

# Genesis - Lesson 40

Genesis Chapter 40

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Memory verses for this week: *Psa 126:5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.  
Psa 126:6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

**Introduction:** We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as Joseph is placed in prison and by the gift of God is able to interpret dreams.

## I. Joseph and Pharaoh's Officers

**Gen 40:1** *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.*

**Gen 40:2** *And Pharaoh was wroth against two of his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers.*

**Gen 40:3** *And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound.*

**Gen 40:4** *And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them: and they continued a season in ward.*

Serving in the royal palace is sometimes more difficult than one might think, and both the chief butler and the chief baker find themselves placed in prison. Somehow they had offended the king. "Offended" is the Hebrew verb "chata" and literally means they "sinned." It is not clear from the account given, but perhaps they had been disloyal to the King. It certainly was not a coincident that they found themselves there. It was clearly providential that they were placed in the same ward with Joseph. Remember there are no accidents with God and that the heart of the king is in the hand of the Lord.

**Pro 21:1** *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

The reality is that if Joseph had not been in prison, they might have neither wound up there, but God works all things for our good when we are saved. Although if you look at the things that had happened to Joseph, you might wonder how this could have happened if God was with him. This side of glory none of us may understand all the things that happen in a Christian's life, but God orders our steps every step of the way.

The captain of the guard charged Joseph to serve them. Although he served them it was not the menial tasks as a common slave.

**Gen 39:21** *But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.*

**Gen 39:22** *And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that*

*were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.*  
*Gen 39:23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.*

I mentioned last week that when we walk close to the Lord, even the lost see a difference in our lives. The keeper of the prison saw how God was with him, and how that God made it all to prosper.

*Gen 40:5 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.*

*Gen 40:6 And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were sad.*

*Gen 40:7 And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly to day?*

*Gen 40:8 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.*

This seemed very unusual that both the butler and baker are troubled by dreams in the same night. Once again this was not by chance that they both dreamed the same night. In verse 6, it says that Joseph noticed their sadness. Our countenance tells a story to everyone about us. When things are good, we are happy and our face shows it. Likewise, when we are sad the drooping shoulders and the bowed head tell a story. Joseph recognized their sorrow and shows kindness and sympathy.

Both men indicate that they desire an interpreter. Perhaps they are thinking of a magician or wise man of Egypt could tell them what the dreams they had indicated. Joseph didn't believe in magic or luck, and tells them that interpretations belong to God. As God's servant, Joseph offered to help. (Note: It is Jesus who is the great interpreter of all the circumstances of our lives. )

*Mat 13:34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:*

*Mat 13:35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.*

If we would know His purpose in our difficulties, then we should hear Jesus. On the mount of transfiguration, God told the men present (Peter, James, and John) that they should listen to Jesus and Jesus alone.

*Mat 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

## II. The Dream of the Chief Butler

*Gen 40:9 And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me;*

*Gen 40:10 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:*

*Gen 40:11 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.*

The chief butler tells Joseph of his dream. His dream revealed a vine with grapes. In his dream, he pressed the grapes in the king's cup. The critics have claimed that the culture of vines was unknown in Egypt, but ancient Egyptian paintings depict the squeezing of the grapes in the cup. This verifies that it was known.

*Gen 40:12 And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days:*

*Gen 40:13 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.*

Joseph by the ability of God interpreted the dream. He tells the butler that the three branches represent three days. After this span of time, the butler would be restored to his former position.

*Gen 40:14 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:*

*Gen 40:15 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.*

After making the interpretation of the dream, he also makes one request. He asks the butler to use his influence to get him out of prison. He explains what had transpired in his life and declares his own innocence.

## III. The Dream of the Chief Baker

*Gen 40:16 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:*

*Gen 40:17 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.*

When the chief baker saw the butler's dream interpreted, he then states his dream. Excited about the good news from Joseph about the butler, the baker also expects a good interpretation. His dream consisted of three baskets of baked things, with the birds eating them.

