

Genesis 40

“Hurry Up!...and Wait...”

Everyone Here has STORIES to TELL about WAITING

We All had Lots of WAITING to get to China! Lots of WAITING while HERE!

Now Some of us EAGERLY WAITING to GO HOME!

We all WAIT for Big LIFE CHANGES

Accepted into Schools – Get Jobs – Get Married – Have Children - Retirement

Sometimes WAITING leads to DISAPPOINTMENT even RESENTMENT

We all are WAITING to OVERCOME Things that Cause us PAIN

Anger – Eating Disorders – Lust – Bitterness – Laziness – Perfectionism – Pride

Hurry Up and Wait is PATTERN of MOST of our LIVES

Almost 4000 yrs ago in LAND of EGYPT a Young Man named Joseph Waiting
IN FIRST Verse and LAST Verse of this Chapter, Joseph in SAME PLACE!

Joseph was our Spirit-filled BROTHER in FAITH – In SAME FAMILY of God
Hurry Up and WAIT...WAIT...WAIT was the way JOSEPH Forced to Live

Apostle tells us ANCIENT Scripture has SANCTIFYING PURPOSE...

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that
through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might
have hope. Romans 15.4

1. Wait Faithfully

a. Do Not Trust in Man - are you WAITING on GOD or MAN?

MOST of Joseph's PROMOTIONS from GUANXSHI – Favors from People
Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of
his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. Genesis 37.3

Joseph's JEALOUS Brothers wanted to KILL him
But his OLDEST Brother Stepped IN to PROTECT him

But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. Genesis 37.21,22

Genesis 37.21,22

Sold to SLAVE CARAVAN bound for EGYPT, but Landed on his Feet...

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there...His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. Genesis 39.1-4

Genesis 39.1-4

Even when he has INGLORIOUS Departure from Potiphar's DIGS...

And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. Genesis 39.22

NO Question Joseph found GREAT FAVOR w/ Man – GUANXSHI on Steroids

Baker & Cupbearer NOBLE / IMPORTANT Positions COURT of PHARAOH
Men NEAREST the LEADER – Chosen for TRUSTWORTHINESS, Ability
NOT TOLD WHY they're in TROUBLE – Or IF INNOCENT or GUILTY?

NOT Surprising asks CUP-BEARER for Help when RESTORED to POWER

v. 14 Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.

Some Commentators CRITICIZE Joe Here – ASKING Man is Lack of FAITH
Some Noble Christians TEACH this Method – ASK No MAN – ONLY God
So we make our NEEDS a PRAYER REQUEST! Pray for God 12k RMB Month

Bible makes NO Command Here – Mission Worker raise Support – Pastor ZGC
Tell those who Want to Know what is NEEDED to Get the JOB DONE

If you TELL Others – You must TRUST God – PROVIDES and SURPRISES
In over 30 years of Raising M Support – Never happens like I would EXPECT!
Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he? Isaiah 2.22

vs. 20-23 On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday...He restored the chief cupbearer to his position... Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

When Joseph had POWER he did Not use it for REVENGE
Against Potiphar, his Wife, or his BROTHERS or FORGETFUL CUPBEARER
He did not TRUST in Men, so he was NOT BITTER Against Them

When we come to END of Story we Read...

His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good... Genesis 50.18-20

b. Wait on the Lord

Joseph, was **seventeen** years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers Genesis 37.2

Joseph was **thirty** years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Genesis 41.46

13 years – Some would Say WASTED Years – Thrown in PIT and Still There
Not given EXACT Breakdown his ITINERARY – Where did NOT want to BE
POINT – These were ONLY Years Joseph HAD > No HOPE of Changing

v. 15 Joseph: “For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit.”

SAME WORD describes the PIT in DOTHAN and DARK PRISON Now In
Some say BEST YEARS of Life 17 to 30, Still Skinny, Lots of HAIR, Not White
Not to Mention BROKE Most of the TIME – COMPLEXION Problems!

Previous Chapter – 39 – Same IDEA is Repeated SIX Times...

...Here we SEE the LAST COUPLE of PRONOUNCEMENTS...

