

## ENJOYING FREEDOM AS THE PRISONER OF THE LORD Genesis 40

### INTRODUCTION

Joseph is in prison under false charges. He has lost his freedom, but knows God has him in this prison for a reason. So, he does not act the victim. Joseph is a man who recognizes God's sovereignty, so will use this prison for God's glory and trust Him fully. His integrity and ability is recognized by the captain of the guard (Potiphar?), and he appoints him over all prison affairs. Joseph's example in Genesis 40 will provide key lessons to **Enjoying Freedom As The Prisoner Of The Lord**.

### DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 40. Prison certainly would not be Joseph's choice. But just as Paul identified himself as a prisoner of Jesus Christ, Joseph recognizes his prison is in God's sovereign plan. He doesn't know how things will work out, but trusts that the Lord has not abandoned him. With God's hand guiding things, Joseph will serve faithfully while in chains, **Enjoying Freedom As The Prisoner Of The Lord**.

*Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.*

I. Genesis 40:1-4. Even as a prisoner, Joseph still serves. The butler and baker of the king of Egypt offend their master. These important officials are placed under house arrest where Joseph is imprisoned. The true nature of Joseph is revealed as he serves them. This reminds us of our Lord Jesus, who came to serve. **Mark 10:45, John 13:13-17, Philippians 2:7**

II. Genesis 40:5-8. Joseph notices others. Both men had significant dreams, but didn't understand their meaning. Joseph tells them God can interpret for them. Aware of their need, Joseph is not thinking about himself. He is still trusting in God for his own life, and is an ambassador for Him. Even in jail, you can trust God.

III. Genesis 40:1:9-13. The butler is restored. Joseph is given a word of knowledge from God as he explains the butler's dream. Good news. The butler is going to be released in 3 days and restored to his position before Pharaoh. Joseph is able to hear the Lord, and willing to be used by Him in lives of others.

IV. Genesis 40:14-15. Remember me! Joseph believes the Lord has now opened the door for his release. He understates his situation, not bitter or grudging. Joseph knows he is a true prisoner of the Lord, but sees this opportunity to maybe get out.

V. Genesis 40:16-19. The baker is hanged. Another interpretation, but bad news for the baker. As a true representative of God, you must be ready to convey both good news and also hard truths. **Romans 11:22**

VI. Genesis 40:20-22. It came to pass..... Joseph must be excited as he anticipates his release soon. Any day now!

VII. Genesis 40:23. Forgotten!! What a letdown. Joseph will be forgotten. Have you ever felt forgotten, even by the Lord? No doubt Joseph cried out to the Lord. Beloved, when men fail (like the butler), God is still faithful. Though it takes two more years, God remembers and will fulfill His word. God takes action on His promises right on time. **Genesis 8:1, 19:29, 30:22**

Think about all Joseph has been through. Difficult things, and yet he never plays the victim or loses hope. His life is a prison epistle for us to read and learn. Like Joseph, we must learn to trust in the sovereignty of God. God is in control.

**CONSIDER .....** Joseph enjoyed freedom as a prisoner of the Lord. He knew God is sovereign. How about you?

- o Understanding God's sovereignty will set you free from self-pity. **Philippians 1:12-13, 2 Timothy 4:16-18**
- o Understanding God's sovereignty will set you free to praise Him. **Psalms 28:6-7, Habakkuk 3:17-18, Acts 16:25**
- o Understanding God's sovereignty will set you free to serve others. **Psalms 40:1-3, Ephesians 6:20**

**"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;"**  
**Philippians 1:6**

### PRAY .....

- o If you are finding yourself in a difficult situation, that you will trust in God's sovereignty.
- o for open eyes to see areas to serve others, regardless of the situation you are in.
- o for the community to engage in the Puerto Rico outreach with us.
- o for a renewed hope as you wait on the Lord to fulfil His promises.
- o for safety for our missionaries around the world with the volatile situations.