

Bad to Worse – Genesis 39 & 40

CAST: Narrator, Joseph, Potiphar, Potiphar's wife, servants, prison warden, Pharaoh, 4 guards, cup-bearer, baker

PROPS: Money & bag, coat,



NARRATOR:

When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the merchants he was bought by Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's bodyguard.

[Potiphar buys Joseph from the merchants]

The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered in everything he did. Potiphar noticed this and made Joseph his personal attendant, in charge of the entire household and everything he owned. From that day, the Lord blessed his house and farm. He didn't have to worry about a thing - just what to eat! Now Joseph was handsome and well built. Soon the master's wife lied about him to the servants.

WIFE *[waving coat at servants]*: Look my husband has brought this Hebrew slave here to make fools of us. He attacked me but I screamed, so he ran off leaving his coat behind.

NARRATOR: Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story so he took Joseph and threw him into prison with the king's prisoners.

[Potiphar angrily drags Joseph off to prison]

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The Lord was with Joseph in prison and showed him his faithful love. Joseph became a favorite with the prison guard and he put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners. The warden didn't have to worry because Joseph took care of everything.

Later on, Pharaoh was angry with his cup-bearer and his baker and put them in prison.

[Pharaoh orders his guards to take away the prisoners]

One night they each had a dream.

JOSEPH: Why do you look so worried today?

BOTH: We both had dreams last night.
No-one can tell us what they mean.

JOSEPH: Interpreting dreams is God's business.
Tell me what you dreamt.

CUP-BEARER: I saw a grapevine with 3 branches which produced bunches of grapes. I squeezed a bunch into Pharaoh's cup then placed it in his hand.

JOSEPH: The 3 branches mean 3 days. Within 3 days Pharaoh will restore you to being his cup-bearer. And please remember me when things go well for you and mention me to Pharaoh so he can let me out of this place. I was kidnapped from my homeland and now I'm here in prison but I did nothing to deserve it.

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BAKER: I had a dream too. In my dream there were 3 baskets of pastries stacked on my head. The birds came and ate the pastries from the basket on my head.

JOSEPH: The 3 baskets mean 3 days. 3 days from now Pharaoh will hang you and the birds will peck at your body.

NARRATOR: Pharaoh's birthday was 3 days later and he prepared a banquet for all his officials including the cup-bearer and the baker. He restored the cup-bearer to his former position but he hanged the baker just as Joseph has predicted.

[The cup-bearer hands the cup of wine to Pharaoh while the baker is led away to be executed]

Pharaoh's cup-bearer forgot all about Joseph.