

Introduction

In 2001 I had a dream about a man coming to see me from Orlando. We were living in Acworth, Georgia on our farm at that time. In my dream, I was sitting on our front porch with my shotgun when this man pulled up and asked to talk with me. Then, I woke up. I knew the man in my dream. He had been a leader at the first church that I planted. He had worked against me and been very hurtful to me, my ministry, and the church. As I prayed and considered the dream, the Lord told me that this man was coming, and that I was not to greet him with a shotgun. I was to put down my guard. God was doing a couple of different things. He was preparing me for this man's visit, so it did not come as a surprise. Second, God was dealing with my heart. He did not want me to be angry with my brother, and to do or say anything to harm the man. Sure enough, the very next day this man drove up in our driveway while Karen and I were sitting on our porch. He had driven eight hours from Orlando just to come to talk to me. We went into my office, and he apologized for how he had been against me in my first church plant. When I asked him about what prompted him to come up, he told me that he was part of Joe Warner's church and that he had been going through some inner healing ministry. They counseled him to go to me and repent of things that he had done to me. He was on a journey to get free.

God often speaks to people in dreams. Dreams are mentioned 111 times in the Bible. God spoke to both believers and unbelievers in dreams. In our text today, the baker and cupbearer to the king both had dreams. Next week we will see that God spoke to Pharaoh in a dream. In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had dreams that troubled his spirit. In the New Testament, the magi were warned in a dream not to return to Herod (Matthew 2:12). In Matthew 2:13 God warned Joseph in a dream to flee to Egypt, and they got up that night and left for Egypt. After Herod had died, God spoke to Joseph again in a dream and told him that it was safe to return (Matthew 2:19-20).

When God speaks to us in a dream, He often uses a story or some type of imagery to convey something. Therefore, the interpretation of the dream is very important. In our text today, God used a bread basket with the baker and a vine with a bunch of grapes being squeezed into Pharaoh's cup for the cupbearer. The baker and the cupbearer were both dejected because they did not know the interpretation. In addition to the interpretation, many times there is an application. When God gave a dream to the magi that they were to return home a different way and not return to Herod, there was a specific application. After Jesus was born, God told Joseph in a dream to go to Egypt. He did not need an interpretation; he just needed to get up immediately and go to Egypt. In the dreams in our text today, there was nothing that they needed to do; it was a prophetic dream of what was getting ready to happen. The interpretation was the significant thing. In my dream that I shared, the application was the significant thing.

Joseph is no stranger to dreams. In Genesis 37:7-8, Joseph had a dream about the sheaves. One sheaf stood up and the other sheaves bowed down to it. The interpretation was that Joseph was going to rise up and his brothers were going to bow down to him. This dream caused them to hate Joseph even more. In Genesis 37:9-10, Joseph had another dream. This time the sun, moon, and stars bowed down to him. The interpretation was that Jacob, Leah, and his eleven brothers were going to bow down before him. This made his brothers jealous of him. God was speaking to Joseph what was going to happen in the future. God is in the process of bringing these dreams to fruition. He is setting things up. Joseph's sale to Potiphar was not by coincidence. Joseph's imprisonment in the King's jail is not a coincident. The baker and cupbearer getting thrown into the same jail is not a coincidence. Their dreams the same night are not a coincidence.

This morning we are going to look at the setting of these dreams, the cupbearer's dream and interpretation, the baker's dream and interpretation, and finally, the results of both of their dreams.

1. The Setting (Gen 40:1-8)
2. The Cupbearer's Dream and Interpretation (Gen 40:9-15)
3. The Baker's Dream and Interpretation (Gen 40:16-19)
4. The Results Of The Dreams (Gen 40:20-23)

1. **The Setting** (Gen 40:1-8)

(Gen 40:1-8) "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. {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."

It came about after these things. What things? Joseph had been falsely accused and thrown into the king's prison. The Lord was with Joseph in prison, and gave him favor with the jail keeper. Joseph was put in charge of all the prisoners, and the jailer did not have to supervise anything that Joseph did. Businesses, churches, and even jails are blessed to have faithful men and women serving. When you have faithful people, a leader's job is really easy. The jailer had it easy because he had a very faithful man running things for him.