Our God is Promise Maker / Keeper

Psalm 146.3-6

Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Jeremiah 17.5-8

If Cupbearer Remembered Joseph SOONER it would have been TOO SOON!
He would NOT FREE his Family – Would Not FEED Hungry Nation/World

Not PREPARE Way for True King, Rose from Deepest Pit to Highest POWER
We Serve an ON TIME GOD – Never EARLY, Never LATE
Joseph needs to Keep SUFFERING to bring SALVATION to the NATIONS

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Revelation 6.9-11

Hard to INTERPRET God’s TIMETABLE / UNDERSTAND God’s METHODS
Lean Not on Your Own Understanding – In All Your Ways Acknowledge Him

2. Work Fruitfully

a. Humility

vs. 2-4 Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined. The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.

CAPTAIN of Guard – POTIPHAR’S TITLE – Likely Same Man
Joseph ordered by Man who IMPRISONED him on FALSE CHARGES
To Care for 2 BUSTED BIG-SHOTS who HAD done Something WRONG
No Such OBJECTIONS Voiced here – ATTENDED Them for SOME TIME!

“It is not what a man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular, it is his attitude”

A.W. Tozer

ALL Work in God’s WORLD can be for HIS Glory, If you desire to Glorify Him

M served Many Years of Faithful Service in AFRICA – Going Home to Retire
TRIBE gathered round Beloved SISTER to bid her FAREWELL, GODSPEED
One man gave her SHELL – Appearance Not Very Attractive – Meant MUCH
The SEA was WEEKS Away – Long, Hard JOURNEY from there...

“My long journey was part of the gift”

African Brother

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 4.10

In God’s PROVIDENCE – Some Leaders EMERGE after Long Struggle
 For IMPORTANT Moment of SERVICE – STRUGGLE was their Qualification
 Lech WALESZA in POLAND / Nelson MANDELA in SOUTH AFRICA
 JOSEPH the VIZIER of EGYPT

But we must remember that not everyone emerges. God’s plan for some is to serve him in anonymous obscurity for their entire lives, receiving no recognition and no thanks, gaining no office and enjoying negligible results. We would not recognize their names, we do not know their stories – but they will be told in eternity, because God does not forget.

John H. Walton

b. Hope

vs. 6,7 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, “Why are your faces downcast today?”

Joseph serves CHEERFULLY and ATTENTIVELY
 SENSITIVITY – How many Leaders even LOOK @ Subordinates FACE?
 How do YOU CARE for Others when you are in PAIN and PERPLEXITY?

Natural for the WOUNDED TURTLE to CLIMB Back into Safety of SHELL

If anyone has GOOD Reason to Feel ABANDONED it was Joseph

In Midst of his OWN HURT – HIS HEART Goes Out to OTHERS
 No WONDER that EVEN Pharaoh will Soon Notice SPIRIT of God in Joseph

We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5.3-5

My enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly. When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? Psalm 56.3,4

Ultimately, the closing of prison doors is designed by the Lord to open palace doors, but only in His timing. Joseph must remain loyal to God, not knowing the future of his own existence. Bruce Waltke

3. Witness Fearlessly

a. God is Able

v. 8 They said to him, “We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them.” And Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God?”

AMAZING that Joseph still believes in DREAMS!

His 2 Dreams, Years Before, Started All of PROBLEMS he is NOW IN

If God is NOT ANSWERING your Prayers
Do you Still Believe He'll Answer Others?

Dreams brought him MUCH PAIN – Still Convinced they're FROM God!

Storms had NOT SHAKEN his FAITH in God – Drove his Foundation Deeper

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.” Genesis 41.15,16

Dream interpretations were usually carried out by experts who had been trained in the available dream literature...Babylonians compiled dream books which contain sample dreams along with the key to interpretation...It was believed that the gods communicated through dreams, but not that they revealed the meanings...But Joseph did not consult any scientific literature, but consulted God. Victor Matthews

Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. Let them bring them, and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come. Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; do good, or do harm, that we may be dismayed and terrified. Behold, you are nothing, and your work is less than nothing; an abomination is he who chooses you. Isaiah 41.21-24

When speaking to the Egyptians or of Providence, Joseph uses the universal title, "God." Though the Egyptians stand outside the covenant community, Joseph still assumes he can speak to them about the same God whom they both recognize.

