

## JOSEPH'S GIFT OF INTERPRETING DREAMS

Genesis 40

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### 1. JOSEPH AND TWO NEW PRISONERS – vv. 1-4

a) The Prisoners Identities – v. 1b the **cupbearer** held the official position of being responsible for the wine the king drank. The **baker** held the official position of being responsible for what the King ate. In addition to this they also held the role as special advisors to the king.

b) The Prisoners Indictment – v. 1c-2 More than likely they were accused of some assassination plot, which would be under investigation. Pharaoh became furious, incensed, roused to anger. *Proverbs 16:14; 20:2*

c) The Prisoners Sentence – vv. 3-4 Prison. Potiphar assigned Joseph to take care of them! God strategically positioned Joseph for more of His will to unfold.

**v4. b** Joseph was 17 when he was first taken to Egypt. By the end of this chapter **40:23** he is 28 years old. Because at the beginning of chapter 41, two years had passed. And he was released from prison at the age of 30 (**41:46**). So, for 13 years Joseph was in confinement, except for the time he served in Potiphar's house, before Mrs. Potiphar's accusation.

### 2. JOSEPH IS INFORMED ABOUT THEIR DREAMS- vv. 5-8

a) The Officials Simultaneous Dreams – v. 5

This appears to be a coincidence. Two men on the same night having dreams they knew had to have an interpretation. Coincidence is when God is miraculously controlling several events (good or bad) at the same time to accomplish His will. Jesus believed coincidences. *Luke 10:30-31; Romans 8:28*

b) The Officials Sad Demeanors – vv. 6-8

Ordinarily they would have access to the Pharaoh's magicians. (41:8) Joseph told them God alone owns the interpretations of dreams *Job 33:13-16*

Joseph's dreams and interpretation is what got him in trouble with his brothers in the first place! God gave Joseph his initial dreams, and surprisingly God also gave him the gift of interpretation.

### 3. CUPBEARER'S DREAM AND INTERPRETATION – vv. 9-13

God showed Joseph the cupbearer returning to his official position which *will happen* in 3 days. *It* was no lucky guess. *Isaiah 46:9-10*

### 4. JOSEPH'S REQUEST AND REASON – vv. 14-15

a) Request – v. 14 - Joseph requested that the cupbearer remember him when he gets his case heard and is found innocent.

b) Reason – v. 15 - He told the cupbearer his history. Did you notice that he didn't mention who kidnapped him? Did you notice he didn't mention who was responsible for causing him to go to prison? He said nothing about his 10 brothers or Mrs. Potiphar. He knew in time God would deal with his haters.

*Note:* It could appear that Joseph may be attempting to get out of prison with the help of the cupbearer instead of waiting on God to work on his behalf. It wasn't a lack of faith in God, but it was responding to what may be an act of God! Perhaps Joseph saw this cupbearer *as* a blessing from God!

## **5. BAKER'S DREAM AND INTERPRETATION – vv.16-19**

Wow! The baker goes from bewilderment about the dream, to excitement about the interpretation thinking he was going to get a similar break, to now sitting there with his mouth wide open.

## **6. INTERPRETED DREAMS COME TO PASS – vv. 20-22**

In one room of the palace there was excitement and a party. In another room in the dungeon there was an execution and pity. Pharaoh led the cupbearer back to serving him. Mr. Potiphar led the baker to get his head severed.

Joseph sat perplexed for several days wondering what could've happened upstairs with the cupbearer? The last verse of this chapter explains it: v. 23.