

## THE BAKER AND THE BUTLER

Genesis 39: 21-40:23

Even though Joseph was innocent, he was thrown into prison by his master. The Lord had not forgotten Joseph, but in fact, the prison was part of God's plan for Joseph. Just as he had been with Joseph in Potiphar's house, the Lord was with Joseph in prison. The Lord showed Joseph mercy and gave him favor in the eyes of the keeper of the prison.

The keeper of the prison was so impressed with Joseph and his character that he trusted the control of all of the prisoners into the hands of Joseph. Whatever was done in the prison was at the orders of Joseph. The keeper of the prison trusted Joseph completely, just as Potiphar had trusted Joseph, because Joseph was a trustworthy young man. The prison keeper knew that with Joseph in charge he would not need to worry about anything. The Lord was with Joseph and he made all that Joseph did to prosper.

After Joseph had been put in the prison, both the cup bearer of the king of Egypt and his baker did something that upset their master. The Pharaoh was so angry with them that he had them both thrown into prison, the same prison where Joseph was kept. Both the cup bearer and the baker were put under the authority of Joseph.

One night the cupbearer and the baker each dreamed a dream. When Joseph came to see them in the morning, he looked at them and saw that they were both sad. Joseph was himself a prisoner and could have been thinking only of his own troubles, but instead, Joseph cared for those around him and wanted to help them in their time of difficulty. Joseph was a kind and caring man, the love of God shone through him to all those around him. Joseph asked the two men, "Why are you both looking so sad this morning?" The two men told Joseph that they had each had a dream during the night, and there was no one who could tell them what their dreams meant.

Joseph said to the two men, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me what you dreamed."

The cup bearer told his dream to Joseph. In it he saw a vine with three branches. The branches budded and bloomed. Then clusters of grapes appeared on the branches. The cup bearer saw Pharaoh's cup in his hand, so he took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup and gave the juice to Pharaoh.

Joseph told the cup bearer, "This is what your dream means. The three branches are three days. In three days Pharaoh will take you out of here and give you back your place of service to him. Please remember me when things are going well for you, and mention me to Pharaoh so that I can get out of this place. For I was stolen from my homeland, and I have done nothing to deserve to be in this prison."

When the baker saw that the cup bearer had such a good interpretation of his dream, he was eager to have Joseph tell him the meaning of his dream also. He said, "I also had I dream. This is what I saw. I had three white baskets on my head. In the top basket there were all kinds of baked things for Pharaoh, and the birds ate out of the basket that was on my head."

Joseph said to the baker, "This is what your dream means. Within three days Pharaoh will cut off your head and hang you on a tree."

In three days all things that Joseph said came to pass, just as the Lord had revealed them to Joseph. On the third day it was Pharaoh's birthday and he made a feast for all his servants. He returned the cup bearer to his place of service, and he hanged the baker.

It is sad to say, but when the cup bearer was taken out of prison and got his old job back, he completely forgot about Joseph and how Joseph had helped him. Joseph was left to sit in the prison for two more years, abandoned and forgotten by those he had helped. Joseph was forgotten by people, BUT JOSPEH WAS NEVER ABANDONED OR FORGOTTEN BY GOD.

No matter how alone or forgotten we might feel, God will never forsake us. He just waits for the perfect time to bring his plan for good to those who love him and serve him.

If you ever feel alone or forgotten by people and even think that you have been forgotten by God, think again of the story of Joseph and how God cared for him through all his troubles.

**PRINCIPLE:** God never forgets or abandons his children.

**LEARN:** We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;  
Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be manifest in our body.

II Corinthians 4: 8,9,10

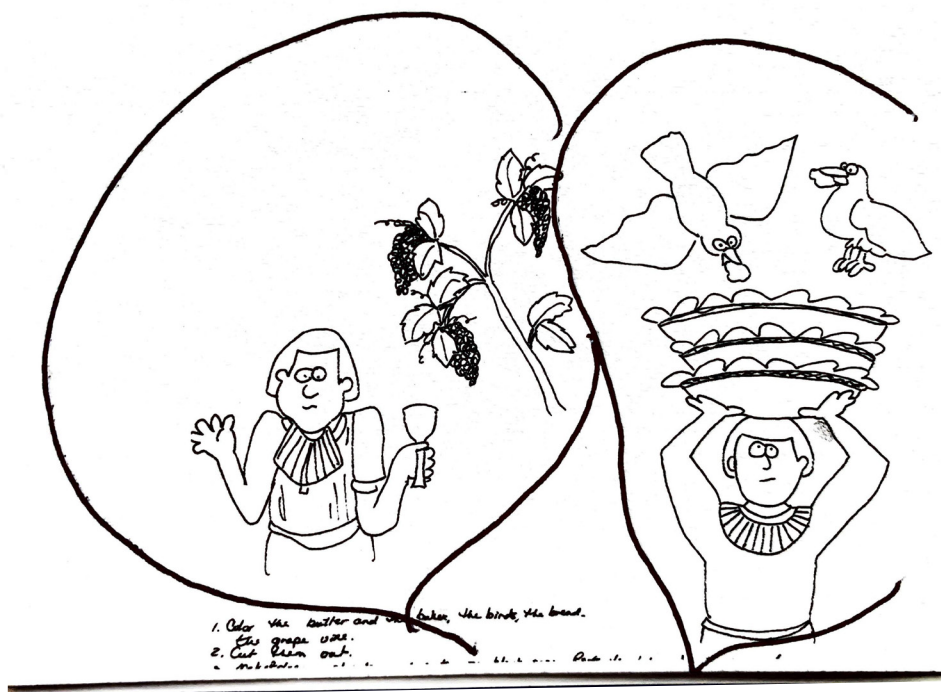
Even though these verse were written down long after Joseph lived, I'm sure that they would explain exactly how he often felt through the years of his slavery. He looked ahead to the coming of the Saviour, as did all those who loved God. And so, by living a life of obedience, even though it was very hard, Joseph showed the life of Jesus in himself. May that be the goal of each one of us.

Color main sheet

Color small pictures

Cut each small picture  
and paste above

one of the prisoners  
that Joseph is comforting.





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