

THE STUDY OF

GENESIS

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED
THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH."

Left on Read...
But Not by God
Genesis 40

THE REDEMPTION STORY: FROM GENESIS TO JESUS

- The Bible is one beautiful story of Jesus and redemption (Ephesians 1:7-10)
- Scripture presents a purposeful narrative revealing God's redemptive plan (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Big Picture

- Redeemer/Seed Hunt Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3 (There is one Hero... Jesus)
- Past promises point to future faithfulness, different times - same Lord
- Continuity — From Abraham to Christ (Heb 11:13–16; Gal 3:29)

Genesis 40:1–4 NKJV

(1) It came to pass after these things that the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt.

(2) And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker.

Genesis 40:1–4 NKJV

(3) So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined.

(4) And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; so they were in custody for a while.

v.1-4 Service > Bitterness

1. Servant Leadership in the Pit “He served them” — שָׂרַת (sharat) → ministered, attended personally
2. Authority expressed through humility
3. Suffering did not shrink him, it grew him (Mark 10:45; Phil. 2:5-7)

Genesis 40:5-7 NKJV

5) Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night and each man's dream with its own interpretation.

(6) And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad."

Genesis 40:5-7 NKJV

(7) So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?"

v.5-7 Compassion > Self-Absorption

1. “He saw they were sad” — זַעֲפִים
(zo‘afim) → troubled, distressed
2. Pain did not harden his awareness, it created compassion (Heb. 4:15 = Sympathetic High Priest; 2 Cor. 1:4 = Comforted to comfort others)

Genesis 40:8 NKJV

(8) And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."

v.8 Revelation > Speculation

1. “Interpretations” — פְּתוּרִים (pitronim)

→ divine decoding

2. “Belong to God” — לְאֱלֹהִים (le'Elohim)

→ exclusive ownership

3. God reveals what man cannot discern

4. Deut. 29:29; Dan. 2:28 - God reveals

mysteries Secret things are His

Genesis 40:9-13 NKJV

(9) Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "Behold, in my dream a vine was before me,

(10) "and in the vine were three branches; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes.

Genesis 40:9-13 NKJV

(11) "Then 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) And Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days."

Genesis 40:9-13 NKJV

(13) "Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler.

v.9-13 Restoration Pattern

1. Three branches → Three days (testable revelation)
2. “Lift up your head” — נָשָׂא (nasa) → exalt / restore
3. Amos 3:7 — God reveals before He acts
4. Luke 24:7 — Third-day resurrection pattern

Genesis 40:14-15 NKJV

14) "But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.

(15) "For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."

v.14-15 Honest Faith > Passive Fatalism

1. “Remember” — זָכַר (zakar) → act upon remembrance
2. Faith does not exclude wise initiative
3. Innocent suffering declared
4. Luke 23:42 — “Remember me...”

Genesis 40:16-19 NKJV

16) When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also was in my dream, and there were three white baskets on my head.

(17) "In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."

Genesis 40:16-19 NKJV

(18) So Joseph answered and said, "This is the interpretation of it: The three baskets are three days.

(19) "Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you."

v.16-19 The Baker's Cooked

1. Faithful messenger speaks full counsel
2. Curse imagery — birds consuming flesh
(Deut 28:26)
3. 2 Timothy 4:2 — Preach the whole
Word
4. John 3:36 — Life or wrath

Genesis 40:20-23 NKJV

(20) Now it came to pass on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.

(21) Then he restored the chief butler to his butlership again, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.

Genesis 40:20-23 NKJV

(22) But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.

(23) Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

v.20-23 Third-Day Reversal

1. Pharaoh “lifted up” — same verb (nasa)
2. One restored → One cut off
3. Third day = reversal motif in Scripture
 1. Hosea 6:2 — On the third day He will raise us
 2. Acts 2:23–24 — Resurrection vindication

Takeaway 1 - Presence > Circumstances

1. Success defined by Who is with you
2. Hardship ≠ Abandonment
3. “I am with you always...” (Matt.28:20)
4. Nothing separates from Christ’s love
(Rom. 8:38–39)

Takeaway 1 - ACTION:

Stop reading God's love through your circumstances

When something feels inconvenient, delayed, or unfair, pause and pray:

“Lord, You are working in this — even if I cannot see it.” Refuse to label moments as random. Stop, Pray, Trust

Takeaway 2 - Faithfulness > Outcomes

Serve where you are — today.

“Wherever you are, be all there!

Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God.”

- Jim Elliot

Takeaway 2 - ACTION:

1. Serve in the “pit” (Col. 3:23–24)
2. Speak truth fully (Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 4:2)
3. Greatness serves (Mark 10:45; John 13)

Takeaway 3 - Trust & Wisdom > Fatalism

You can't live like a fatalist,
and you can't live like an atheist.

Hold the tension/mystery:

- Decisions matter
- Prayers matter

God is sovereign, act wisely

Resources/ Bibliography:

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Joseph as a Typology of Jesus

1. Beloved Son = Matt. 3:17
2. Sent by the Father = John 6:38
3. Rejected by His Own = John 1:11
4. Betrayed for Silver = Matt. 26:14–15
5. Delivered to the Gentiles = Matt.
20:18–19
6. Stripped = Matt. 27:28, 35

7. Falsely Accused = Matt. 26:59–60
8. Numbered with Transgressors = Isa. 53:12;
Luke 23:32–33
9. One Saved, One Condemned = Luke
23:39–43
10. Exalted to the Right Hand of God = Acts
2:33; Heb. 1:3
11. Bread for the Nations = John 6:35
12. Forgave His Betrayers = Luke 23:34

HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

Heat = pressure, trials, difficulty (Ps. 88; James 1:1-15)

Thorns = our sin, flesh response (Eph. 4-6; Heb. 4:14-5:10)

HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

Cross = God's gospel transformative power, changes our focus from self to Jesus, (Rom 1:16; 2 Peter 1:1-11)

Fruit = the new right, Holy Spirit, Grace-empowered response to life's struggles. (Ps. 1; Gal 5:22)