

Genesis 40: shape and keywords

Some time after this, the **cupbearer** of the king of Egypt and his **baker** sinned against their lord the king of Egypt. **Pharaoh** was angry with his two **officers**, the **cupbearer officer** and the **baker officer**, and he put them in custody in the **house** of the **officer** of the guard, in the prison **house** where **Joseph** was confined. The **officer** of the guard charged **Joseph** with them, and he waited on them; and they continued for some time in custody.

One night they **dreamed** a **dream**--the **cupbearer** and the **baker** of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison **house**--each his own **dream**, and each **dream** with its own **interpretation**.

When **Joseph** came to them in the morning, he saw, behold, they were troubled. So he asked **Pharaoh's officers**, who were with him in custody in his lord's **house**, "Why are your faces downcast today?"

They said to him, "We have **dreamed** a **dream**, and there is no one **to interpret** them." And **Joseph** said to them, "Do not **interpretations** belong to God? Please tell them to me."

So the **cupbearer officer** told his **dream** to **Joseph**, and said to him, "In my **dream**, behold, there was a vine before me, and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it was budding, its blossoms came out and the clusters ripened into grapes. **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." Then **Joseph** said to him, "This is its **interpretation**: the three branches are three days; within 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 was just when you were his **cupbearer**. But remember me when it is well with you; please do me the kindness to remember me to **Pharaoh**, and so get me out of this **house**. Because I was stolen, yes, stolen, out of the land of the Hebrews; and here also I have done nothing that they should have put me into the pit."

When the **baker officer** saw that the **interpretation** was favorable, he said to **Joseph**, "I also had a **dream**: there were, behold, 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." And **Joseph** answered, "This is its **interpretation**: the three baskets are three days; within three days **Pharaoh** will lift up your head--from you!--and hang you on a pole; and the birds will eat the flesh from you."

On the third day, which was **Pharaoh's** birthday, he made a feast for all his servants, and lifted up the head of the **cupbearer officer** and the head of the chief **baker** among his servants. He returned the **cupbearer officer** to his cupbearing, and he placed the cup in **Pharaoh's** hand; but the **baker officer** he hanged, just as **Joseph had interpreted** to them. Yet the **cupbearer officer** did not remember **Joseph** but forgot him.

Threes in Genesis 40 Three scenes (as above)

king of Egypt": 40.1 (twice); 40.5

"in custody" (*bemishmar*): 40.3, 4, 7

"behold" (*hinneh*): 40.6, 9, 16

"to interpret" (*pthr*); 40.8, 16, 22

"budded," "blossomed," "ripened" (40.10)

"Took," "pressed," "placed" (40.11)

"lift," "return," "place" (40.13, 21)

"Pharaoh": 40.11, three times in verse and three times in 40.13-14

"lift [one's] head": 40.13, 19, 20

"remember" (*zchr*): 40.14 (twice), 2