

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
AUGUST 2, 2023
GENESIS 40

INTRODUCTION:

1. Chapter 40 introduces two of Pharaoh's officers who were in prison. (Gen. 40.1-4)
 - a) The butler: Literally, the cupbearer. (cf. Neh. 1.11; 1 Chr. 27.27)
 - b) The baker: The baker was responsible for providing all the king's meals.
2. **GENESIS 40.1:** *"the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord"*
 - a) Offend translates a word that means "sin" and is equivalent to hamartia. (cf. 1 John 3.4).
 - b) **GENESIS 40.2:** *"And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers"* Literally, to burn.
3. Joseph was appointed to take care of these two officers.
 - a) **GENESIS 40.4:** *"The captain of the guard charged Joseph with them."*
 - b) Who was the captain of the guard? (Gen. 40.3; 39.1)
 - c) **GENESIS 40.4:** *"and he served them."* Joseph was made a servant to these officers.

I. THE DREAMS OF THE TWO OFFICERS

- A. **GENESIS 40.5:** *"Then the butler and the baker...had a dream"*
 1. Each of these dreams had *"its own interpretation"* (v. 5; cf. Gen. 37.5-9; 41.25)
 2. Their dreams made them sad because *"there is no interpreter of it"* (Gen. 40.6-8)
 3. **GENESIS 40.8:** *"Do not interpretations belong to God?"* Joseph never took credit for himself, but pointed them to God. (cf. Gen. 41.15,16; Dan. 2.27,28)
- B. The dream of the chief butler.
 1. **GENESIS 40.9-11:** The butler's dream had two parts.
 - a) Part One: The appearance of a vine. (vs. 9,10)
 - b) Part Two: The cup of Pharaoh. (v. 11)
 2. **GENESIS 40.12,13:** The interpretation of the dream.
 - a) The interpretation of part one: *"The three branches are three days"* (v. 12).
 - b) The interpretation of part two: *"Pharaoh...will restore you to your place"* (v. 13).
 3. **GENESIS 40.14,15:** Joseph's request.
- C. The dream of the chief baker.
 1. **GENESIS 40.16,17:** The baker's dream had two parts.
 - a) Part One: The appearance of three baskets. (v. 16)
 - b) Part Two: The birds which ate from the baskets. (v. 17)
 2. **GENESIS 40.18,19:** The interpretation of the dream.
 - a) The interpretation of part one: *"The three baskets are three days"* (v. 18).
 - b) The interpretation of part two: *"Pharaoh...will hang you on a tree"* (v. 19)

II. THE FULFILLMENT OF THE DREAMS

- A. **GENESIS 40.20:** *"Now it came to pass on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday"*
 1. **GENESIS 40.20:** *"he made a feast for all his servants"* His birthday celebration.
 2. **GENESIS 40.20:** *"he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker."* An expression which means that they would be lifted up out of prison for judgment.
- B. Each officer's dream was fulfilled.
 1. **GENESIS 40.21:** *"Then he restored the chief butler to his butlership again"*
 2. **GENESIS 40.22:** *"But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted"*
- C. **GENESIS 40.23:** *"Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him."*