

JOSEPH'S ENCOURAGEMENT
(Genesis 40:1-23)

- I. Three PRISONERS (Gen. 40:1-4)
 - A. Pharaoh's chief CUPBEARER (cf. Neh. 1:11)
 - 1. He was overseer of Pharaoh's VINEYARDS and WINE cellars
 - 2. He was SUSPECTED in an ASSASSINATION plot
 - B. Pharaoh's chief BAKER
 - 1. He was overseer of Pharaoh's food PREPARATION and SERVICE
 - 2. He was SUSPECTED in an ASSASSINATION plot
 - C. JOSEPH
 - 1. He was overseer of Pharaoh's PRISON
 - 2. POTIPHAR made him CUSTODIAN of the two HIGH-RANKING prisoners
- II. Three DREAMS (Gen. 40:5-19)
 - A. The CUPBEARER'S (40:9-15)
 - 1. Told first because his conscience was CLEAR and he hoped for a REVELATION of the TRUTH
 - 2. Dreamed of SERVING fresh WINE to Pharaoh
 - 3. Meant he would be RESTORED in THREE DAYS
 - B. The BAKER'S (40:16-19)

1. Told next because his conscience was GUILTY and he hoped for a DISTORTION of the TRUTH
 2. Dreamed of INABILITY to serve Pharaoh CORRUPTED food
 3. Meant he would be EXECUTED in THREE DAYS
- C. JOSEPH'S (Gen. 37:7, 9)
1. Not REPORTED in this CONTEXT
 - a. May have begun to DOUBT its MEANING
 - b. May have begun to DOUBT its FULFILLMENT
 2. Dreamed of his FAMILY bowing before HIM
 3. Meant he would be EXALTED and RESPECTED
- III. Three RESULTS (Gen. 40:20-23)
- A. The CUPBEARER'S—CLEARED of accusation and RESTORED to service
 - B. The BAKER'S—CONVICTED of the crime and EXECUTED
 - C. JOSEPH'S—CONTINUED in PRISON and FORGOTTEN by the cupbearer
- IV. Three LESSONS
- A. God KNOWS the FUTURE
 - B. God KNOWS the TRUTH
 - C. God KNOWS what HE is DOING, as He CONTROLS events