

“Dreams in Prison”

Genesis 40:1-23

GOD GAVE US STORIES

- 1. The Bible is filled with stories of God’s people.** Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David... and Joseph.
 - 14 chapters devoted to the story of one man—Joseph! Why?
- 2. This portion of Genesis includes long narratives about Joseph’s life. They are connected with a purpose.**
 - Gen. 37 – 2 dreams given to Joseph. 37:5-8, 9-11
 - Gen. 40 – 2 dreams given to Pharaoh’s chief cupbearer and chief baker – speaking of life and death
 - Gen. 41 – 2 dreams given to Pharaoh – speaking of years of plenty and years of famine
- 3. Stories are important. We learn from them if we know & consider our stories.** Haggai 1:5,7; Psalm 139:16

JOSEPH WAS JOINED IN PRISON BY PHARAOH’S CUPBEARER AND BAKER. v.1-4

- 1. Joseph was falsely accused and put into prison unjustly.** Gen. 39:11-20
- 2. Joseph was put in charge of all the prisoners. Everything was under his authority.** Gen. 39:21-23
- 3. Pharaoh’s chief cupbearer and baker committed an offense against him.** Gen. 40:1-2
- 4. Pharaoh put them in the same prison as Joseph.** Gen. 40:3-4
 - Note: He put them in the custody of the “captain of the guard” – Potiphar! Ref. 39:1
 - Ref. 41:1, 46: Joseph about 28 years old. In Egypt for 11 years so far. Ref. 37:2

JOSEPH INTERPRETED THEIR DREAMS. v.5-19

- 1. One night both the cupbearer and baker dreamed – and were troubled afterward.** v.5-8
- 2. The cupbearer’s dream was one of restoration to his prior role.** v.9-13
- 3. Joseph’s request: help me obtain my release from prison.** v.14-15
 - Joseph’s request was earnest and desperate. v.14: “Only remember me, when it is well with you....”
 - Joseph’s request was just and right. He had done nothing wrong. v.15
- 4. The baker’s dream was one of judgment and death.** v.16-19

THEIR DREAMS WERE FULFILLED AS JOSEPH SAID v.20-23

- 1. Three days later was Pharaoh’s birthday.** v.20
- 2. He restored the cupbearer to his former role—and hanged the baker, as Joseph had said.** v.21-22
- 3. But the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph. He forgot him.** v.23
→ Gen. 8:1: “But God remembered Noah”; 19:29: “God remembered Abraham”; 30:22: “God remembered Rachel”

APPLICATIONS

- 1. Joseph was God’s appointed man – a MODEL for us to follow.**
 - He faithfully served God and spoke truth, in spite of hard and unjust circumstances.
 - He faithfully spoke both the ‘good’ and the ‘bad’. Ref. Acts 20:26-28; John 3:36; Phil 1:29

The Cross of Christ saves	The Law of Christ condemns
Jesus is Savior	Jesus is Lord
Jesus is Priest who intercedes for you	Jesus is King who commands your obedience
Whoever believes in Him will be saved	God’s wrath remains on those who do not believe
He invites you to come to Him	You have no ability in yourself to come to Him
You must believe	You must repent
Abundant life in Jesus	You will suffer as a Christian

 - Joseph’s greater purpose: to rescue nations from famine & to preserve the line of the Messiah.
- 2. Joseph’s life POINTS TO the suffering and faithfulness of the future Messiah.** Heb. 12:1-2