

AdSS20- Joseph imprisoned



(1) Background:

- Due to Potiphar's wife, Joseph was framed for taking advantage of her.
- Joseph was thrown into prison.



(2) The King's butler and baker (Gen 40:1-4)

(3) The butler's dream (Gen 40:9-15)



The dream

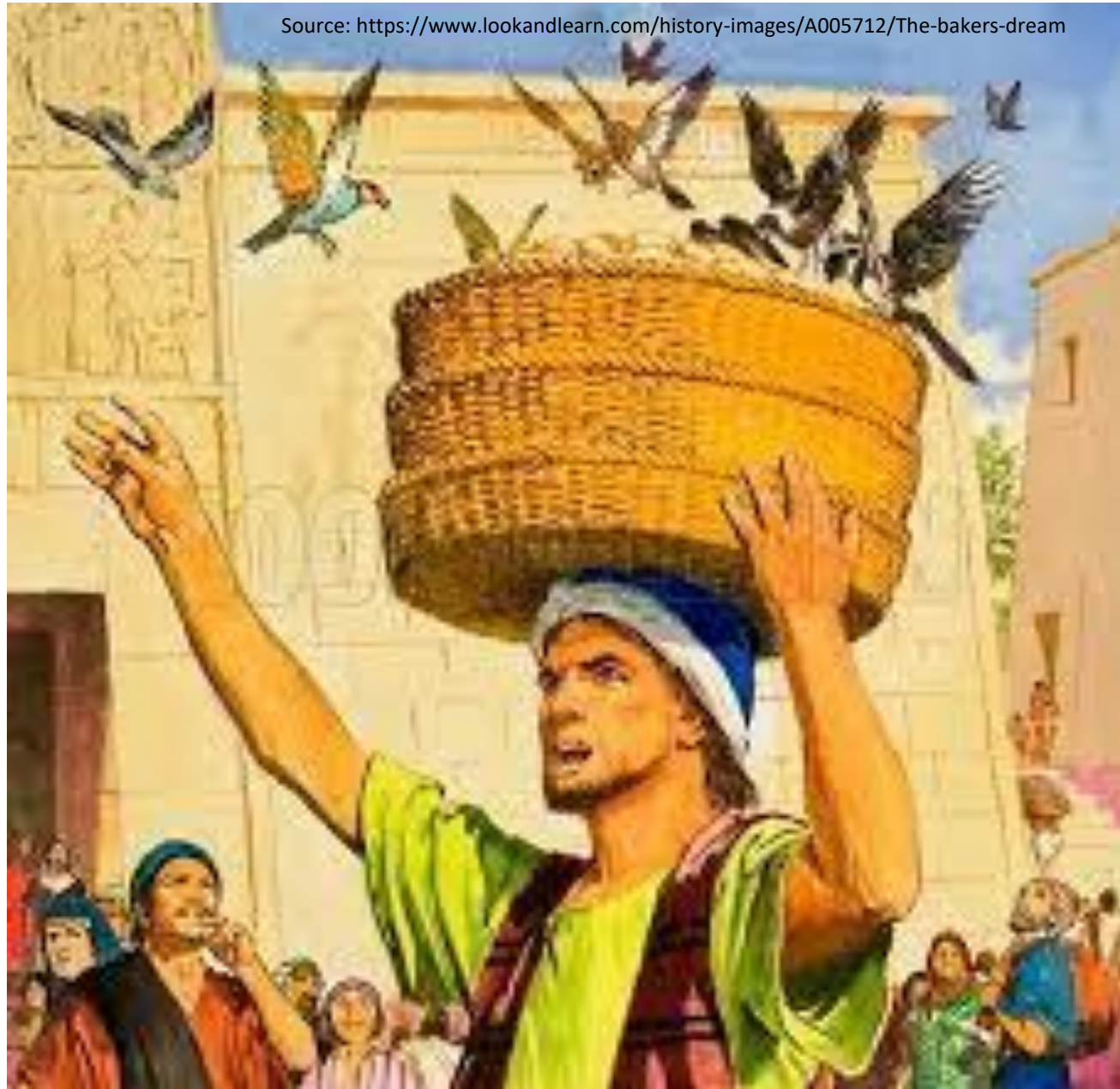
- (a) The butler saw a vine.
- (b) On the vine were 3 branches.
- (c) It budded, blossomed and ripened into grapes.
- (d) The butler squeezed the grapes into the Pharaoh's cup.

The interpretation

- (a) 3 branches = 3 days
- (b) Within 3 days, Pharaoh would restore the butler to his former position.

(4) The baker's dream (Gen 40: 16-19)

Source: <https://www.lookandlearn.com/history-images/A005712/The-bakers-dream>



The dream

- (a) On the baker's head were 3 baskets of bread.
- (b) In the top basket were all kinds of baked food for Pharaoh.
- (c) The birds were eating them out of the basket on the baker's head.

The interpretation

- (a) 3 baskets = 3 days
- (b) Within 3 days, Pharaoh shall lift off the baker's head and hang him on a tree.
- (c) The birds shall eat away his flesh.

(5) Pharaoh fulfilled Joseph's interpretation of the 2 dreams:

- Restoring the butler to his former position.
- Executing the baker

(6) After being restored by Pharaoh, the butler forgot Joseph.

(7) Spiritual Lessons:

- (a) Despite being thrown into prison, God was with Joseph. He was put in-charge of all the prisoners. God may also be with us in whatever low position we occupy. And we will be blessed in our work.
- (b) Joseph did not blame God for being thrown into jail on a false charge. He continued to be faithful to God. In the same way, there will be setbacks in our lives. We must bear the setbacks and continue to be faithful.
- (c) In prison, he continued to do good as a faithful servant of God. He assisted in the interpretation of the butler and baker's dreams. This led to the important connection with Pharaoh later. Where we are able to help others, we should do so too. We will never know how God will bless us for helping others later.