Bruce Waltke

b. **He was Available** – Not just Say...God can DO IT... Good Luck with That..!

v. 8 Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? ***Please tell them to me.***"

Joseph KNEW God and Fully Expected Him to make KNOWN the Interpretation

He who knows not and knows not that he knows not

is a fool; shun him

He who knows not and knows not that he knows not

is a child; teach him

He who knows and knows not that he knows

is asleep; wake him

He who know and knows that he knows

is a wise man; follow him

“the people who do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits” Daniel 11.32
 Endurance of Jeremiah, Boldness of John Baptist, Unwavering Strength Samuel

ISAIAH has Vision of God – High and Lifted UP – Holy, Holy, Holy...

And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

Isaiah 6.7,8

1) Good News

vs. 12,13 Joseph said to him, “This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer.

Apostle PAUL sees God High and Lifted Up in Romans

God of Grace and Mercy – Sovereign Plan to Justify, Sanctify, Glorify a People
 Plan put into OUR HANDS – Who will Go in Name of Risen Jesus?

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Romans 10.14.15

Today, God speaks through his written Word, and the Holy Spirit reveals the truth to his own...If you know the depths of truth, you are to speak with finality of the truth revealed by the Holy Spirit through the Word. Donald Grey Barnhouse

Reformation Creed SOLA SCRIPTURA – Bible gives Clear & Full Revelation

2) Grim News

vs. 16,17 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, “I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head, and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head.”

EGYPT in that Day ENJOYED - 38 Types of CAKES, 57 kinds of BREADS

Pharaoh would LIFT UP Head of CUPBEARER

But he would LIFT OFF Head of BAKER

vs. 18,19 Joseph answered and said, “This is its interpretation...In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you.”

HANGING was Not Cause of Death > Way to DISHONOR the CORPSE

Probably was BEHEADED or STONED > HUNG in MORBID SHAME

Many are willing to preach the cupbearers sermon, but how many are willing to preach the baker’s sermon?

James Boice

Jesus talked MORE about HELL than Heaven, Didn’t want Anyone to Go There

Jesus: “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Mark 2.17

Joseph reaches out to his NEW Cupbearer FRIEND and asks for HESED

When ALL goes WELL for YOU – Remember ME!

v. 14 Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.

So many things happening in 3 days – Maybe thought he’d Get OUT SOON!

HESED - Hebrew word for Faithfulness, Kindness, Loyalty, and Love

But once Cupbearer TASTES Daylight of Freedom – Forgets DARK Prison

There must have been the slow, dawning realization that the cupbearer had completely forgotten Joseph; there would be no *hesed* for him, no faithful remembrance. His hopes had been cruelly raised, only once more to be painfully dashed – not just by the cupbearer, but by God himself. Iain Duguid

I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long. He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones; he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has made my chains heavy; though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my paths crooked. He is a bear lying in wait for me, a lion in hiding; he turned aside my steps and tore me to pieces; he has made me desolate; he bent his bow and set me as a target for his arrow. He drove into my kidneys the arrows of his quiver; I have become the laughingstock of all peoples, the object of their taunts all day long. He has filled me with bitterness; he has sated me with wormwood. He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes; my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, “My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD.” Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3.1-23

HESED – COVENANT Faithfulness, Love, Kindness, and LOYALTY

Come from our Covenant God

“his steadfast love endures forever” Psalm 136, repeats this 26 times!

These all seemed to be evil circumstances designed (if they had a design) for Joseph’s ruin. But God was still working, and even these downward steps were actually forward steps to the throne.

James Boice

Like the THIEF who HUNG beside HIM we must Cry in FAITH...

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Luke 23.42

We will ONE DAY be DELIVERED like the CUPBEARER

Because Jesus DIED like the BAKER

Not Sure what were CRIMES of the BAKER

VERY Sure Jesus was WITHOUT SIN – but Took Penalty of OUR SIN

As our SUBSTITUTE was HUNG on the TREE of a ROMAN CROSS

So that we can LIFT UP OUR HEADS and Sing Praises of Merciful God

Genesis 40.1 Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt. 2 And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, 3 and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined. 4 The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody. 5 And one night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation. 6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?" 8 They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me." 9 So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, 10 and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. 11 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 Then Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. 13 In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer. 14 Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. 15 For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit." 16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head, 17 and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head." 18 And Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. 19 In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you." 20 On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. 21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. 22 But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. 23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.