



Go for God!

“Joseph, The Dream Weaver” **Genesis Chapters 40 – 41**

Chapter 40 – “Joseph Interprets Two Dreams of Life & Death”

(v1-4) Pharaoh’s chief butler and chief baker are thrown into the same prison as Joseph due to an offense. Could it be a “Who done it?” Was it the baker or the butler? God knows, as Joseph will soon find out. This is a C.D.I. situation; that is a **“Criminal Dream Investigation.”**

(v5-8) The BUTLER and the BAKER have a dream on the same night and both are sad in the morning, Joseph observes their sadness. Here is another excellent character trait of Joseph, **he cares about people and he’s ready to testify of God’s grace, love and power;** notice his response *“Do not interpretations belong to God,?”*

> **Understanding DREAMS:** In ancient times, dreams-especially those of kings and priests-were thought to convey messages from God (Num 12:6; Gen 31:10-13). In the Bible these were sometimes prophetic in nature. In a dream God warned Abimelech, the king of Gerar, not to touch Sarah, because she was Abraham's wife. The Lord spoke to Jacob in a dream in which He renewed the COVENANT and assured Jacob of His protection and presence.

- Two special cycles of dreams in which expert interpretation was involved occur in the Old Testament. The first cycle related to Joseph (Gen 37:5-10), or his officers. The second cycle involved Daniel (Dan 2:14-45), with the dreams coming to Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The dreams in each case pertained to events of the future. God granted the ability to interpret these dreams to Joseph (Gen 40:8; 41:12) and Daniel (Dan 2:20-45). In the Old Testament dreams were frequently associated with the Hebrew prophets (Deut 13:1-5; Jer 23:25-32). But dreams, with their proposed prophecies, were not accepted uncritically. The false prophet and his prophecy had to be recognized and rejected. Jeremiah, especially, denounced the prophets who spoke with lies. In the New Testament, God appeared to Joseph in a dream after His announcement of the forthcoming birth of Jesus (Matt 1:20). God also spoke through these dreams to protect the infant Jesus (Matt 2:13-14). *(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)*

(v9-19) The dreams are spoken and interpreted, good news for one, bad news for the other.

(v20-23) These dreams come true, because God gave the interpretation.

Chapter 41 – “Joseph Interprets Dreams of Salvation”

(v1-13) Think about Joseph enduring the trials of two full years in the prison dungeon (John 16:33 - *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*”), God is at work as Pharaoh has two very disturbing dreams; Joseph will be summoned.

(v14-16) Observe Joseph’s witness to Pharaoh and his statement regarding peace.

(v17-36) Joseph interprets the dreams of Pharaoh, 7 years of plenty, then 7 years of famine.

(v37-44) Pharaoh recognizes the “Spirit of God” upon Joseph’s life; he was “wise and discerning.” This elevated Joseph into a position of leadership, second only to Pharaoh.

> **How can Christians relate to the “*Spirit of God*” upon their lives, let’s learn TEN aspects of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life:**

#1 – John 3:3 – You must be BORN AGAIN of the Holy Spirit!

#2 – John 14:15-18 – The Holy Spirit is our HELPER!

#3 – John 14:26 – The Holy Spirit is our TEACHER!

#4 – John 15:26-27 – The Holy Spirit will TESTIFY of JESUS in us!

#5 – John 16:7-11 – The Holy Spirit will bring CONVICTION of sin!

#6 – John 16:13a – The Holy Spirit will GUIDE us into all TRUTH!

#7 – John 16:13b – The Holy Spirit will tell us THINGS TO COME!

#8 – John 16:14 – The Holy Spirit will GLORIFY JESUS!

#9 – Acts 1:8 – The Holy Spirit will fill us with POWER TO WITNESS!

#10 – Ephesians Ch. 4:7-16; Romans Ch. 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians Ch. 12:1-11 – The Holy Spirit will grant us GIFTS for the work of the KINGDOM!

(v45) *Zaphnath-Paaneah* means *Treasury of the Glorious Rest*, a fit name for a man of God. This reminds of **Matt 12:35 - *A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.* And **Phil 4:19-20** - *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.***

- C.I. Scofield gives typological insight to the bride given to Joseph, “Asenath, the bride espoused by Joseph the rejected one (Jn. 19:15), portrays the Church, called out from the world to be the bride of Christ during the time of His rejection by His brethren, Israel (Jn. 1:10-12; Acts 15:14; Eph. 5:31-32). Israel, like Joseph’s brothers, will be preserved (Ezek. 11:16).”

(v46-49) Here we find a WISE LESSON - Economies like Egypt can go through times of plenty and times of famine, a wise man plans and prepares during the times of plenty, whereas, to endure the time of economic downturn.

(v50-52) These verses reveal LIFE LESSONS – Joseph names his first son *Manasseh*, “*For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house.*” **Compare 2 Cor 5:17-18 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.***

- The second son is called *Ephraim*, “*For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.*” Jesus says to all His disciples, *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.*” **(John 15:16-17)**

(v53-57) The dreams have come true; Joseph the dream weaver has woven baskets of food (that is salvation) for all! **Jesus said in John 6:35-36** - *“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”*