

Genesis 40:1-23

Genesis 40:1-4 -

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.

4945 [e]	8269 [e]	5921 [e]	5631 [e]	8147 [e]	5921 [e]	6547 [e]	7107 [e]
ham·maš·qīm,	šar	'al	sā·rī·sāw;	šə·nē	'al	par·'ōh,	way·yiq·šōp
הַמְשָׁקִים	שָׂר	עַל	סְרִיסָיו	שְׁנֵי	עַל	פַּרְעֹה	וַיִּקְצֹף
the cupbearer	chief	upon	his officers	two	with	Pharaoh	And was angry
Art N-mp	N-msc	Prep	N-mpc 3ms	Number-mdc	Prep	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms

מִשְׁקָה = <i>mashqeh</i> from	שָׁקָה = <i>shaqah</i> /shah-KAH	<i>aphah</i> = "baker, meats, to cook, especially to bake"
↓	↓	
"butlership, cupbearer"	"cause to drink water, give to drink"	
	<u>"officer in charge of drinks"</u>	

644 [e]	8269 [e]	5921 [e]
hā·'ō·w·pīm.	šar	wə·'al
הָאוֹפִים:	שָׂר	וְעַל
the baker	chief	and
Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	N-msc	Conj-w Prep

1. "House of the captain of the guard"
 - a. Genesis 39:1 – "Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian"
 - b. Joseph is still in Potiphar's house, but assigned to the prison
 - c. In fact, Potiphar gave Joseph this assignment: "The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them." (40:4)
2. "Chief cupbearer"
 - a. An important position that would have included drinks, but high responsibilities
3. "Chief baker"
 - a. Bread was a staple food in Egypt since Egypt was the source of grain
 - b. Egypt is considered the location that created leavened bread
 - c. There was a great variety of breads baked in Egypt
4. Both, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker:
 - a. Were the "chief" of their departments and their staff
 - b. Were responsible for what the Pharaoh ate/drank and his meals.
 - i. It is not stated, it would seem they were both imprisoned for an unnamed crime that involved the Pharaoh getting sick
 - ii. It likely considered an assassination attempt, that needs more investigation
 - iii. They were in prison during the investigation

Genesis 40:5-8 –

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."

1. The cupbearer and the baker became even more interested in their dreams once they realized they had each had them the same night!
2. Joseph is not sleeping in the same place the prisoners are since he approaches them
3. Joseph is in charge of the prison, but that includes meeting the needs of the prisoners. Thus, Joseph:
 - a. Approaches them "came to them in the morning"
 - b. Notices their faces are changed
 - i. This means they were MORE concerned with the meaning of the dreams than the fact they were held in prison by Pharaoh's command, which already was not good.
 - c. Asks what their problem is since that is his responsibility
4. Dreams
 - a. Dreams were considered communication with the divine and were taken seriously
 - b. There were trained specialists for interpreting dreams
 - i. There were paying customers
 - ii. There were collections of "dream books" from both Egypt and Mesopotamia that were consulted to find meanings for symbols in the dream.
 - iii. Egypt books usually identify a symbol within the dream to decide if the dream is a good or bad.
 - iv. Mesopotamian dream books provide instructions for ritual remedies.
 - c. Joseph has no known training in dream interpretation and has no literature available to reference.
5. Joseph does use some common insights and principles of interpretation used in his time.
 - a. The number of items indicates the number of days or years is documented in Egyptian "dream books"
 - b. The symbols in the cupbearer and baker's dreams are common symbols referenced in the "dream books"
 - i. "A full goblet" indicates having a name and offspring
 - ii. Carrying fruit on your head indicates coming sorrow.
6. Joseph always gives God credit for revealing dreams, not his dream skills.
7. Names for God:
 - a. YHWH used by the narrator of the text and is associated with God's blessing and his presence with Joseph
 - b. Elohim used in direct speech by Joseph. Used when speaking to an Egyptian, non-Hebrew:
 - i. Potiphar's wife
 - ii. Cupbearer and Baker
 - iii. Pharaoh

Genesis 40:9-15 –

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."

