

The Sign of the Messiah in Joseph's Life

While in jail (Genesis 40), Joseph interpreted the dreams of two of Pharaoh's servants, the chief baker and butler. In Joseph's interpretation of the dream, one of them was promised **life** in **three days**, while the other was promised **death** in **three days**. Although more primitive in form, this is the sign of the Messiah, the sign of resurrection, because it incorporates the themes of life, death and the number three. At this point, let me add that there are many nuances and twists concerning the basic teaching on the Sign of the Messiah. For example, sometimes the Sign of the Messiah doesn't occur in the life of the primary Messianic figure (Joseph, in this example). Sometimes the Sign of the Messiah occurs in the life/lives of someone/people intimately associated with the Messianic figure (the cupbearer and the baker). These nuances represent different permutations of the foundation teaching on the Sign of the Messiah. At this point, I realize that these nuances may be a little confusing. However, as you continue through the book I will cover these issues in more details with pertinent examples. For now, if you think the Sign of the Messiah should exclusively occur in the life of the primary Messianic figure or if you aren't convinced that the Sign of the Messiah can occur in the lives of others associated with the Messianic figure, then note the following amazing parallels between the lives of the baker and cupbearer and Yeshua's life!

<i>Events Associated With Joseph's Life</i>	<i>Messianic Significance</i>
The cupbearer and baker both had exalted positions in the very presence of Pharaoh	Yeshua was highly exalted at the right hand of the Father
This is a story about Joseph's incarceration with two other "criminals"	The gospels tell of how Yeshua was incarcerated with two criminals
One of the those incarcerated with Joseph received life and the other received death	One of the thieves incarcerated with Yeshua received eternal life , while the other died in his sins
The cupbearer retained his life in three days , whereas the baker died	Yeshua was raised to life from the dead in three days
The baker was killed by being hanged on a tree	Yeshua was killed by being hanged on a tree
The cupbearer mainly bears wine . The baker primarily bakes bread	Bread and wine are the Passover emblems of the Messiah's death
Joseph asked the cupbearer to "remember him" when he went before Pharaoh	The criminal asked Yeshua to "remember" him when He came into His kingdom
As a result of his exaltation, the cupbearer was restored to his original position of glory in Pharaoh's presence	As a result of his exaltation, Yeshua was restored to his original position of glory in the Father's presence
In the symbolism of his death, the baker had a basket (vegetation) upon his head	When Yeshua was executed He had a crown of thorns (vegetation) upon His head

As you can see, we have hit the nail on the head! What a goldmine of treasures the story of Joseph's incarceration has been! Once again, all we've done is noted the powerful

themes of life, death and the number three. Truly, it is the Sign of the Messiah, or the sign of resurrection, which points us to Messianic prophecy in the making.