*Gen 40:18 And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three*

*baskets are three days:*

*Gen 40:19 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.*

Unlike the butler's dream, good news is not forthcoming to the baker. Joseph again by the power of God interprets this dream. The three baskets indicated three days, and after the three days, the chief baker was to die. Rather than being restored like the butler, he would hang on a tree and the birds would eat his flesh. You notice that whatever God stated was the interpretation, Joseph spoke the truth. Many pastors today should be so quick to declare the word of God with purity and clarity without regard to man. Many desire to please man rather than God.

Paul declared that he never kept back the whole truth, but put forth the whole counsel of God, whether it be good to man or it if offend him. As a church, our responsibility is to declare the Gospel of Christ, and it sometimes divides and cuts asunder. But we must declare the truth to be pleasing in God's sight.

*Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

*Act 20:25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.*

*Act 20:26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.*

*Act 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you **all the counsel of God.***

*Act 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

*Act 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

*Act 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

*Act 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

#### **IV. The Fulfillment of the Dreams & other Lessons**

*Gen 40:20 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.*

*Gen 40:21 And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand:*

*Gen 40:22 But he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them.*

*Gen 40:23 Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

Just as Joseph had spoken, both interpretations came to pass and were fulfilled during Pharaoh's birthday feast. Verse 20 says the chief butler restored. He was put back in his

place of responsibility and again served Pharaoh. But verse 22 says that the chief baker was hanged. Joseph had asked but one thing, but how quickly the chief butler forgot Joseph. (But God did not). It would not have taken but a minute to speak a good word for Joseph, but he didn't do it.

We need to be very careful when we promise to do anything for anyone, that we be men and women of our word. Something as small as saying we will pray for a person going through an ordeal is not to be taken lightly. When we make a promise, we should always do our best to fulfill our word.

*Jas 5:8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*

*Jas 5:9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.*

*Jas 5:10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.*

*Jas 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

*Jas 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.*

### **Some Things That Are Indicators Of Joseph's Place In Life.**

1. As a saint of God, he finds those with trouble and offers his sympathetic aid.
2. As a prophet of God, he interprets dreams. As a true prophet, he gives the bad news as well as the good. Joseph is a true prophet for his interpretation is fulfilled in every detail.

*Deu 13:1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,*

*Deu 13:2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;*

*Deu 13:3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

*Deu 13:4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.*

*Deu 13:5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.*

3. As a ruler of men, he shows kindness and sympathy, and walks uprightly.

*2Sa 23:3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.*

*2Sa 23:4 And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.*

4. As a child of God, he retains faith in God.

### **As we saw last week in many examples, Joseph is a Type Of Christ.**

1. Joseph was numbered with the transgressors. So was Christ numbered with the two thieves.

*Isa 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

2. Joseph is a blessing to one, but pronounces judgment upon the other. So did Christ, in regard to the two thieves, 1 saved, 1 lost.

3. Joseph knew the future about these certain things. Christ knows the future of all things.

*Joh 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*

*Joh 12:47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.*

*Joh 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

*Joh 12:49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.*

*Joh 12:50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.*

*Mar 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*

4. Joseph's predictions came true. Christ's predictions will all come true. Note to the lost, believers to be saved, unbelievers to be damned.

*Joh 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

Joseph desired to be remembered. So did Christ.

*Luk 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.*

6. The chief butler did not remember Joseph. Many saved seem to have forgotten what Christ did for them while they were in bondage.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is the Hebrew word for "offended" and what is the literal meaning of this word?

Hebrew verb "chata" and literally means they "sinned."

2. What two officers of the king of Egypt offended him?

Butler and Baker

3. What was the dream of the chief butler? The baker?

*Gen 40:9 And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me;*

*Gen 40:10 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:*

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*Gen 40:16 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:*

*Gen 40:17 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.*

4. What was the interpretation of these two dreams?

The three branches and the 3 baskets represented 3 days. After the 3 days, Pharaoh would restore the butler, but the baker would be hanged and his body would be hung in a tree for the birds to eat.

5. What was Joseph's request of the butler once he was free?

To remember him when he was restored.

6. What are some types of Christ seen in connection with Joseph in prison with the two officers?

Joseph was numbered with the transgressors. So was Christ numbered with the two thieves.

Joseph is a blessing to one, but pronounces judgment upon the other. So did Christ, in regard to the two thieves, 1 saved, 1 lost.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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**Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.**