Nebuchadnezzar's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dream	Dan 4:20

<u>Dreams</u>	
Abimelech (Sarah) Gen 20:3	Joseph (Mary) Mtt 1:20
Jacob (Ladder) Gen 28:12	(Egypt) Mtt 2:13
(Cattle) Gen 31:10-13	(Return) Mtt 2:10
(Going to Egypt) Gen 46:2	Pilate's wife Mtt 27:19
Laban (Jacob) 31:24	Corneilius Act 10:3
Joseph (Sheaves + Stars) Gen 37	Peter (Eat) Act 10:10
To Gideon (Barley Cake) Jdg 7:13	Paul (Man) Act 16:9
Solomon (wisdom) 1 Kings 3:5	(Rome) Act 23:11
Eliphaz (hearing the Spirit) Job 4:12	(Shipwreck) Act 28:23
Daniel (4 beasts) Dan 7	Revelations by
	Num 12:6 Jer 23:28
	Joe 2:28 Acts 2:17

- *Notice interpreting other peoples dreams only occurred by 2 people in the entire bible. More often the Lord comes and speaks to individuals in their own dreams and they themselves know the interpretation.*

Gen 40:20

Thus it came about on the third day, {which was} Pharaoh's birthday, that he made 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.

- *First mention of a birthday party ...and someone dies*
- *Imagine the hope and happiness in the Cupbearer and the Chief Baker for being invited to the Pharaoh's birthday Party.*

Gen 40:21

He restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand;

Gen 40:22

but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them.

- *Joseph had received a correct interpretation from God. Awesome ...but*

Gen 40:23

Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

- *Joseph is forgotten for 2 years. The Cupbearer is no longer in crisis. Don't we do this? After the crisis is over we forget.*
- *This instance possible is DIVINE AMNESIA. Remember it isn't about interpreting dreams but fulfilling the purpose of God. It wasn't time to bring up Joseph's name.*

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