

Genesis 40

Joseph: The Endurance of Faith in Adversity

Review

In Genesis 39:20-23 Joseph was put into prison.

Genesis 39:20 And Joseph's master [Potiphar] took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

Review (Gen. 39:20-23)

- **Why did God let bad things happen to Joseph?**
- **God allows His followers to be tested to reveal the depth of their commitment. (Psa. 105:17-19; see also Deut. 8:2-6)**



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Review (Gen. 39:20-23)

- **God's faithful followers often find themselves in situations that can discourage their faith (Gen. 39:20-23).**

²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Review (Gen. 39:20-23)

- **God's watchful care is always on His faithful followers.**
- **God knows what is best and always works in the midst of the problems and adversity to accomplish His will -- if we cooperate with Him. (Rom. 8:28-29).**

Review (Gen. 39:20-23)

- Had Joseph chosen to become resentful and bitter, he would have disqualified himself from God's intended blessings.

²² And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.

Review (Gen. 39:20-23)

²³ The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

- This transitional section repeats the truths of 39:1-6 showing once again the phenomenal and unexpected

Review (Gen. 39:20-23)

blessing of God on Joseph. The LORD was with Joseph and blessed and prospered him in prison.

- Joseph might have been considered a failure with Potiphar, but he was a success with God.

Genesis 40:1-4

The imprisonment of two of Pharaoh's chief officers (Gen. 40:1-4).

Genesis 40:1 Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt. ² And

Genesis 40:1-4

Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, ³ and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined. ⁴ The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with

Genesis 40:1-4

them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.

- Joseph has been imprisoned wrongly because he refused to “sin against God” (Gen. 39:9)
- The cupbearer and the baker were imprisoned because they had “sinned

Genesis 40:1-4

against their Lord the king of Egypt”
(40:1).

- There is an interesting mystery here. Who is “the captain of the guard”? Could it be the same “captain of the guard” mentioned in Gen. 37:36 and 39:1, who bought Joseph?

Genesis 40:1-4

- Notice where this prison is located. It is called “the house of the captain of the guard (40:3), “his lord’s house” (40:7), and “dungeon” (40:15; 41:14). Either this was part of Potiphar’s house (a dungeon connected with the house) or he had been moved to

Genesis 40:1-4

- another penal facility where the chief jailor is also called “the captain of the guard.” We cannot be sure which it is.
- Joseph was 17 year old when sold by his brothers into slavery (Gen. 37:2). We know that his rise to rulership

Genesis 40:1-4

- over Egypt will occur thirteen years later at age thirty (Gen. 41:46).
According to Gen. 41:1, Joseph will be in prison for two years. So he is now about 26 years old.
- He has been coping with adversity for 11 years. How much longer before God fulfills his dreams?

Genesis 40:1-4

- He must trust God to decide the timing.
- The fact the cupbearer and the baker were put into the same prison as Joseph implies that God's providential hand is working unseen behind these events.

Genesis 40:1-4

- The imprisonment of the cupbearer and the baker, however, added two more people he had to serve in his prison duties.

Genesis 40:5-8

The cupbearer and the baker both have dreams. (Gen. 40:5-8)

⁵ And one night they both dreamed-- the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison-- each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation.

Genesis 40:5-8

⁶ When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. ⁷ So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?" ⁸ They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there

Genesis 40:5-8

is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me."

- When Joseph heard they had dreamed but had no one to interpret their dreams, he testified to them of

Genesis 40:5-8

- his faith in God: “To God belongs the interpretation of dreams.”
- The Hebrew text places “to God” before the phrase “dreams” indicating that Joseph believed that the proper interpretation of dreams came from God alone – not from mankind.

Genesis 40:5-8

- Trusting that God would reveal to Joseph the meaning of the dreams, he invites them to tell him their dreams.

Genesis 40:9-13

The interpretation of the chief cupbearer's dream (Gen. 40:9-13)

⁹ So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, ¹⁰ and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its

Genesis 40:9-13

blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. ¹¹ Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."
¹² Then Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are

Genesis 40:9-13

three days. ¹³ In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer.

Genesis 40:14-15

Joseph's sincere request for help (Gen. 40:14-15)

¹⁴ Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. ¹⁵ For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the

Genesis 40:14-15

Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit."

- Joseph appeals to the kindness (hesed) of the cup bearer that he would remember Joseph's plight and mention it to Pharaoh (he used the verb "to remember" twice).

Genesis 40:16-19

The interpretation of the chief baker's dream (Gen. 40:16-19)

¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head,
¹⁷ and in the uppermost basket there

Genesis 40:16-19

were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head."¹⁸ And Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. ¹⁹ In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head-- from you!-- and

Genesis 40:16-19

hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you."

Genesis 40:20-22

Joseph's interpretations proved to be true (Gen. 40:20-22)

²⁰ On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants.

Genesis 40:20-22

²¹ He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. ²² But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. ²³ Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Genesis 40:20-22

- The fulfillment of the dreams, just as God revealed it to Joseph, must have greatly encouraged Joseph's faith.
- It would increase his confidence that he had not misunderstood God's revelation to him in his own two dreams.

Genesis 40:20-22

- Sadly, the cup bearer did not “remember” Joseph but “forgot” him.
- God never forgets His own. God is still working behind the scenes, even though Joseph did not sense it or understand God’s time-table. Eleven years has passed and Joseph is still a slave in unhappy circumstances.

Conclusion

- God tests His followers faith in His promises before He entrusts to them positions of greater responsibility.
- Remember, Jesus said “He who is faithful in little, will be faithful in much.” (Luke 16:10)

Conclusion

- Jesus also said, “Be faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).
- God is worthy of our faith and trust.
- Let’s renew our determination to demonstrate our sincere faith and trust in God and in His promises no

Conclusion

- matter what may be the discouraging situations we face!
- Let's choose to not doubt the goodness of God!
- Let's faithfully trust our heavenly Father and steadfastly follow our good Shepherd wherever His will may lead us!

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