

The Cupbearer and the Baker

40: 1-23

Joseph was seventeen when **he** was sold into slavery and thirty when **he** was placed at the right hand of **Pharaoh**. Therefore, **he** seems to have spent thirteen years in **Potiphar's** household and **Pharaoh's** prison. I am sure this felt like a very long time to this proud and intelligent young man. **He** thought **he** was ready for leadership at seventeen when **he** lorded over **his** brothers with **his** coat of many colors. But **ADONAI** had to put **him** through **His** school of hard knocks before **he** was finally ready to lead at the age of thirty!

Israel's greatest king, **David**, was also **thirty** when **he** became king (**Second Samuel 5:4**), even though **he** had been anointed when **he** was much younger (**First Samuel 16:11-13**). Those who trained from childhood to be Levitical priests had to be **thirty** before they could begin their ministry in the Tabernacle or the Temple (**Numbers 4:46-47**).

Paul had received outstanding training before his conversion, yet **God** sent **him** into the desert for **three years** (**Galatians 1:15-18**) of training before **he** would begin **his** ministry. In like manner, **the twelve apostles** received over three years of training before **they** were ready to fulfill the *Great Commission*.

For that matter, even **Yeshua Himself** was about **thirty years old** when **he** began **his** ministry (**Luke 3:23**), devoting **His** prior experience to the all-important purpose of growing in **wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man** (**Luke 2:52**).

Joseph was faithful in whatever came to **him** during those otherwise frustrating thirteen years, and no doubt was diligent in pondering the ways of **the LORD** until the time finally arrived when **He** judged **him** ready for the great work **he** would accomplish for **his** people and the world.⁶⁰⁹