

Dreams Can Be a Warning Light

May 14, 2017

(Scripture Reading: 40:9-19)

Gen. 40:1-4 **1**Then it came about after these things, the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt. **2**Pharaoh was furious with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. **3**So he put them in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, in the jail, the *same* place where Joseph was imprisoned. **4**The captain of the bodyguard put Joseph in charge of them, and he took care of them; and they were in confinement for some time.

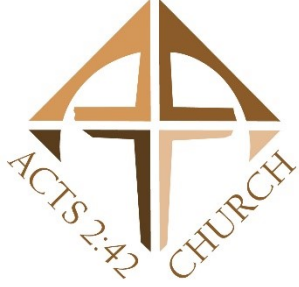
I have a tendency to ignore warning lights in my car if it is not too serious! Any light that does not hamper me from moving forward, I tend to ignore it. But if I get light like oil light I may have to stop immediately and take care of it. Dreams are like the warning light in our car. It may try to tell us where we are, and where we are heading. This chapter is all about dreams. Let us learn to understand our dreams through the Word of God.

In verse 1 it talks about two professions, the cup bearer and the baker. Cup bearer is a terrific position! Nehemiah was a cup bearer! Baker was usually a chief chef. Why were they put in prison? Any poisoning scheme? Cup bearer is in charge of king's complete menu. The whole preparation must take place under his watchful supervision. He is held responsible if anything wrong with food or drinks.

Then it came about after these things, such phrase should immediately alert us that quite a bit of time must have passed. As I said last week, Joseph spent 11 years in the prison. The chief baker and cup bearer were put in prison at the ninth year of Joseph's prison term. They were kept in the house of captain of the body guard where Joseph was?

Joseph was put in charge of both of them! God brings people next to us. Those coworkers, neighbors, whom we may not like at all yet God wants us to love them and take care of them when they are in need. Joseph did just that.

Gen. 40:5-8. **5**Then the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt, who were confined in jail, both had a dream the same night, each man with his *own* dream *and* each dream with its *own* interpretation. **6**When Joseph came to them in the morning and observed them, behold, they were dejected. **7**He asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?" **8** then they said to him, "We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell *it* to me, please."



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Both the cup bearer and the baker had a dream same night, but different kind of dreams. They were both depressed because of these dreams. They felt that it is going to come true, but they did not understand the interpretation.

We must pay attention to dreams. There are three kinds of dreams. Sometimes God alerts us and speaks to us through dreams and vision. Pay close attention to it. Second kind, our dreams are nothing but the overflow of our emotional concerns, and desires and our relationship. It is nothing but the daily experiences of our life. Modern psychology has lot to talk about it. Third kind could be straight from the pits of hell or from the devil himself. You must ignore such dreams at any cost. These are the voices and dreams that tell you, go ahead commit suicide, no one likes you, no one wants you, don't be a burden to anybody. You are no good and you are a scum bag. When you hear such voices, you must recognize immediately that this is from the devil and not from God. You must tell that voice, get thee behind me Satan, Never fall for such dreams and voices, and do not be rattled by it.

Interpreting dreams can be hard. We may often misinterpret it. We must use them as alert or warning and change our behavior.

Joseph comforted them and encouraged them to share their dreams to him. He pointed to God and said it is God that can interpret our dreams.

Gen. 40:9-11 9 So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, “In my dream, behold, *there was* a vine in front of me; 10and on the vine *were* three branches. And as it was budding, its blossoms came out, *and* its clusters produced ripe grapes. 11“Now Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand; so I took the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh’s cup, and I put the cup into Pharaoh’s hand.”

The cup bearer's dream was very positive. I do not understand why the cup bearer was troubled by it. The grape vine was blossoming with three branches, and produced clusters of grapes. The cup bearer took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh’s cup, and gave it to Pharaoh! This dream clearly pointed to some kind of restoration.

