

## How Long?

### **Intro:**

Noah waited 120 years for the flood  
Abraham Waited 25 years for the promised child  
Jacob Waited 14 years for his wife Rachel  
And Joseph waited 13 years for his dreams to come true  
Israel waited 40 years before entering the promised land  
David waited ten years after he was anointed king to actually be crowned king

It doesn't take a genius to see that walking by faith often means waiting by faith

That doesn't mean we have to like it

### **Problem:**

1 Cor 15:19 (we don't want to wait)  
Matt 5:3 - we want glory in this life  
Matt 5:4 - we want comfort in this life  
Matt 5:5 - we want a crown in this life  
Matt 5:6 - we want satisfaction in this life  
Matt 5:7 - we want mercy in this life  
Matt 5:8 - we want to see God in this life  
Matt 5:9 - we want to be Called sons in this life  
Matt 5:10-12 - we want to be vindicated in this life - But we want

Rom 5:1-5 - we are to rejoice in hope

Heb 9:28 - because Christ is not coming for those living their best life now - He is coming for those eagerly waiting for the best life to come (waiting is spelled t-r-u-s-t)

The question is not whether we are to wait but how we are to wait  
With that in mind let us turn to Gen 40

### **Main Idea:**

do not withdraw  
do not waver  
do not worry  
Your waiting is not wasted

### **Implication:**

God's delays are not God's denials

### **Application:**

Your waiting is not a waste - He is always right on time

### **Articles for further study:**

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-waiting-is-the-hardest-part>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/wait-on-the-Lord.html>

# How Long?

## Text

### do not withdraw

Gen. 40:1 ¶ Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt.

Gen. 40:2 And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,

Gen. 40:3 and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined.

Gen. 40:4 The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, **and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.**

Matt 5:13-16 (we are to be present)

1 Pet 2:11-25 (we are to be visible)

rom 12:1-2 (do not withdraw-> worship)

### do not waver

Gen. 40:5 ¶ And one night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation.

Gen. 40:6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled.

Gen. 40:7 So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?"

Gen. 40:8 They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, **"Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me."**

Gen 37:5-11 (had not given up on own dreams)

heb 1:1-2 (we have something better than dreams)

Col 1:15-20 (we have a better hope)

2 Pet 1:16-21 (we must not give up on the Word)

2 Pet 3 (do not waver -> witness)

### do not worry

Gen. 40:9 ¶ So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, Gen. 40:10 and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes.

Gen. 40:11 Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

Gen. 40:12 Then Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days.

Gen. 40:13 In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer.

Gen. 40:14 **Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness (Chesed- GEN 39:21) to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.**

Gen. 40:15 **For 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."**

Gen. 40:16 ¶ When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head,

Gen. 40:17 and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head."

Gen. 40:18 And Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days.

Gen. 40:19 **In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you."**

Gen. 40:20 ¶ On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants.

Gen. 40:21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.

Gen. 40:22 But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.

Gen. 40:23 **Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.**

2 Tim 4:1-5 (if Joseph did so with dreams how much more with the Word?)

Psalm 13 (never forget you are not forgotten)

Gen 39:21 (Hesed) do not worry - He is working)

### Your waiting is not a waste

Gen. 41:1 ¶ After **two whole years**, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile,

Jn 11:5-15 (God's delays are not God's denials)

Gal 4:4-5 (His schedule is part of the gospel)

1 Pet 5:1-7 (your waiting is not a waste -He is always right on time)