

**God's Prevailing Grace:
Trusting in the LORD during Potentially Crushing Circumstances
Genesis 40
May 24, 2023**

I. Trust in the LORD Declared (1-8)

The events of the narrative begin after Joseph is placed in prison and put in charge of the prison by the keeper of the prison. Psalm 105:16-22.

What a king drank and ate were matters of life and death because one of the easiest ways to assassinate a king was to poison either what he drank or what he ate. Therefore, the cupbearer and baker had to be men who were trusted by the king because his life depended on their loyalty.

The cupbearer's proximity to the king typically developed into a very close relationship.

Similarly, the baker's role was an important one also because bread was a staple in the Egyptian diet and bread and pastries even played a role in the religious life of the Egyptians.

In verse 3 we're told that the prison was in the house of the captain of the guard and in verse 4 we're told that the captain of the guard appointed Joseph to the cupbearer and the baker and that he attended, or served or ministered to, them.

The captain of the guard is identified in Gen. 39:1 – it's Potiphar!

Potiphar's appointment of Joseph to these prisoners gives further evidence to the likelihood that Potiphar did not believe that Joseph was guilty of that which he had been accused by his wife.

This time in custody was something close to a year. Joseph was about 27 when he was placed in prison in chapter 39; in 2 years after the events in Gen. 40 Joseph would enter Pharaoh's service; and Gen. 41:46 tells us that Joseph was 30 when he entered Pharaoh's service.

What characteristics are seen in Joseph in verses 4-8? How do these characteristics display Joseph's enduring trust in God?

II. Trust in the LORD Displayed (9-19)

It's important for us to understand that although dreams play a significant role in this narrative, dreams are not the primary means by which God speaks to his people.

God speaks clearly to His people. Heb. 1:1-2, 2 Pet. 1:16-19.

In what ways was Joseph's trust in the LORD displayed in verses 12-19?

III. Trust in the LORD Tested...Again (20-23)

Just as Joseph declared in three days the interpretations of the dreams came to pass.

We read stingingly in verse 23 that the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him. Note the emphasis not only was Joseph not remembered, but he was forgotten.

How should the Genesis 40 narrative affect our lives?

Additional points:

- We should always temper our trust in man, knowing that man will knowingly or unknowingly fail, and we should place our trust fully in God. Isa. 49:13-16.
- We should remember that God is with us which should give us great comfort in the midst of suffering. Ps. 13, Matt. 1:23.