

Genesis: God and Man

Interpretations Belong to God

Genesis 40

Previously:

- Joseph had two dreams (sheaves of wheat; sun, moon stars)
- Brothers hated him, Jacob (Israel) kept it close to his heart even though he rebuked him
- Special coat
- Plot to kill him, Sold to Ishmaelite traders, brought to Egypt
- Potiphar's house
- God's favor clearly seen on him
- Potiphar's wife lusts after him, tries to get him to sleep with her
- Cast into prison, but not killed
- God's continued favor, put in charge of the prison

Have you ever had a dream? Of course!

Remember a few from childhood?

People try to interpret them. I don't put much stock in that.

"A dream comes through a multitude of business..."

Pastor friend's wife may have had a gift for it, although I'd lump it under "words of knowledge" rather than dream interpretation. Today god tends to rely on the scripture, when and where we have it.

Although dreams do play big roles throughout the Bible...

Joseph being divinely warned in a dream to flee and protect Mary and baby Jesus.

Have you ever had something happen to you in life?

Maybe even something you're going through now?

And you just can't make sense of it all?

Woman with the issue of blood...doctors for years...until she is healed by her faith in Jesus

People - us and those around us - will offer us all sorts of explanations for things.

But we can't always make a judgment based on how things look. There is injustice, there is sin, there are lies, there are perspectives...

Job's friends

For whatever you are going through, will you allow God to do the interpreting?

God to read your heart? And give you answers for it?

Roughly Seven years later...

40:1-4

Chief Butler - to give drink, irrigate

Chief Baker - to bake

The guy who brought Pharaoh his cup, his wine, his water, anything he wanted to drink. Think of a wine cellar in a rich person's home...Pharaoh undoubtedly had quite the collection
Youtube video of guy with all sorts of drinks in his fridge for when people come over

Baker - think about all the food that had to be prepared for pharaoh
White house chef, staff, etc.

Joseph is just around all the chiefs! The captain of the guard (potiphar) and now these guys!

Offended - sin

Some leaders are tempermental and might be offended by things that shouldn't offend them
There's a blue M&M in my bowl!

But this word also means sin...as if they had done something dreadful against him
Given the context of the story as a whole, perhaps they tried to poison him and they were trying to figure out if it was from his food or drink

Custody in the house of Potiphar.

Where Joseph was confined...

Can actually mean be bound, but he obviously had freedom to move around

Where are you confined? Work? School? A relationship?
Hopefully you don't feel confined.

Joseph was to look over them...He served them

Minister to, serve

Joseph, in prison, serves these two chief servants of pharaoh. Joseph was a servant to all...like Jesus. But he didn't have to serve them. I get the sense he went above and beyond. Perhaps they were beaten prior to being imprisoned to try and get answers out of them. Perhaps he just took extra care of them with respect. But Joseph was a servant.

:5-8

Both of them dreamed in one night. Not a coincidence.

Not the same dream, but about the same thing

Interesting, two dreams here and Joseph had two different dreams.

About the same event but for two different men here

Pharaoh would have two dreams

God does like to repeat things that we might get it.

Sometimes with lessons. Sometimes with words. "Verily, verily I say to you..."

Worrying about something...one that you're guilty, or that you're not and what's going to happen

what do we say? What do we do when we see someone sad?

Nehemiah sad before the king...could have been killed, but the king simply asks what's wrong?

Sometimes we just need to do the obvious...why do you look so sad today?

We've each had a dream and there is no interpreter

Interpreter of dreams

Being in Pharaoh's house, in Egypt, heavily occultic, magicians, sorcerers, etc.

But their fleshly help was not available to them in prison

Deu 18:9-14 NKJV - "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. "There shall not be found among you [anyone] who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, [or one] who practices witchcraft, [or] a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. "For all who do these things [are] an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. "You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. "For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

Witchcraft, NT, pharmakeia...drug use and interpretations of things

Getting high and trying to figure out the questions in life

Being in a place, cut off from all your fleshly help, where no one will come find you or help you.

Hopelessness

Often, that is where God is

Psa 139:8 NKJV - If I ascend into heaven, You [are] there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You [are there].

Living in NY prior to getting saved

Joseph says V8 **“Do not interpretations belong to God?** Tell them to me, please.

Joseph knew that God could answer these men’s needs, their sadness

I get the sense Joseph would have prayed about the interpretation, even if quickly, or just as he’s asking them.

Interpretations belong to God - elohym.

Joseph is speaking to them matter-of-factly about the true and living God. Not their gods.

:9-15

Chief Butler’s dream

A vine with three branches, that buds, brings forth grapes. He takes the grapes and squeezes them into Pharaoh’s cup and gives it to him.

He gets his job back. He’ll be found innocent and put back in his job.

Joseph appends his plea to the end of the interpretation

There’s no charge for this, but please remember to donate!