(d) The butler forgot Joseph – Isn't this true in the world? People may forget us after we've done good for them. But God doesn't forget. Since God remembers us, that is good enough for us.

(8) Pharoah's dream. (Gen 41:1-14)

(9) Joseph's reply to Pharoah. (Gen 41:15-16)



Pharoah's 2 dreams

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Source: <https://exeraunao.com/2015/06/26/genesis-59-joseph-interprets-pharaohs-dream/>

(10) Pharoah's dream and Joseph's interpretation

Pharoah's 1 st dream	Pharoah's 2 nd dream	Joseph's interpretation
<p>(a) 7 fat cows feeding in the meadow.</p> <p>(b) Then, 7 thin and scrawny cows came and ate up the 7 fat cows.</p> <p>(c) After eating, the 7 thin cows looked just as thin as before.</p>	<p>(a) 7 heads of good grain growing on a stalk.</p> <p>(a) Then, sprouted 7 withered and thin grains.</p> <p>(b) The 7 thin grains swallowed up the 7 good grains.</p>	<p>(a) The 2 dreams were the same.</p> <p>(b) 7 good cows = 7 good grains = 7 good years.</p> <p>(c) 7 thin cows = 7 thin grains = 7 years of famine.</p> <p>(d) In summary, there would be 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine.</p>

(11) Watch video: 1:27:58 – 1:31:45

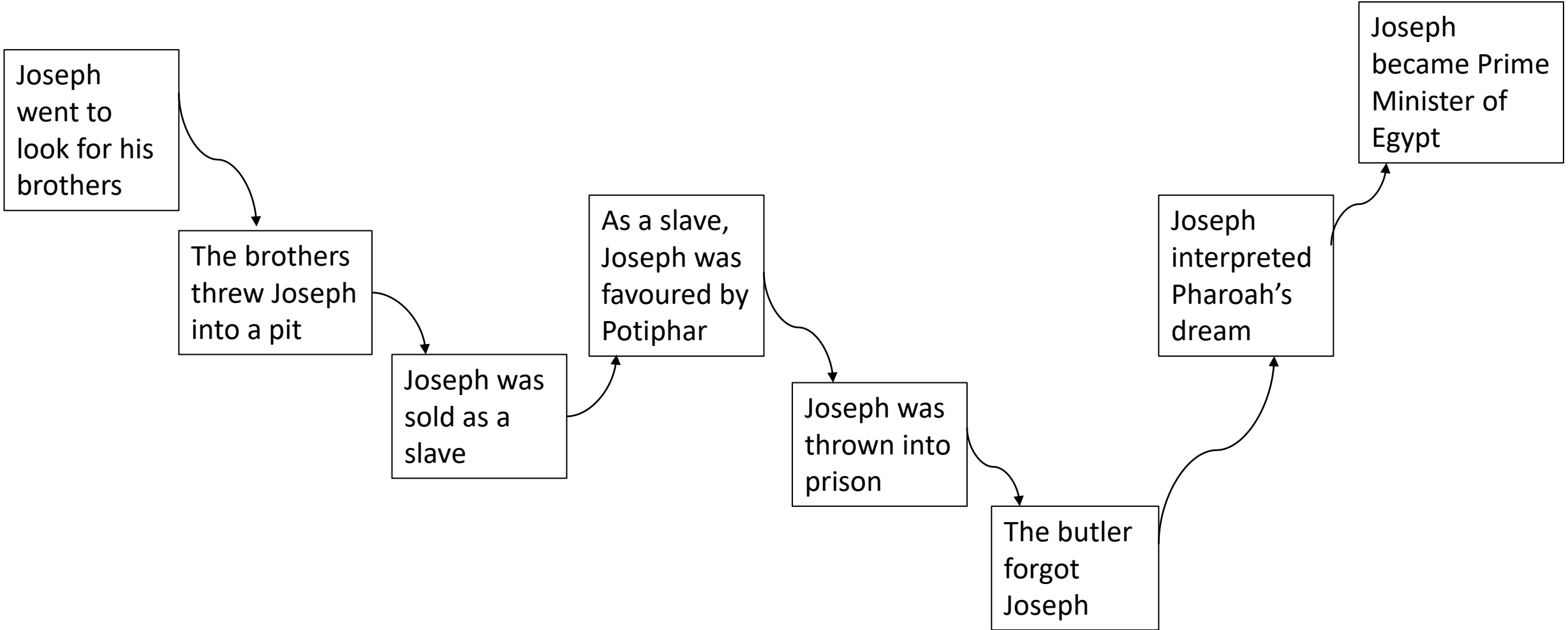
(Viewers are cautioned on the inaccurate parts of the video)

(Source: Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, the movie)

(12) Comments

- (a) Through his imprisonment, Joseph was connected to the Pharaoh because of his ability to interpret dreams.
- (b) This divine ability to interpret dreams was God's blessing. Joseph was faithful and obedient to God despite being falsely accused and imprisoned.

(c) God's objective was for Joseph to save Jacob and family from famine in Canaan. There came a series of setbacks for Joseph which ultimately connected him with Pharaoh. Joseph became Prime Minister of Egypt and saved Jacob and family.



(13) Spiritual Lessons:

(a) Setbacks in our lives may be the opening of a new opportunity. Look at how Joseph's imprisonment led him to the butler and then to Pharaoh.

“Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?” (Proverbs 20:24)

(b) My 2 personal setbacks and restoration.

(c) So continue to be faithful to God and serve wherever God places you. And when God has blessed you, remember to give God the glory!

When questioned by Pharaoh whether Joseph could interpret dreams, Joseph said,

“It is not me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.” (Gen 41:16)