Gen. 40:12-15. 12Then Joseph said to him, “This is the interpretation of it: the three branches are three days; 13within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office; and you will put Pharaoh’s cup into his hand according to your former custom when you were his cupbearer. 14“Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house. 15“For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon.”

In cup bearer's case, everything was straight forward and it was good news for him. In 3 days, he was to be restored back again. Joseph told him to remember him when he is restored and pass a kind word to the king about him.

Now the butler was encouraged to hear positive interpretation and he also shared his dream.



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Gen. 40:16-19. 16When the chief baker saw that he had interpreted favorably, he said to Joseph, "I also *saw* in my dream, and behold, *there were* three baskets of white bread on my head; 17and in the top basket *there were* some of all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head." 18Then Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days; 19within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head from you and will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh off you."

But the butler's dream was very negative. Joseph's interpretation brought fear and sorrow for the butler. He will not be restored. Instead, he will be put to death. What a horrible end! Joseph did not sugar coat his word. He preached the word as it is. Modern preachers are very enthusiastic about preaching upbeat, positive Gospel. But very few dare to preach about death, Hades, lake of fire, and the great judgement. Word of God has both sides and we must proclaim the whole counsel of God! This is why I insist on preaching verse by verse, chapter by chapter, book by book. Otherwise, we will be always tempted to skip those passages that we do not want to talk about. You can be rest assured that you will be hearing the whole counsel of God in our Acts 2:42 church, precept upon precept, line upon line!

Gen. 40:20-22. 20Thus it came about 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 cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. 21He restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand; 22but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. 23Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

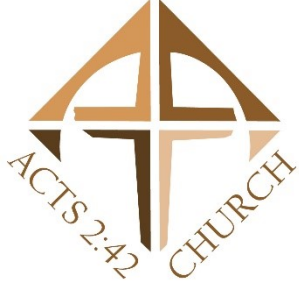
Please note! Birthday celebrations are mentioned in Bible twice. All those incidents are negative, and they were celebrated by the kings! The first example is here in Genesis 40. Then we'll see it in Mark chapter 6. Where John the Baptist was put to death because the king's daughter requested his head during king's birthday party.

The king would not have seen this birthday if he was successfully poisoned. So he remembered both his baker and the cup bearer on his birthday. He must have gathered some evidence against both of them, and he came to the conclusion that the baker was the culprit. As Joseph interpreted, the cup bearer was restored to his old position, but the butler was put to death.

The cupbearer was supposed to remember Joseph, but he forgot about him. Bless the Lord o my soul, forget not all his benefits. But we tend forget too soon all the favors the Lord has done. Also we conveniently forget what others have done for us.

He did not remember Joseph for two full years! We all have such people also. They will approach us only when they want some favor from us. Otherwise, they will not even think about us. They never like to pray for us nor try to see our needs. Joseph was locked up in the dungeon. Psalm 118:5 tells us vividly his status.

Psalm 118:5. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, (Psalm 105:18 NIV)
NIV brings out the right translation in this verse. Just imagine being like that in a dark place, few months!



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The cup bearer forgot, but God remembered Joseph. Let's not rely on mortal beings. They may let you down at times. Let us rely on our only God who will never fail us nor forsake us! In the next chapter we will see how God intervened and forced the cup bearer to remember Joseph! All flesh may let us down, but our God will never forget us, what a mighty God we space by our side,

Conclusion:

Let's take the dreams seriously. It could be from God, it could be from our own fleshly thoughts, or it could be from devil to deceive us and destroy our confidence in God.

Interpretation belongs to the Lord. Only through prayer and by the Spirit of God we can interpret them. But if the dreams are from our own psyche, psychologists may be able analyze that.

Please, let us not forget anyone's favor. Let us try to return that favor and meet their needs. Let us not postpone returning our favor. Let us be quick and prompt in getting back to people.

Let us not rely on any human being for our needs. Let us solely trust in God.

Pastor Daniel Israel