

John Piper: *"Darkness comes. In the middle of it, the future looks blank. The temptation to quit is huge. Don't. You are in good company... You will argue with yourself that there is no way forward. But with God, nothing is impossible. He has more ropes and ladders and tunnels out of pits than you can conceive. Wait. Pray without ceasing. Hope."*

Nietzsche, honest about his atheism, declares: *"Hope, in reality, is the worst of all evils because it prolongs the torments of man."*

D. Joseph is forgotten again!

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What is the danger of turning biblical texts into "how to ____" messages? Why is this tempting to us?
- What is the danger of holding texts captive to our favorite themes of scripture even if they are good ones?
- What are ways the gospel is foreshadowed in Genesis 40? How is Joseph a "type" of Christ?
- How do we see Joseph's wisdom on display most clearly in this text?
- What might we learn about Joseph and this trial from his request in Genesis 40:14-15? How does it highlight a key idea that we should not miss in this chapter?
- How can we see that Joseph is not only in the place of the forgotten, but is also in the place of God's promise?
- How does the Gospel provide us with a promise as sure as Joseph's? How does that make a difference in our own suffering?

Genesis: Truth for Understanding Our World (28)

Joseph Can't Get Out of the Pit

Jerry Cisar — February 25, 2018

Text: Genesis 40

Introduction

How God has provided hope for His people when they find themselves in the pit of persecution.

I. Joseph in the Place of the Guilty (1-4)

- A. *Some time later ...*
- B. The cupbearer and baker *sinned against* their master.
 - i. Joseph did not sin against his master or God (39:9).
 - ii. The prison is "the house of the captain of the guard."
- C. This went on for some time.

II. Joseph in the Place of the Forgotten (5-19)

- A. Two Dreams (5-8)
 - i. Is Joseph is a prophet or a dreamer?

ii. The Dejected Dreamers

iii. Joseph is in the place of the forgotten, but he has not forgotten God!

B. The Cupbearer's Dream and Joseph's Request (9-15)

i. The Dream and Its Interpretation

ii. Joseph's Request (14-15)

a) Get me out of this prison!

b) Recounting His Story

c) This Pit!

➤ Psalm 28:1

➤ Psalm 30:3

➤ Psalm 40:2

➤ Psalm 88:4, 6

➤ Psalm 143:7

C. Chief Baker: *It's my turn now!* (16-19)

i. The Baker's Dream

ii. Genesis 15:9-13

iii. *"Pharaoh is going to lift off your head."*

III. Joseph in the Place of God's Promise (20-23)

A. The foreshadowing of the gospel is all over this story.

B. Pharaoh's Anniversary Party

C. *"just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation"* (22)

i. Joseph is not merely a dreamer, but a prophet.

ii. More importantly, now Joseph knows.

iii. Our Promise