

EPISODE NO. 37

Gen.40:1-23

Two Dreams

1 Some time later, the man who served wine to the king of Egypt and the one who baked for the king offended their master, the king of Egypt. 2 Pharaoh was angry at both of his best officers — angry at the head of those who served wine and at the head of those who did the baking. 3 So, Pharaoh ordered that they be arrested and kept in the house of the captain of the guards, in the same prison where Joseph was being held. 4 The captain of the guards put Joseph in charge of them. Joseph was responsible for the two men.

After they had been in prison for several days, 5 each of the two men who were being held in prison — the baker and the one who served wine to the king of Egypt — had a dream on the same night. The two dreams had different meanings.

6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he could clearly see that they were in a bad mood. 7 So, Joseph asked the former officers of Pharaoh who were in prison with him, in the house of his master, “Why are your faces so sad today?”

8 They answered him, “We had dreams last night, but there is no one to interpret them for us.”

Then Joseph said to them, “Interpretations belong to God, don’t they? Please tell the dreams to me.”

9 So, the head of those who served wine to the king told his dream to Joseph. He said to him, “In my dream, I saw a vine in front of me. 10 There were three branches on it. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and it ripened into bunches of grapes. 11 The cup of Pharaoh was in my hand. I took some of the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh’s cup. Then I put the cup into his hand.”

12 Then Joseph said to him, “This is the meaning of the dream: The three branches are three days. 13 Within three days, Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your job. You will put Pharaoh’s cup into his hands, just as you used to do when you were his personal wine-server. 14 After things go well for you, please remember me. Please treat me kindly. Mention me to Pharaoh. Get me out of this prison, 15 because I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and I have done nothing here in Egypt for which I should be put in jail!”

16 When the head baker saw that Joseph's interpretation was positive, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream. Listen, there were three wicker baskets of bread upon my head. 17 All kinds of pastries for Pharaoh were in the top basket, but the birds were eating them from the basket on top of my head."

18 Joseph answered, "This is the meaning: The three baskets are three days. 19 Within three days, Pharaoh will lift off your head and hang you on a tree! And, the birds will eat your flesh off of you!"

20 Three days later, it was Pharaoh's birthday. He gave a banquet for all of his important officers. He restored the former head of those who served him wine, but Pharaoh hanged the head baker in the presence of his important officers. 21 The head of those who served wine to the Pharaoh got his job back. Once again, he put the cup into the Pharaoh's hand. 22 However, Pharaoh hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph interpreted to the two men.

23 Nevertheless, the chief wine-server to the king did NOT remember what Joseph had done for him. He forgot about Joseph.