

JOSEPH AND PRISON DREAMS — GENESIS 40

ROYAL BUTLER & BAKER PUT IN PRISON — v.1-4

- Some time after Joseph was thrown into prison, the chief Butler (cupbearer) and Baker committed an offense against Pharaoh the king.
- The “captain of the guard,” Potiphar (Ge.39:1) appointed Joseph over the jail and to attend to these royal officers.

JOSEPH SHOWS CONCERN FOR THE BUTLER AND BAKER — v.5-7

- One night they both dreamed something that troubled them, and they did not know what the dreams meant.
- Notice the heart of Joseph. Men who are consumed with anger and bitterness do not take a concern for the personal problems of others like this.

JOSEPH INVITES THEM TO TELL THEIR DREAMS — v.8

- Joseph told them, “Do not interpretations belong to God?” (v,8) giving credit to the Lord even before hearing the dream. Joseph has a steadfast faith.
- That Joseph did not lose faith in God’s promise is proved by his willingness to interpret dreams.



THE BUTLER EXPLAINS HIS DREAM — v.9-11

- The chief Butler (cupbearer) dreamed about a vine with three branches. The vine bloomed and the grapes grew. Pharaoh had a cup and the Butler filled it for the king.

JOSEPH INTERPRETS THE BUTLER'S DREAM — v.12-15

- Joseph gave the interpretation for the dream. In 3 days the Butler would be released from prison and reinstated to his role as Pharaoh’s Butler.
- Joseph asked the Butler to mention him to Pharaoh so he could be let out of prison.

BAKER'S DREAM AND ITS INTERPRETATION — v.16-19)

- When the Baker heard the interpretation of the Butler’s dream, he was eager for Joseph to interpret his dream.
- The Baker told his dream. There were 3 cake baskets on his head. In the top basket there were baked goods prepared for Pharaoh, but the birds came and started eating the food.
- Joseph told the Baker the 3 baskets represented 3 days. In 3 days Pharaoh would hang the Baker and birds would eat his flesh.



FATE OF THE BUTLER AND THE BAKER — v.20-23

- 3 days later, Pharaoh celebrated his birthday with a feast.
- Pharaoh summoned the Butler and Baker from the prison. He gave the Butler his job back, and had the Baker hanged.
- The chief Butler forgot to mention Joseph to Pharaoh, and he remained in prison.