1. "In my dream" is the same phrase used in the opening formula (*ina suttia*, "in my dream") found in many Mari prophetic texts that deal with prophecies received in dreams and interpreted.
2. The number "three" is repeated:
 - a. Vine has 3 branches
 - b. 3 verbs are used to describe the growth: budded, blossoms shot forth, clusters ripened
 - c. Pharaoh is mentioned 3 times
 - d. Cup is mentioned 3 times
 - e. Cupbearer mentions himself 3 times:
 - i. "I took"
 - ii. "I pressed"
 - iii. "I placed"

7818 [e] wā·eś·ḥaṭ וַאֲשַׁחַט and pressed Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-1cs	6025 [e] hā·ā·nā·ḥīm, הָעֲנָבִים the grapes Art N-mp	853 [e] 'et- אֶת- - DirObjM	3947 [e] wā·'eq·qah וַאֲקַח and I took Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-1cs	3027 [e] bə·yā·dī; בְּיָדִי [was] in my hand Prep-b N-fsc 1cs	6547 [e] par·'ōh פָּרְעָה of Pharaoh N-proper-ms	3563 [e] wə·kō·ws וְכֹס And the cup Conj-w N-fsc	11			
1cs = First person common singular										
6547 [e] par·'ōh. פָּרְעָה: of Pharaoh N-proper-ms	3709 [e] kaḇ כַּף hand N-fsc	5921 [e] 'al- עַל- in Prep	3563 [e] hak·kō·ws הַכֹּס the cup Art N-fs	853 [e] 'et- אֶת- - DirObjM	5414 [e] wā·'et·tēn וַאֲתַן and placed Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-1cs	6547 [e] par·'ōh, פָּרְעָה of Pharaoh N-proper-ms	3563 [e] kō·ws כֹּס cup N-fsc	413 [e] 'el- אֶל- into Prep	853 [e] 'ō·tām אֹתָם them DirObjM 3mp	
3653 [e] kan·ne·kā; כַּנְּנֵקָה your place N-msc 2ms	5921 [e] 'al- עַל- to Prep	7725 [e] wa·hā·šī·bə·kā וַאֲשִׁיבְךָ and restore you Conj-w V-Hifil-ConjPerf-3ms 2ms	7218 [e] rō·še·kā, רֹאשְׁךָ your head N-msc 2ms	853 [e] 'et- אֶת- - DirObjM	6547 [e] par·'ōh פָּרְעָה Pharaoh N-proper-ms	5375 [e] yiś·śā יִשָּׂא will lift up V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	3117 [e] yā·mīm, יָמִים days N-mp	7969 [e] še·lō·šet שְׁלֹשֶׁת three Number-msc	5750 [e] bə·'ō·wd בְּעוֹד Within now Prep-b Adv	13
4945 [e] maš·qé·hū. מִשְׁקֵהוּ his cupbearer N-msc 3ms	1961 [e] hā·yī·tā הָיִיתָ you were V-Qal-Perf-2ms	834 [e] 'ā·šer אֲשֶׁר when Pro-r	7223 [e] hā·ri·šō·wn, הָרִאשׁוֹן former Art Adj-ms	4941 [e] kam·miš·pāt כַּמִּשְׁפָּט according to the manner Prep-k, Art N-ms	3027 [e] bə·yā·dōw, בְּיָדוֹ in his hand Prep-b N-fsc 3ms	6547 [e] par·'ōh פָּרְעָה of Pharaoh N-proper-ms	3563 [e] kō·ws- כֹּס- the cup N-fsc	5414 [e] wə·nā·tā·tā וְנָתַתָּה and you will put Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-2ms		

Genesis 40:16-19 -

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.”