Show kindness, tell Pharaoh and get me out of this house!

A bit stir crazy to say the least.

I wonder if he would have been remembered if he didn’t try to insert his own freedom here?

It’s one thing to go to prison for doing something wrong, it’s another to suffer for doing no wrong.

Again, Joseph is a picture of Jesus...but Joseph didn’t know that!

1Pe 2:20-23 NKJV - For what credit [is it] if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this [is] commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed [Himself] to Him who judges righteously;

Dungeon - pit, well, cistern

Where did his brother's thrown him? Joseph keeps ending back up in these places

Roman prisons

:16-19

When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good...

He wanted a good interpretation, but he was guilty.

He wanted someone to speak peace to him, although his conscience indeed wasn't

These days people want a good interpretation of the things they are doing. They long to hear what they want to hear, be told what they want to be told...and when something is contrary, their anger, hurt, hatred spews out on the messenger...the death of their sin, the reality of what they are and what they are doing gets put on someone else in that triggered moment.

YOU are the bigot. YOU are evil. YOU are hateful. YOU are intolerant.

But all i did was tell you the truth?

Five fingers...one pointing, four pointing back

I've got all this debt! How do I get out of it? COLLEGE LOANS FORGIVEN

Well, maybe you shouldn't have gone to college, or chosen a cheaper one, or picked a trade

I can't afford college FREE COLLEGE FOR YOU

Maybe college is corrupt and too expensive and there should be reform there

The list goes on. People are willing to give the answers other people will want to hear if it will put them in a place of power.

Preachers say things or don't say things as to stay in position, not stir up the pot, make sure people come back next week. I don't have that problem because my family has to come back next week. No one else has!

But I've felt that pressure...visitors, speaking at another church, etc.

2Ti 4:1-5 NKJV - I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

The bible pulls no punches. The bible tells it like is is with no respect of person Whether they're a brother, a father, a lowly prisoner, a captain of the guard or even a king. It's truth is meant to cut to the heart.

Heb 4:12-13 NKJV - For the word of God [is] living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things [are] naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we [must give] account.

Joseph knew this that we must give an account to God and nothing is hidden for him. I think in part, that's why he knew God would interpret these men's dreams...

Simple faith in who God is and what he says.

The baker rushes into this dream, wanting, hoping for that good interpretation, but it's obviously not as good...

Three white baskets on his head
Something he no doubt would use in the kitchen to serve pharaoh

Fridays three for all, tower of appetizers

This dream, think about it, he's carrying these baskets on his head, and these birds keep swooping down and eating them

The old hitchcock movie the birds

Joseph answered, plainly...he doesn't beat around the bush, he doesn't try to soften the blow...

Three baskets, three days again (like the other dream)

So these guys will both be found out in whatever official ruling and investigation finds out in three days

He will be decapitated and his body hung on a tree and birds will eat him
Lovely

Death penalty
But then made an example of

Cartel killings

The cross...public execution

Bread and wine...Jesus

That even in these men's dreams and their interpretations, God was giving a foreshadowing of things to come:

Jhn 6:35 NKJV - And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Jhn 6:35, 52-58 NKJV - And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ... The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us [His] flesh to eat?" Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. "This is the bread which came down from heaven--not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

Mat 26:26-28 NKJV - And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke [it], and gave [it] to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

**Communion
The importance of it
Taking it rightly**

1Co 11:27-32 NKJV - Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks [this] cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many [are] weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

How important it is to judge ourselves that we might avoid the judgment.

These men, one did wrong...apparently Pharaoh was poisoned by someone on his staff...either by the wine or the food. They found out it was the food.

Perhaps it was the chief baker's plan to assassinate pharaoh, or he was a part of a larger coup, but he was found out

Joseph doesn't plea with his man to remember him...dead man walking

Isn't it interesting how we turn to people or things that we think can help us?

:20-23

Again, third day...interesting foreshadowing.

When things seem off, or perhaps the timing or the situation can only be explained as spiritual, remember God is trying to produce something in you. Use you as a witness of him. Figuratively or literally.

Couldn't find the quote

But about suffering and the things God allows us to go through, are not necessarily teach us a doctrinal truth...but to produce character in us.

Pharaoh's birthday

Big party...remember they thought this guy was a god

(yet it took them a few days to figure out who tried to kill their god...)

They hanged the butler...was the interpretation wrong in detail?

Chief butler forgot Joseph.

I think sometimes we willfully forget. Sometimes we just don't remember people.

We get out of a situation, someone offers us hope, and we forget them and their message.

Don't be that way with the Lord. When he interprets your situation, brings conviction, don't let him get you out of it just to get back to your normal life. He allowed you to go through it for a reason. Always to prepare you for something else. To teach you something. But also to make you something and someone better.

Poor Joseph's struggle wasn't over yet...it would be another few years until he'd be lifted out of that pit.