

LESSON 5

Gen 40:8-22 • Joseph interprets the dreams

This isn't the first time that dreams and interpretations are found in Joseph's saga. Let's review...

Genesis 37:6-11 • What did Joseph's dreams promise? _____

Think about it: Joseph's dreams, which he believed were from God, got him in trouble with his brothers—which led to his enslavement and imprisonment. His dreams seemed to take him in the exact opposite direction than he was expecting!

Yet, here in chapter 40, we find Joseph interpreting divine dreams for his fellow prisoners!

What does this teach you about FAITH? (hint: **Job 13:15**) _____

Back to our story...

Genesis 40:9-13 • Summarize the cupbearer's (or "butler") dream and Joseph's interpretation:

Genesis 40:14 • What was Joseph's one request _____

Genesis 40:15-19 • Summarize the baker's dream and Joseph's interpretation:

Genesis 40:20-22 • What happened three days later? _____

What did this prove about Joseph? _____

There is **A PICTURE OF JESUS** in this passage. Consider this...

In Joseph's story, only two other criminals are mentioned, and he is "numbered" alongside them in prison. One prisoner, the cupbearer, is "saved"—he is restored by Pharaoh. The other, the baker, is "lost"—he is executed for his crimes.

Now think of Jesus: He was hung on the cross between two criminals. He was "numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12). One of the criminals by Jesus' side is saved! He puts his trust in Jesus, and for this, Jesus promises that he will be in Paradise with him that very day! The other criminal, sadly, is lost. He only hurls more insults at Jesus.

*Jesus died on the cross as a criminal. His enemies thought they had won. Many believed that His death on the cross proved that He was a fraud and a liar. But, **THREE DAYS LATER**, Jesus' resurrection from the dead proved He had been telling the truth—that He was *The Messiah, The Prophet, The Lord, and even God!**

*We saw this pictured in Joseph's story: on the **THIRD DAY**, when the butler/cupbearer was restored, it proved that Joseph had been telling the truth—and that he was a prophet!*

Comments? _____

Gen 40:23–41:1a • Two more years pass

Put yourself in Joseph's sandals. He interpreted the dreams correctly. The butler/cupbearer was pardoned by Pharaoh and restored to his position of waiting on the Egyptian king. What do you think was going through Joseph's mind at that moment?

But then the cupbearer forgot about Joseph, and **TWO MORE YEARS PASS BY!**

Now, what would be going through your mind? _____

We'll park the story right there. If Joseph had to wait two years for God to move again, we can wait a couple of weeks to pick up the story again!

How would the following passages encourage you, if you were in Joseph's sandals...?

James 1:2-4 • _____

James 5:10-11 • _____

1 Peter 1:6-8 • _____

1 Peter 5:10 • _____
