

## Genesis Chapter 40 Commentary

1 And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt. 2 And Pharaoh was wroth against two of his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers. 3 And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound. 4 And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them: and they continued a season in ward.

Joseph is still prisoner to Potiphar, in Potiphar's prison, seen in: *Ge 39:1 "And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither."*

We don't know how long the butler & baker were in prison, but from the following text we can see that they were there long enough for Joseph to become familiar with their moods and countenances.

**5 And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison.**

Some people discount that dreams have any value or meaning today. I believe they do; to the extent that God uses them to bring salvation's purpose to pass. Look at these NT text and see:

- *Mt 1:20 "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost."* God gave Joseph this dream to give him instruction of how to conduct his life regarding the birth of Jesus.
- *Mt 2:12 "And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way."* The wise men were given instruction which would hinder the ulterior motive of Herod to kill Jesus.
- *Mt 2:13 "And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."* Again, Joseph is instructed in a dream, this time for the preservation of the life of Jesus.
- *Mt 2:19 "But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,"* Joseph receives instruction to return from Egypt to his homeland.
- *Mt 2:22 "But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:* God gave instruction for Joseph to move to Galilee to raise up Jesus. This instruction will serve later to befuddle the minds of the Pharisees about Jesus being the Christ, seen in: *Joh 7:52 They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet."*
- *Mt 27:19 "When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him."* Pilate's wife told her husband that she had been shown in a dream that Jesus was an innocent man. She had the sinlessness of Christ revealed to her.
- *Ac 2:17 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see*

**visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:**" Scripture teaches us; God will continue to give instructions, and revelations of Christ, to people in dreams.

In our study here in Genesis we see; God is using dreams to bring about the salvation of Joseph and his family. In these references above we see that God is using dreams to bring about our salvation.

**6 And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were sad. 7 And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly today? 8 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you.**

If God gives assistance or instruction in a dream, He will do one of two things:

- God will provide the interpretation, or instruction, directly to the one to whom He has sent the dream; or
- God will provide someone to interpret the dream, and reveal his instruction, or cause his purpose to come to pass, as we see displayed here.

One other thing about dreams; God may give dreams; but the fulfillment of the dream is not always in the immediate future. Sometimes, they are for times far away, and/or, for some eternal purpose of God, which he reveals ahead of time.

Notice also, Joseph doesn't claim to be an interpreter of dreams but gives the honor of interpretation to the giver of the dream, God.

**9 And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me; 10 And in the vine were three branches: and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes: 11 And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand. 12 And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days: 13 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler. 14 But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house: 15 For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.**

Joseph places his plea for deliverance in the butler's hand. It will seem to be forgotten, but at the proper time it will be remembered, to bring about, God's purpose in Joseph's life, and the preservation of Israel.

**16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white baskets on my head: 17 And in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head. 18 And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are**

**three days: 19 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.**

Joseph did not make his plea for deliverance to the baker, knowing that the baker would not be alive to deliver it. This shows Joseph's complete trust in the providence of God.

**20 And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants. 21 And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand: 22 But he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them. 23 Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgat him.**

I believe we can see a prophetic picture in these two dreams, How you ask? The butler told his dream first and the interpretation was to life. The baker told his dream second and the interpretation was to death. Both dreams were given on the same night. Both were interpreted on the same day. Both were fulfilled on the same day at the king's feast.

In the end of time, we find in scripture in: **1Th 4:16-17; 16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."** In the phrase "the dead in Christ shall rise first" we see the butler restored to his place of service to the king, which is a picture of God's people being resurrected in immortality to their place of service to their King Jesus.

At the same time in, we find in scripture: **Joh 5:25-29; 25 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."** In the phrase "**and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**" We see the baker is not restored to his office of serving the King, rather he is hanged and destroyed from the presence of the King. Thus, we see the picture of all, that are not resurrected to immortality in Christ, shall come before the King, and they shall hear that awful judgment of being cast into the eternal lake of fire.

We notice in **Ge 40:23 "Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgat him."** This is what makes it the prophetic picture. How? It was about 2 years later that the appointed time for Joseph to be set up as the ruler over all Egypt and to bring about the salvation of his family. We expect after about two thousand years, from his first appearing, to see Jesus return and finally accomplish the eternal salvation of his people (the dead in Christ shall rise first) and to pronounce final judgement on the rest.

We see a lesson from this chapter: Being totally committed to following God and having total faith in the finished work of our Saviour, has everlasting rewards. May we be found in that number who

does not forget God, and Christ, and does not lose faith and trust in the eternal purpose of God to save a people unto himself. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!