

Genesis Chapter Forty Workbook

Key Words:

Harmonize:

Consider Daniel 2:19-23

Dig:

- 1) What significance do dreams have in this chapter?
- 2) What 'opened the door' for Joseph to be able to interpret the two dreams mentioned in this chapter?
- 3) What is the title for the leader of Egypt?
- 4) Joseph is given the job to care for the cupbearer and the baker in prison. Is this assignment a promotion or a dishonor?
- 5) What impact did these two dreams have on the baker and the cupbearer?
- 6) What is Joseph implying in verse 40:8?

Discuss:

- 1) Why does God use symbolic language to convey His messages?
- 2) Why do people return to a state of bondage after the Lord has set them free?
- 3) How do you judge supernatural gifts and events in the life of the church?

Point of Prayer:

Pray for someone who continues in their life in a place of "cruel bondage".

Integrate

What other scripture comes to mind as you read this chapter?

Application:

- 1) How sensitive are you to noticing when the Lord is involved in your 'meeting' someone? (we call it a divine appointment)

- 2) Do you have any pattern to your dreams or do you have recurring dreams?

- 3) Does anyone currently 'owe you a favor'?

- 4) Have you been falsely accused recently? How did you respond?

- 5) What causes you to trust or distrust our government leaders?

- 6) If you could have any job in the government, what would you like to be or do?

Genesis Chapter Forty

Genesis 40:1-4

Then it came about after these things the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt. And Pharaoh was furious with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. 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. 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.

- Cupbearer—baker offend=proved to be at fault –there are grounds for these consequences
- Falling out of favor leads to imprisonment
- Joseph's role changes in the prison when the cupbearer and baker arrive
- What continues to unfold in this story of Joseph is that God's people can live a life of faith in an alien environment
- Cupbearer-- valued officials in time of Nehemiah—as cupbearer to Artaxerxes—he was a man of influence and ability. Cupbearer's duty was to open and taste wine—he was responsible for the quality of what is set before the King.
- This is a low point for Joseph—as servant for other prisoners

Genesis 40:5-8

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. When Joseph came to them in the morning and observed them, behold, they were dejected. And he asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?" 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—the dreamer—now takes on role of interpretation. He is familiar with symbolic language from considering his own dreams.
- Joseph's quick concern leads to an opportunity
- In Egypt—dreams were held in high regard—books were written to aid in interpretation. It was the task of prophets and seers to understand, and then give insight, warning, and perhaps God's perspective.

- Dreams often foretold of future events
- Joseph instructs us that dreams and their interpretations are God given gifts. Therefore—Joseph is able to bring God's wisdom to bear here.
- We find a similar story in the Book of Daniel (He rose to high position in a foreign court, enduring unjust suffering due to his faith, and then serves as God's mouthpiece.

Genesis 40:9-11

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; and on the vine were three branches. And as it was budding, its blossoms came out, and its clusters produced ripe grapes. 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."

- Joseph was the means of blessing to one—but pronounces judgment to the other (Type of Christ: Jesus between the two prisoners on the cross—Luke 23:39-43)

Genesis 40:12-15

Then Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it; the three branches are three days; 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. 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. 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's interpretation of both dreams has to do with the future favor of Pharaoh toward his former servants
- Joseph evidences knowledge of the future (Type of Christ: John 12:44-50, Matthew 24)
- Joseph predictions come true (Type of Christ: John 5:30-32, John 8:18)
- Joseph desired to be remembered (Type: I Cor 11:23-25)

Genesis 40:16-17

When the chief baker saw that he had interpreted favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also saw in my dream, and behold, there were three baskets of white bread on my head; 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."

Genesis 40:18-23

Then Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days; 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." 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. And he restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand; but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

- It appears that he will be beheaded—rather than die by hanging
- Both baker and cupbearer are told that their "head will be lifted up"—but it will result in two entirely different meanings
- We don't hear a response from either concerning Joseph's interpretation of their fate.