

Joseph in Prison

Genesis 40

by Don Falkos

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Pharaoh became angry with his chief cupbearer and his chief baker. He sent them to prison. One morning Joseph noticed they both looked rather dejected and asked what was wrong.

"We had disturbing dreams," they said, "but there is no one here to interpret them."

Joseph said, "Interpretations belong to God. Tell me your dreams."

The cupbearer went first, "I saw three branches on a vine, each laden with grapes. I squeezed the grapes into Pharaoh's cup and served it to him."

Joseph said, "The three branches mean three days. In three days Pharaoh will release you from prison and restore you to your position as cupbearer. And when he does, please remember me. Ask him to have me released. I am in prison through no fault of my own. I have done nothing wrong."

Now the baker was anxious to share his dream. "I was carrying three baskets on my head. The top basket was full of pastries for Pharaoh, but the birds came and ate them."

Joseph explained, "The three baskets mean three days. In three days Pharaoh will cut off your head and impale your body on a pole. Birds will come and peck at your flesh."

Everything happened just as Joseph said it would. Three days later, on Pharaoh's birthday, he released both men from prison, restoring the cupbearer to his previous position and executing the baker.

But the cupbearer forgot all about Joseph.