(Gen 39:21-23) "But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. {22} The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible *for it*. {23} The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper."

Both the cupbearer and baker offended the king of Egypt and he threw both of them in jail. We did not know what they did, only that Pharaoh was furious with both of them. The captain of the bodyguard put Joseph in charge of the two prisoners. Who is the captain of the bodyguard? We saw last week in Genesis 39 that Potiphar was the captain of the bodyguard. Even though Potiphar had been angry with Joseph because of his wife's accusation, he now puts Joseph in charge of these two prisoners. I think that Potiphar knows that Joseph was innocent. I think that Potiphar knows that Joseph is a faithful man and that the Lord was with him. I think that Potiphar and the jailer had discussed Joseph.

(Gen 39:1) "Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there."

Somehow, both the cupbearer and the baker had a dream the same night. Each man had his own dream with its own interpretation. This is not a somehow. This is the hand of God orchestrating events. He had Joseph put in the king's jail. He had both of these men put in that jail. He gave Joseph favor with the jailer and now Joseph has been put in charge of the two men. On the bigger picture, God has positioned Joseph where he can interpret the Pharaoh's dream and be raised up over everyone but the Pharaoh. God is going to bring his family there and they are going to bow down before him, just as God had spoken to Joseph about many years earlier. God is bringing Israel to Egypt, where they will be strangers in a foreign land for four hundred years, just as He had spoken to Abraham about in a dream when he was in a deep sleep in Genesis 15. God is orchestrating all these events. We see that God knows the past, present, and future. He is the Alpha and Omega. And He is the Sovereign Lord over the heavens and the earth.

(Gen 15:12-13) "Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. {13} God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years."

After both men had these dreams they were dejected. When Joseph came to them in the morning, he asked them why their faces were so sad. They were sad because they did not know the interpretation of the dream. When you and I have a dream, we should write it down. We will forget most of our dreams unless we journal and write them down. Next, we should ask God for the interpretation of the dream. Notice what Joseph tells them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell it to me please." Joseph knows the One who can give the interpretation, and he also knows that he can go to God to get the interpretation for them.

There are lots of books, videos, and articles available to help people interpret dreams. Some of the material is good, and some of it is bad. Even some of the rules by Christian authors for interpreting dreams are not Biblically sound. Some of the best material available is from a lady named Charity Kayembe. She happens to be Mark Virkler's daughter. This is what he says about her.

"My daughter, Charity Kayembe, is the number one dream interpreter on our staff. She has taken my passion for Hearing God's Voice and infused it with her passion for Dream Interpretation. The result, her powerful new book and e-learning Module, [Hearing God Through Your Dreams](#)." (www.glorywaves.org)

You can listen to a three-video series by Charity on the internet for free. God is wanting to speak to us through dreams and we should be attentive to what He might be trying to speak to us in dreams. (Num 12:6, Job 33:14-16, Ps 16:7, 17:3) She said that interpreting dreams is a skill that anyone can learn. Here are some of her rules for interpreting dreams.

- A. Dreams are always symbolic. You need to ask yourself questions about the person's dominant personality, name, job, etc.
- B. Symbols are personal to the dreamer, not universal, as some teach.
- C. Therefore, the Dreamer is really the best person to interpret his/her dreams.
- D. Use the DAESI dream interpretation method.

D-reams – Write a summary about the dream

A-ction – In the dream what you were doing?

E-motion – In the dream, how were you feeling? Were you happy, sad, or fearful?

S-etting – This is the legend of the map. What is going on in your life at the time?

I-nterpretation – Match up the dream action, emotion, place, and emotion and write it down.

In my studies on dreams, I have some of own thoughts. First, there are people who have taken stands on false visions and dreams, so I think it is important to first determine if the dream is from God. Personally, I don't spend any time on a dream that I think is not of God. Here are some of the rules for interpreting dreams that I find in the Bible.

