

The Dreams (the Butler and the Baker) - Genesis 40

First Southern Baptist Church - 3-24-21

Introduction:

1. "Two"
 - two dreams
 - two officers
 - two dreams of Pharaoh
 - two types of cows in Pharaoh's dream
 - two dreams of Joseph
 - *"Twice" - see 41:32 - "established by God"
 - the New Testament witness of two
2. Joseph has distinguished himself (39:23)
3. How does this further the story of Joseph? - 41:14 - the Butler recommends Joseph
4. Joseph rises to prominence in Egypt
5. This chapter is the set up for the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream in chapter 41

I. Butler and Baker Imprisoned (1-4)

1. Why? - "wroth"
 2. With Joseph
 3. In Joseph's "charge"
 4. Two officers
 - Butler - is the king's cupbearer... served the king his wine
 - Baker - is the king's bread maker... served the king his bread (bread here stands for "flesh") - perhaps not "just" bread
- !!).
- do bread and wine remind you of anything? What about the "third" day? - both life and death happen on the third day. For the believer Jesus' work is both life and death (life for those who believe on Him, but death/ judgement for those who don't)

II. Two Dreams (5-19)

1. Their countenance was sad (7)
 2. Do not dreams belong to God? (8)
 - Kenneth Mathews said that dreams are the "domain" of God
- !!).
- The ability to interpret dreams
 - Daniel had the ability/ a man of prayer
 - even today, dreams have been an intriguing subject for the likes of Freud, and Adler
 - Dreams are mysterious... in sleep you are not dead, but you're not conscious... you are somewhat "exposed." The psychologists have a field day with the ideas that the "real" you comes out... - your fears, your desires (repressed)
 - Do you see yourself in your dreams? - some do and some do not
 - The obvious parallels - both men dream of "three"
3. The God of Dreams
 4. The **butler's dream**

- A. Cupbearer
- B. A vine (verse 9)
- C. Three branches
 - budded and blossoms
 - ripe grapes
- D. Pharaoh's cup
- E. The interpretation (12)
 - 1) Three branches = three days
 - 2) In three days your "head will be lifted up"
 - 3) You will get your job back
- F. Remember me when you get your job back (14-15)
 - 1) Bring me out
 - 2) I was "stolen"
- 5. The **baker's Dream** (16-19)
 - A. Saw the outcome was good (16)
 - B. Three white baskets on my head
 - C. In the top basket there were all types of baked goods
 - the birds ate them
 - D. Here is the interpretation (18)
 - 1) the three baskets are three days (again)
 - 2) Pharaoh will "lift up your head" - from off you
 - 3) your body will hang in a tree
 - 4) birds will peck at it

III. The Third Day (20-23)

- 1. The Pharaoh's birthday (20)
- 2. A feast is made unto all his servants
- 3. Two servants received his "special" attention
 - Butler was restored
 - Baker was executed
- 4. The frustrating end... - the butler did not "remember"

Conclusions:

- 1. How does this further the story of Joseph? - the main point - destiny*
 - introduced Joseph as the current dreamer
 - reminds of Joseph the past dreamer (with brothers and parents)
 - Joseph will next interpret the Pharaoh's dreams (there are two)
- 2. Why two more years? (41:1)
 - the butler's sin (does not God overrule man's infirmities?)
 - what is Joseph doing for two years? - learning to manage/ administrate the Pharaoh's goods
 - God, as the master refiner knows just how long the gold should stay in the fire before He takes it out (1 Peter 1:6-7)*
- 3. God moves people - the Pharaoh, the jailer, the butler and baker and Joseph as it fits His divine plan - how foolish to worry or fret as we do
- 4. Where does he meet the butler? - in the prison... how'd he get to the prison? By doing

the right thing (resisting Potiphar's wife)... how does he get out of the prison... by meeting Pharaoh's butler... (a round about promotion)

-if Joseph had been released when the butler was released... then he would not have been there when the Pharaoh had his dream later. As it was... Joseph was holding till God needed him. The timing was perfect... Joseph was installed in his new position, in time to begin to tax the people, and put away their grain.

-in Pharaoh's court he has people to interpret dreams... in the prison, the butler and baker do not have anyone but Joseph (when Pharaoh has his dream, his counselors are not able to interpret it)

*whatever your prison God is within that prison with you

5. When the work of God is not directly revealed... that does not mean He is not still at work in your situation - has someone done you wrong? Trust in God that He will bring His plans to pass... or that He is doing just that
6. Frustrated -but not the end
7. When the will of God dictates so... be a good servant in your dungeon
 - was Joseph forgotten in the dungeon?
 - the butler did, but God did not
8. Chapter 40 (chapter 41 is about the Pharaoh's dreams)
 - Connects Joseph
 - A. As a "dreamer"
 - B. As a dream interpreter
 - C. As a witness - he is the "connection"