

Timeline of Truth – Joseph Serves God in Prison (Gen 39:21 – 40:23)

<p>^{39:21} But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.</p>	<p>1. <u>God Continued to Be with Joseph</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God showed him mercy • God gave him favor in the sight of the prison keeper
<p>²² And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who <i>were</i> in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. ²³ The keeper of the prison did not look into anything <i>that was</i> under <i>Joseph's</i> authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made <i>it</i> prosper.</p>	<p>2. <u>God Promoted & Blessed Joseph in Prison</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph continued to serve faithfully in prison • Joseph was placed in charge of the entire prison • God was with Joseph • God made Joseph's efforts prosper • If God <u>puts</u> you there, God will <u>use</u> you there.
<p>^{40:1} It came to pass after these things <i>that</i> the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt. ² And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker. ³ So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where Joseph <i>was</i> confined. ⁴ And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; so they were in custody for a while.</p>	<p>3. <u>Joseph Is Placed in Charge of Key Prisoners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEOPLE: Pharaoh's chief <u>butler</u> & chief <u>baker</u> • PLACE: In the house of the captain of the guard ^{37:36} Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh <i>and</i> captain of the guard. ^{39:20} Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place <u>where the king's prisoners were confined</u>. And he was there in the prison. • God places you where He <u>wants</u> you for a <u>reason</u>.
<p>⁵ Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who <i>were</i> confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night <i>and</i> each man's dream with its <i>own</i> interpretation. ⁶ And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they <i>were</i> sad. ⁷ So he asked Pharaoh's officers who <i>were</i> with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?" ⁸ And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and <i>there is</i> no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell <i>them</i> to me, please."</p>	<p>4. <u>Joseph's Special Prisoners Dream Dreams</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One night, two people, two dreams • Joseph Is <u>Aware</u> of Those Assigned to Him (6) • Joseph <u>Cares</u> for Those Assigned to Him (7) • God places you to care for <u>others</u>, not just yourself. Phi 2:3-4 <i>Let nothing be done</i> through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. • Joseph continues to <u>walk</u> with <u>God</u> in prison! • God uses your spiritual walk in His <u>BIG PICTURE!</u>
<p>⁹ Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "Behold, in my dream a vine <i>was</i> before me, ¹⁰ "and in the vine <i>were</i> three branches; it <i>was</i> as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes. ¹¹ "Then Pharaoh's cup <i>was</i> in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."</p>	<p>5. <u>The Chief Butler Tells Joseph His Dream</u></p>
<p>¹² And Joseph said to him, "This <i>is</i> the interpretation of it: The three branches <i>are</i> three days. ¹³ "Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you <i>were</i> his butler.</p>	<p>6. <u>Joseph's Interprets the Dream of the Chief Butler</u></p>

<p>¹⁴ "But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. ¹⁵ "For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."</p>	<p>7. Joseph Asks the Chief Butler for a <u>Favor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's not wrong to ask for "<u>freedom</u>." • It's not wrong to share about <u>circumstances</u>. • It's not wrong to be honest about <u>innocence</u>.
<p>¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also <i>was</i> in my dream, and there <i>were</i> three white baskets on my head. ¹⁷ "In the uppermost basket <i>were</i> all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."</p>	<p>8. The Chief <u>Baker</u> Tells Joseph His Dream</p>
<p>¹⁸ So Joseph answered and said, "This <i>is</i> the interpretation of it: The three baskets <i>are</i> three days. ¹⁹ "Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you."</p>	<p>9. Joseph's Interprets the Dream of the Chief <u>Baker</u></p>
<p>²⁰ Now it came to pass on the third day, <i>which was</i> Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants. ²¹ Then he restored the chief butler to his butlership again, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. ²² But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.</p>	<p>10. Joseph's Interpretations <u>Come True</u></p>
<p>²³ Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.</p>	<p>11. The Chief Butler <u>Forgets</u> About Joseph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our fair attempts at "freedom" will not always work. • Failed promises are not failures to God. • God's <u>timing</u> is not limited to our <u>schedule</u>. • Thankfully...! • Trust God's <u>timing</u> and <u>purpose</u> in your life!

Summary of Joseph's Trials (So Far...)

- 1. Obeys father, gets sold as a slave in Egypt.**
- 2. Honors God, gets put in charge of all of Potiphar's household.**
- 3. Resists temptation, gets thrown into prison.**
- 4. Honors God, gets put in charge of the prison.**
- 5. Honors God, interprets dreams of key people.**
- 6. Interprets dreams, gets forgotten.**