A. **Dreams Must Be Filtered Through God's Word.** (Deut 13:1-5, Jer 23:25-32)

(Deut 13:1-5) "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, {2} and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' {3} you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. {4} "You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. {5} "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you."

(Jer 23:25-32) "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, 'I had a dream, I had a dream!' {26} "How long? Is there *anything* in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even *these* prophets of the deception of their own heart, {27} who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they relate to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal? {28} "The prophet who has a dream may relate *his* dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have *in common* with grain?" declares the LORD. {29} "Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock? {30} "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who steal My words from each other. {31} "Behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who use their tongues and declare, '*The Lord* declares.' {32} "Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares the LORD, "and related them and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares the LORD."

B. **Dreams Must Lead Us Into Godly Behavior**

(Jude 1:8) "Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties."

C. **Interpretations Belong To God** (Gen 40:8, 41:16, Dan 1:17, 2:17-28)

(Gen 40:8) "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."

(Gen 41:16) "Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

(Dan 1:17) "As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every *branch of literature and wisdom*; Daniel even understood all *kinds of visions and dreams*."

(Dan 2:17-28) "Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, {18} so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. {19} Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; {20} Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. {21} It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding. {22} It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him. {23} To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king's matter.... {27} Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians *nor* diviners are able to declare *it* to the king. {28} However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind *while* on your bed."

2. The Interpretation Of The Cupbearer's Dream (Gen 40:9-15)

(Gen 40:9-15) "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; {10} and 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." {12} Then Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: the three branches are three days; {13} within 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."

The cupbearer had a dream of vines, grapes, and juice. He was a cupbearer, meaning that he was responsible for tasting anything that the king was going to drink. His job was to prevent the king from being poisoned. So, he did more than taste the wine, he oversaw the production, serving, and drinking of anything that was going to be put before the king. Wine was made from grapes, and grapes grow on vines, so the symbols are very meaningful to him.

Joseph tells him that the three branches are three days, and that in three days he would be putting the cup into Pharaoh's hand once again. The significance of this was that Pharaoh was going to restore him to his job. Joseph had no doubt about the dream, its interpretation, or that it was

going to happen. He proceeds to tell the cupbearer to mention him to Pharaoh and to get him out of the prison. He declared his innocence to the cupbearer, and that he has been unjustly imprisoned.

3. The Interpretation Of The Baker's Dream (Gen 40:16-19)

(Gen 40:16-19) "When 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; {17} and 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." {18} Then Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days; {19} within 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."

Notice that the symbols in this dream are appropriate and meaningful to the baker. Bread was served in baskets. But it was not normal for birds to be eating from the baskets. Joseph interprets the three baskets as three more days. The interpretation of the dream was not very pleasant or good for the baker. He was going to be put to death and hung from a tree. Notice that Joseph did two things. First, he gave the interpretation from God. He did not have a fear of man, but a fear of God. He spoke what God gave him. Paul wrote in Galatians that we cannot fear man and be a servant of God. Joseph was God's servant and feared Him. Second, Joseph did NOT ask the baker to mention him to Pharaoh. He knew by this dream that the baker was going to die and any mention of him by the baker could be detrimental to his own life.

(Gal 1:10) "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ."

4. The Fulfillment Of Both Of The Dreams (Gen 40:20-23)

(Gen 40:20-23) "Thus 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. {21} He restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand; {22} but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. {23} Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him."

Sometimes a prophetic word or a dream takes many years to be fulfilled. So, we cannot always tell if it was a valid dream for God right away. When God spoke to me over thirty years ago that He was going to move us to Phoenix, we laughed about that word for many years. We had given up on that being a word from God. Then, a few years ago I discovered what God had meant and that word had been fulfilled, thirty something years later. When God spoke to Abraham in the dream about his descendants being strangers in a foreign land for four hundred years, it was going to take over five centuries for that dream to come true.

