

## Genesis 40:1-23; Genesis 41:1-32

These stories are very familiar, told to children often. They do have practical applications in our current lives. We are to learn from these stories and apply them to our lives. "And it came to pass" is a phrase repeated often throughout the bible, and it means "it will happen" to us.

- 1 ¶ **And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker offended their lord the king of Egypt.** We don't know what these men did to upset the Pharaoh, but it took little to offend the rulers of the day. The Pharaoh's chief baker and butler did something wrong. "Baker" means just that – baker of bread. "Butler" was the man who taste-tested all the Pharaoh's food before he ate to check for poison, so he was a very trusted man.
- 2 **And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, with the chief of the butlers, and with the chief of the bakers.** These two men were superior to all the other servants.
- 3 **And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound.** They were thrown in the King's personal prison, not the everyday prison.
- 4 **And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he ministered to them: and they continued a season in ward.** Joseph was in charge of all the prisoners and the men's care was entrusted to Joseph by the captain of the guard.
- 5 ¶ **And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream, in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were bound in the prison.** Each man – the butler and the baker – had a dream that pertained specifically to each man personally.
- 6 **And Joseph came in to them in the morning, and saw them, and, behold, they were sad.** Joseph notices their whole countenance, their whole attitude, has changed. In those days, dreams had real significance and you were expected to interpret them to get the message.
- 7 **And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in ward in his master's house, saying, Why do you look so sad today?** Joseph asked "What's the matter? Why are you so sad?"
- 8 **And they said to him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it. And Joseph said to them, do not interpretations belong to God? Tell it me, I pray you.** Notice every time Joseph interprets a dream, he gives God the glory and credit first. He never starts out by "Your dream means..."
- 9 **And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me;**
- 10 **and in the vine were three branches: and it was as though it budded, and its blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes:**
- 11 **and Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand.**
- 12 **And Joseph said to him, This is the interpretation of it: the three branches are three days;**
- 13 **within yet three days shall Pharaoh lift up your head, and restore you to your office: and you shall give Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when you were his butler.** "Lift up your head" means Pharaoh is going to pay attention to the butler. He's going to restore the butler to his original position. Everything will be ok for him.
- 14 **But have me in your remembrance when it shall be well with you, and show kindness, I pray you, to me, and make mention of me to Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:** Joseph says, "OK, I've interpreted your dream. But when you get back to Pharaoh's house, please remember me and get me out of this prison."

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- 15 for indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.** Joseph informs the butler that he was enslaved and imprisoned for nothing. He's an innocent man.
- 16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, three baskets of white bread were on my head:** The baker waited to see if the first interpretation was accurate, then told Joseph his dream.
- 17 and in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of baked food for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head.**
- 18 And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: the three baskets are three days;**
- 19 within yet three days shall Pharaoh lift up your head from off you, and shall hang you on a tree; and the birds shall eat your flesh from off you.** Joseph uses the same term "lift up your head", but he adds that his head will be cut off. The baker's head will be chopped off and his body will be impaled on a stake in public for everyone to see as an example. This was a common way to execute prisoners in those days. It was a time of total anarchy.
- 20 ¶ And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast to all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and the head of the chief baker among his servants.**
- 21 And he restored the chief butler to his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand:**
- 22 but he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them.** On the Pharaoh's birthday, the third day after the dreams, Pharaoh restored the butler and executed the baker. Joseph's dream interpretations were accurate.
- 23 Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.** How many times have you done a favor for someone and then you were forgotten?

## Chapter 41:1-32

- 1 ¶ And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.**
- 2 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven cows, well-favored and fat-fleshed; and they fed in the reed-grass.**
- 3 And, behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ill-favored and lean-fleshed, and stood by the other cows upon the brink of the river.**
- 4 And the ill-favored and lean-fleshed cows did eat up the seven well-favored and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke.**
- 5 And he slept and dreamed a second time: and, behold, seven ears of grain came up upon one stalk, rank and good.** Pharaoh goes back to sleep and has another dream.
- 6 And, behold, seven ears, thin and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them.** Corn never grows seven ears of corn on one stalk, but God is showing Pharaoh something.
- 7 And the thin ears swallowed up the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.** Pharaoh knows his dream has an important meaning. Cows don't eat cows, and corn doesn't eat corn.
- 8 And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them to Pharaoh.** God lets Nebuchadnezzar go to his magicians and wise men to get an interpretation of his dream before he went to Daniel, and God does the same with Pharaoh. God lets them go to the occult and the dark side to get the meaning, but they are too afraid to tell the meaning of bad

dreams. God is making Pharaoh dependant on Joseph just as God made Nebuchadnezzar dependent on Daniel. God wants us to stay humble.

- 9 ¶ Then spoke the chief butler to Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day:**
- 10 Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, me and the chief baker:** The butler tells Pharaoh about his dreams in prison that he and the baker had each pertaining to their own.
- 11 and we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream.**
- 12 And there was with us there a young man, a Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret.** Butler tells Pharaoh about Joseph interpreting their dreams accurately.
- 13 And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored to mine office, and him he hanged.**
- 14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in to Pharaoh.** They went and got Joseph and cleaned him up to present him to Pharaoh.
- 15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.** Pharaoh has asked all his magicians and sorcerers and wise men. Now he goes to God's man, Joseph.
- 16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.** Joseph gives credit to God first.
- 17 ¶ And Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the brink of the river:**
- 18 and, behold, there came up out of the river seven cows, fat-fleshed and well-favored: and they fed in the reed-grass:**
- 19 and, behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ill-favored and lean-fleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness:**
- 20 and the lean and ill-favored cows did eat up the first seven fat cows:**
- 21 and when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill-favored, as at the beginning. So I awoke.** The skinny cows still looked skinny and ill after they ate the fat healthy cows.
- 22 And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up upon one stalk, full and good:**
- 23 and, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them:**
- 24 and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears: and I told it to the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.** Pharaoh gave all his wise men and occult men their chance, but they couldn't interpret the dreams.
- 25 And Joseph said to Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: what God is about to do he has declared to Pharaoh.** Joseph tells Pharaoh God has showed Pharaoh the future.
- 26 The seven good cows are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one.**
- 27 And the seven lean and ill-favored cows that came up after them are seven years, and also the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind; they shall be seven years of famine.** Pharaoh will have seven prosperous years, then seven years of famine. God uses the Gentiles to ensure the Israelites are not wiped out by this famine.
- 28 That is the thing which I spoke to Pharaoh: what God is about to do he has showed to Pharaoh.**
- 29 Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:**
- 30 and there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;** The famine will be so bad that the people will forget they had seven good years. We almost have this same situation today with our economy status and world situation with all our current wars.



**31 and the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine which follows; for it shall be very grievous.**

**32 And for that the dream was doubled to Pharaoh, it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.** The Pharaoh had two dreams emphasizing the same thing because the message is so serious.