

Genesis 40-41 Review

When we last saw Joseph, he was caring for the chief cupbearer and chief baker while they were all in prison. The chiefs have each had a dream that trouble them and Joseph is able, with God's help, to interpret their dreams.

Joseph, in speaking to the cupbearer, reveals how traumatic his youthful hours in the dry cistern must have been. In verse 14 he refers to the prison they're in as a "house" and the rest of the story implies some type of house arrest, but in verse 15 he says, "I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit." "Here also" are the key words as he remembers being put in a pit while in his homeland and then compares that to his mistreatment in Egypt, as here also they have put him into a pit.

Joseph obviously remembers not only his current mistreatment but also has not forgotten how his brothers treated him eleven years ago. In verse 22 the cupbearer is released but promptly forgets Joseph for two years.

After two years, Pharaoh has two dreams that trouble him, evidently they were so real that he didn't realize that they dreams until he woke up (vs. 7b). The next morning he can't shake the dreams and we're told that his "spirit was troubled." He sends for the magicians and wise men but none of them can help him.

Being one of the servants closest to Pharaoh, the cupbearer knows of his plight with his dreams and suddenly remembers Joseph after two years have passed. In the Artscroll Jewish translation, the cupbearer says, "My transgressions do I mention today," while the ESV reads, "I remember my offenses today."

There are two schools of interpretation of what he means. One is that the offenses or transgressions the cupbearer refers to is the fact that he forgot about Joseph until now and the other is that he was afraid that mentioning whatever offenses Pharaoh had put him in prison for two years ago would run the risk of angering him again putting him back into prison.

Joseph is summoned before Pharaoh. He is quickly rushed there after he shaves and changes his clothes so he'll be presentable to Pharaoh.

Joseph not only interprets the dream but also offers some unsolicited advice on what Pharaoh should do during the seven good years to survive the seven years of famine.

Joseph not only gets a favorable hearing from Pharaoh, he gets the number two job in the land, marries into the most influential family in the nation, and gets all new threads, wheels and gold.

Remember that Jesus talked and Paul wrote about the writings of Moses and the entire Old Testament as pointing ahead to Jesus and his life and especially his sacrificial death.

Some of the Old Testament that refers to Jesus is prophecy that He either has or will fulfill. Matthew is especially good at pointing out things that happened "in order that the scriptures might be fulfilled."

Some of it is used by Jesus as an attempt to show that He is superior to the Old Testament figures so revered by His audience. This is a common device of the Gospels where Jesus will bring up someone or something and then proclaim that one "greater than" that person is now among them. Some of it is used by the New Testament writers as they borrow phrases or ideas from the Old Testament that would have been familiar to most of their audience just as we still today sometimes use quotes or phrases or ideas that are commonly recognized by most folks.

And finally some of the Old Testament is considered a reference to Jesus in the form of "types" or "typology," where something in the Old Testament is believed to be an example of Jesus.

A type can be a person, a story, a ritual or ceremony, or even an object such as a stone or a place such as the tabernacle.

It can be anything that seems to foreshadow or predict some aspect of the character, life, mission or purpose of Jesus.

Sometimes something is clearly identified in the New Testament as being a type and other times, such as in the story of Joseph, it isn't stated as such in Scripture, but it just seems to be a natural

conclusion.

The whole idea of types was carried to extreme by some of the early Church Fathers, who tended to see a type or analogy in everything.

The concept of a type can be like a backpack filled with fish and limburger cheese: it can be handy to have around, but isn't something that you want to carry too far.

Type - the Old Testament symbolic prophecy

Anti-types - the New Testament fulfillment.

The word "type" comes from the Greek word in Romans, "tupos," which means imitation or model.

Consider the story of Joseph. He comes to his brothers from his father with the message of his dreams that are actually good news because their fulfillment will save all their lives.

The brothers hate him and can't even speak to him and reject him and his message and by being thrown into the pit he is symbolically cast into the grave. This happens again in Egypt where he is falsely accused and again symbolically put into the grave, this time by the executioner or the government.

You know the end of the story. He is brought out of the pit (same word), he is given a position of highest authority and honor at the right hand of Pharaoh and saves the lives not only of his brothers and their families but also the rest of known world who came to Egypt to buy grain. He is also reunited with his family and also has an Egyptian family.