But the time table in both of these dreams was three days, so it was easy to see if they were from God or not. The number three was significant; it was the Pharaoh's birthday, and he made a feast for all his servants. In three days the cupbearer was restored to his office and the baker was hung. But, the cupbearer did not remember Joseph and mention him to Pharaoh. Again, this shows God's sovereignty and ability to accomplish His plans. Man may fail to do things, but God is

going to accomplish His plans. Next week, we will be looking at Pharaoh's dreams. The cupbearer will get his chance to remember Joseph and mention his name to Pharaoh.

Conclusion and Applications

This morning, we have been looking at dreams. God spoke to the cupbearer and baker through dreams. We saw that interpretations of dreams are important. The correct interpretation of dreams comes from God. Joseph told both of Pharaoh's servants that they belong to God. We saw that Daniel went to God for King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and interpretation. I gave you a few rules of interpretation.

God is teaching our congregation to hear Him. He speaks to us through thoughts and impressions. We have discovered that we need to run these through the Word of God and through some other spiritual advisers. God speaks through visions and many other ways. This week, we have been looking at dreams and how He speaks to us in dreams. Next week, we have another dream to look at. Let me encourage you to journal and write down the thoughts that He is giving you. Write down your dreams, and begin to seek God for the interpretations.

Joe Warner will be coming here in three weeks. We have a meal and a service on Friday, April 26. We will have a prophetic workshop on Saturday morning from 9-12 with a lunch served afterwards. God is wanting to equip us more in the prophetic. In Ephesians 4:11-13 God gave gift ministries to the church for the equipping of the saints. He gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints. Apostles lay foundations, bring order and structure to the church, and raise up leaders. Prophets encourage and exhort the body, and they also provide vision and direction. Evangelists help the church to reach out with the gospel. They stir up things and frequently flow in the supernatural gifts. Pastors care for the flock, feed the flock and protect the flock. Teachers help the flock to mature and get grounded in God's word. We need equipping in all these areas. I am primarily a teacher, so bringing in a strong prophetic gift ministry is essential for the church to grow to maturity.

Let me encourage you to set those dates aside and plan on being here. Invite people to come to the Friday, Saturday, or Sunday services. I believe that God wants to bless many people, not just our flock. Be in prayer for the upcoming times with Joe Warner.

On a bigger picture, we see that God communicated a plan to Abraham about his people being in Egypt. Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave to get rid of him. They meant it for evil, but God meant it for good. Joseph went to prison last week for fleeing from immorality, for doing what was right. God was with him, even though he still had to go to a dark, smelly, dungeon. God was still in control and He was working all things together. Joseph was not sent to any prison, but to the King's prison. The cupbearer and baker were going to be sent there. God is going to use this connection to get Joseph into the ultimate role that he has for him. God had spoken to Joseph about this in two different dreams that he had shared with his family. The dreams were about the sheaves and the sun, moon, and stars bowing down to him. God is sovereign and in control. This is very clear in all these chapters.

This morning, have you come into a relationship with Christ? He has a plan for your life. He has a plan for welfare, not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope. Maybe you have been going through some difficult times. God wants to use those things for good in your life. He was orchestrating things in Joseph's life, and He will do that for you.

Let me encourage you to place your trust in Him this morning. If you have never received Him, ask Him to come in and take control. If you have received Him, entrust your soul to Him. Make Him Lord this morning. Yield your life to Him and allow Him to have His way in your life. Listen to what He is saying to you. Remember that success and prosperity is accomplishing the things that God has given you to do. Get on board with God's plan for your life and you will find success and prosperity.

Let's pray.

Introduction (Dan 2, Matt 2:12-13, 19-20, Gen 37:7-10)

1. **The Setting** (Gen 40:1-8, Gen 39:21-23, 39:1, Gen 15:12-13,

Charity Kayembe Principles of Dream Interpretations

(www.glorywaves.org) (Num 12:6, Job 33:14-16, Ps 16:7, 17:3)

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Rules For Interpreting Dreams (Bill)

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Conclusion and Applications (Eph 4:11-13)