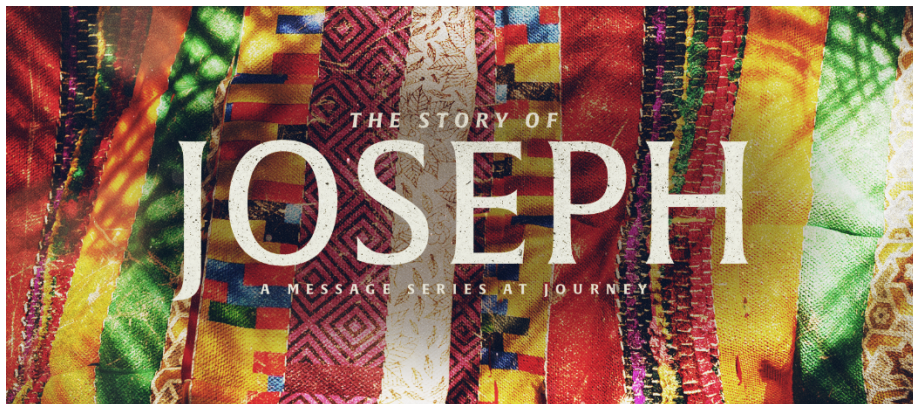




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FORGOTTEN BUT NOT FORSAKEN Genesis 40–41

GOD OFTEN SPEAKS THROUGH DREAMS AND VISIONS

- In Genesis Chapter 37 we read of Joseph's dreams that caused serious tension among the family.
- His brothers hated him and his dreams.
- Brothers sold him into slavery.
- The Lord was with Joseph and blessed everything he touched.
- He was imprisoned because of lust and a lie.
- The Lord was with Joseph even in the pit of prison.
- God's presence is the blessing, not our stuff, circumstances, or location.

JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS IN PRISON

¹ Some time later, Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer and chief baker offended their royal master. ² Pharaoh became angry with these two officials, ³ and he put them in the prison where Joseph was, in the palace of the captain of the guard. ⁴ They remained in prison for quite some time, and the captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, who looked after them. ⁵ While they were in prison, Pharaoh's cup-bearer and baker each had a dream one night, and each dream had its own meaning. ⁶ When Joseph saw them the next morning, he noticed that they both looked upset. ⁷ "Why do you look so worried today?" he asked them. ⁸ And they replied, "We both had dreams last night, but no one can tell us what they mean." "Interpreting dreams is God's business," Joseph replied. "Go ahead and tell me your dreams." **Genesis 40:1-8 NLT**

- Joseph still hasn't seen the first dreams come to fruition, but he still trusted God.

¹² "This is what the dream means," Joseph said. "The three branches represent three days. ¹³ Within three days Pharaoh will lift you up and restore you to your position as his chief cup-bearer. ¹⁴ And please remember me and

do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place. ¹⁵ For I was kidnapped from my homeland, the land of the Hebrews, and now I'm here in prison, but I did nothing to deserve it." **Genesis 40:12-15 NLT**

- Some of the greatest growth in your life happens in seasons you'd never choose.

¹ Two full years later, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the bank of the Nile River. ² In his dream he saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass. ³ Then he saw seven more cows come up behind them from the Nile, but these were scrawny and thin. These cows stood beside the fat cows on the riverbank. ⁴ Then the scrawny, thin cows ate the seven healthy, fat cows! At this point in the dream, Pharaoh woke up. ⁵ But he fell asleep again and had a second dream. This time he saw seven heads of grain, plump and beautiful, growing on a single stalk. ⁶ Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were shriveled and withered by the east wind. ⁷ And these thin heads swallowed up the seven plump, well-formed heads! Then Pharaoh woke up again and realized it was a dream. ⁸ The next morning Pharaoh was very disturbed by the dreams. So he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. When Pharaoh told them his dreams, not one of them could tell him what they meant. ⁹ Finally, the king's chief cup-bearer spoke up. "Today I have been reminded of my failure," he told Pharaoh. ¹⁰ "Some time ago, you were angry with the chief baker and me, and you imprisoned us in the palace of the captain of the guard. ¹¹ One night the chief baker and I each had a dream, and each dream had its own meaning. ¹² There was a young Hebrew man with us in the prison who was a slave of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he told us what each of our dreams meant. ¹³ And everything happened just as he had predicted. I was restored to my position as cup-bearer, and the chief baker was executed and impaled on a pole." ¹⁴ Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh. ¹⁵ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it." ¹⁶ "It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."

Genesis 41:1-16 NLT

- I can't, but God can.
- Forgotten by the cupbearer for 2 years.
- Could have been God was still shaping Joseph for ministry.
- God's timing is perfect, even when we feel forgotten.
- God is working behind the scenes, even when we can't see it.
- Wait on God's timing.