853 [e] 'ō-wṭ-kā	8518 [e] wə-tā-lāh	5921 [e] mē-ā-le-kā,	7218 [e] rō-šə-kā	853 [e] 'eṭ-	6547 [e] pār-ōh	5375 [e] yīś-šā	3117 [e] yā-mīm,	7969 [e] šə-lō-šeṭ	5750 [e] bə-ō-wḍ	19
אֹתָּךְ	וְתָלָהּ	מֵעַלְיָךְ	רֶאשְׁךָ	אֶת-	פַּרְעֹה	יִשָּׂא	יָמִים	שְׁלֹשֶׁת	בְּעוֹד	
you	and hang	from you	your head	-	Pharaoh	will lift off	days	three	Within	
DirObjM 2ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms	Prep-m 2ms	N-msc 2ms	DirObjM	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	N-mp	Number-msc	Prep-b Adv	

5921 [e] mē-ā-le-kā.	1320 [e] bə-šā-re-kā	853 [e] 'eṭ-	5775 [e] hā-ō-wp̄	398 [e] wə-ā-kal	6086 [e] 'êṣ;	5921 [e] 'al-
מֵעַלְיָךְ	בְּשָׂרְךָ	אֶת-	הָעוֹף	וְאָכַל	עֵץ	עַל-
from you	your flesh	-	the birds	and will eat	a tree	on
Prep-m 2ms	N-msc 2ms	DirObjM	Art N-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms	N-ms	Prep

- Cupbearer serves Pharaoh, but the baker serves the birds.
- Joseph speaks coldly, unemotional to the baker
 - Apparently, the baker is guilty
 - Joseph is announcing the baker's death sentence
- Egyptian culture honored the dead body (consider mummies and their preservation), but the baker's body would be mutilated, displayed for decay and eaten by animals. This would have been horrific for an Egyptian to think about for three days.

Genesis 40:20-23 -

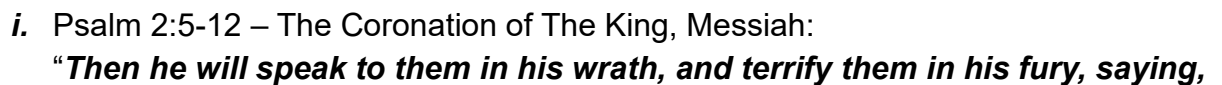
20 On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. 21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. 22 But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. 23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

- Birthday
 - Scholars find no evidence of a celebration of Pharaoh's day of birth until after 1000 BC
 - More common was the celebration of the anniversary of his accession or coronation to the position of king.
 - This celebration is first recorded in the 6th Dynasty (2345-2181 BC)
 - Joseph** is serving a Pharaoh in the 12th Dynasty (1991-1802 BC)
 - The 11th Dynasty was from 2150-1991 BC
 - Joseph was in the 12th Dynasty of the Middle Kingdom during a time of significant Egyptian prosperity for Pharaohs such as:
 - Senusret II
 - Senusret III
 - Amenemhat III
 - Moses** was in the 18th Dynasty (1550-1292 BC)
- Notice both have heads “lifted” that result in:
 - Cupbearer back in position placing cup in Pharaoh's hand

3. Cupbearer “did not remember” and “forgot”

שָׁכַח = *shakach* - "to mislay, to be oblivious of, from want of memory or attention"

זָכַר = *zakar* - "burn incense, earnestly, to mark, make mention of, be mindful, recount"



“As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to me,

“You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”

4. “Hanged the chief baker”

- a. Hanging was not like the old west with a noose and hung until dead
- b. Execution would occur (decapitation) and the corpse would be hung (impaled on a stick) for public humiliation and warning.
 - i. The corpse would be left hanging as a public sign
 - ii. Birds and scavenger animals would devour the rotting flesh
 - iii. 1 Samuel 31:8-13, the death of Saul:

“The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. So they cut off his head and stripped off his armor and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the good news to the house of their idols and to the people. They put his armor in the temple of Ashtaroath, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan. But when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, all the valiant men arose and went all night and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh and fasted seven days.”

