

Sunday, October 23, 2022
Summary of 'Preparing for Greatness'
Genesis 40
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As we engage the story of Joseph in Genesis 40, eleven years have passed since Joseph was sold into slavery. We do not know how those eleven years were divided between serving in Potiphar's household and in prison. But we do know that Joseph is now twenty-eight years old, because two years after the events of this chapter, at the age of thirty, he will ascend to the service of Pharaoh (*cf.* 37:2; 41:1, 46). But huge challenges awaited him on the other side of his prison experience, when he would ascend to the vice-regency of Egypt. Just as it is today, the whole ancient world lay in the power of the wicked one (*c.f.* 1 John 5:19) – and Egypt was at the center of the world's evil. And the ruling class where Joseph would be cast was caught in a web of unbridled ambition, sensuality, and intrigue. And more, Joseph was a righteous man in Egypt. This meant that Joseph's tenure would be full of trouble. We must not imagine that his position put him above the junk. Rather, it put him in the middle of it. Joseph would suffer disappointments again and again, despite his skillful management. His pagan associates would be experts at returning evil for good. So on the eve of his ascent to power, Joseph needed some further honing to ensure greatness. And this is what his final stint in the Egyptian prison would provide.