See the parallels?

Jesus came to the world, sent by His Father, with a message of salvation through himself. He was rejected by His own who knew Him not and they and the foreign government put Him to death. He wasn't left in the pit (grave) but was brought forth and given dominion, glory and honor.

God brought good out of what His brothers intended for evil and He became the salvation not only of his brothers but also of the entire world who will accept Him. His is also the story of reconciliation not only between God and human but also between the two families, Jewish and Gentile.

If this seems a little far-fetched to you, just keep in mind that I'm not making it up. Jesus said that He was in the Old Testament and was fulfilling it.

Luke 24:25-27

And He said to them, O fools and slow of heart to believe all things that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded to them in **all the Scriptures** the things concerning Himself.

Luke 24:44-47

And He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms about Me. And He opened their mind to understand **the Scriptures**. And He said to them, So it is written, and so it behoved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be proclaimed in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

John 5:39

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life. And they are the ones witnessing of Me,

John 5:46

For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed Me, for he wrote of Me.

Acts 17:2

And according to Paul's custom, he went in to them and reasoned with them **out of the Scriptures** on three sabbaths, opening and setting forth that Christ must have suffered, and to have risen again

from the dead; and that this Jesus whom I preach to you is Christ.

Acts 18:28

For he mightily confuted the Jews publicly, **proving by the Scriptures** that Jesus was the Christ.

I Corinthians 15:2-5

by which you also are being kept safe, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins, **according to the Scriptures**, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day **according to the Scriptures**; and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the Twelve.

Mark 14:49

I was with you daily in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.

These parallels such as between Joseph and Jesus are referred to in the New Testament as shadows (Hebrews 10:1) For the Law which has a shadow of good things to come, not the very image of the things, appearing year by year with the same sacrifices, which they offer continually, they are never able to perfect those drawing near.

(Colossians 2:17)

For these are a shadow of things to come, but the body is of Christ.

and patterns or types (Romans 5:14)

But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is the type (figure) of Him who was to come;

The fulfillment of the type does not give a new meaning to the original as much as it amplifies and gives it a greater meaning. When the children were younger they wanted to use the riding mower, but when they got their license and a car they seemed to lose all interest in the mower.

Roscoe P. Coltrane's mother used the same reasoning to explain to him why he didn't need to get married.

The original authors may not have known exactly what they were pointing ahead to, there's just no way to know. But some of them must have realized something about the coming Messiah because

Jesus said so.

Matthew 13:17

For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which you see, and have not seen them; and to hear what you hear, and have not heard them.

John 8:56

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and He saw and was glad.

"These shadow included events [The Exodus, 1 Cor 10:9-11]

Nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted Him and were destroyed by serpents. Nor murmur as some of them also murmured and were destroyed by the destroyer. And all these things happened to them as examples; and it is written for our warning on whom the ends of the world have come.

persons [Adam, Rom 5:14],

But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is the type of Him who was to come;

institutions [The priesthood, Hebrews 5-7],

actions [Moses lifting up the brass serpent, John 3:14],

But even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up

and ceremonies [The Passover, 1 Cor 5:7]

Therefore purge out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For also Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

and served as prophetic symbols of events, persons, and institutions in the New Testament.” -
quoted from Principles of Biblical Interpretation

Another concept to keep in mind is that of dual fulfillment where a prophecy can have both a short-term or immediate fulfillment that took place in the Old Testament and also a long-term one that took place in the New Testament.

Once again, we know that because the Bible tells us that it is so. The most famous example and the only one that I'm going to take time to think about or look up is the Old Testament prediction that a virgin will bear a son. That was fulfilled a year after the prophecy was given when a regular young woman bore a son that marked the end of the threat to King Ahaz from Syria (Isaiah 7; II Kings) and then was taken up a notch and fulfilled when the virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch.....

Twenty years have passed since Joseph was sold into slavery.

As you read chapter 42 this week, one of the interesting subplots that I want you to notice is what those twenty years seem to have done to Jacob.

I fear that you'll find that he's not exactly aged well.

He's harsh and short-tempered with his sons and perhaps even suspicious about their role Joseph's disappearance;

He's stubborn and difficult;

He's full of self-pity;

and, like Dr. Becker, sees all the problems of life as centering on and around himself.