

Journey Through Genesis

Bereisheit Chapter 42

Prison and Compassionate Confinement ©

By Dr. Akiva Gamliel Belk

Our discussion is in the loving memory of Helen, Gladys Ethel, Martha, John, Patrick, Ethel Channah, George, Gary Lee, Donald Wayne, Carrie, Stephen, Sharon, Florence Youman, Jeanne C. W. Pierre, Joseph Adam Pierre, Louella P. Bienvenu, Barbara Pierre, Terrill B. Thomas, Joyce Duff, Michael and Channah may they rest in peace.

Dear Ones Prior to Genesis 42.16 prison was the ‘the round house’. Beginning with Genesis 42.16 prison takes on an entirely different meaning as we shall see...

Genesis 39.20-23

וַיִּקַּח אֲדֹנָי יוֹסֵף אֹתוֹ וַיִּתְּנֵהוּ אֶל־בַּיִת הַסֵּהָר
מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אֲסוּרֵי [אֲסִירֵי] הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲסוּרִים וַיְהִי־
שָׁם בְּבַיִת הַסֵּהָר

And Yoseif's master took him, and put him in the prison / **the round house**, a place where the king's prisoners were

confined; and he was there in the prison / 'In The Round House'

וַיְהִי יְהוָה אֶת־יֹסֵף וַיֵּט אֵלָיו חֶסֶד וַיִּתֵּן חַנוּ
בְּעֵינֵי שַׂר בֵּית־הַסֵּהַר

However, HaShem was with everything from Aleph to Tav of Yoseif, and showed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison / **the round rouse.**

וַיִּתֵּן שַׂר בֵּית־הַסֵּהַר בְּיַד־יֹסֵף אֵת כָּל־הָאֲסִירִים
אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵית הַסֵּהַר וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עֲשִׂים שָׁם הוּא
הָיָה עֹשֶׂה

And the keeper of the prison committed to Yoseif's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; and whatever was done there, he was the doer of it.

אִין | שַׂר בֵּית־הַסֵּהַר רָאָה אֶת־כָּל־מְאוּמָה בְּיָדוֹ
בְּאֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אָתּוֹ וְאֲשֶׁר־הוּא עֹשֶׂה יְהוָה מִצְלִיחַ:
פ

The keeper of the prison / the Round Hose looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because HaShem was with him, and that which he did, HaShem made it to prosper.

וַיַּחְלְמוּ חֲלוֹם שְׁנֵיהֶם אִישׁ חֲלֹמוֹ בְּלַיְלָה אֶחָד
אִישׁ כְּפִתְרוֹן חֲלֹמוֹ הַמֶּשְׁקָה וְהָאֶפֶה אֲשֶׁר לְמֶלֶךְ
מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר אֲסוּרִים בְּבַיִת הַסֵּהר

Genesis 40.5

And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison / **the round House**.

שְׁלַחוּ מִכֶּם אֶחָד וַיִּקַּח אֶת־אֲחֵיכֶם וְאֶת־
הָאֲסוּרוֹ וַיִּבְחֲנוּ דְבָרֵיכֶם הָאֵמֶת אֶתְכֶם וְאִם־לֹא
חַי פַּרְעֹה כִּי מְרַגְלִים אַתֶּם

Genesis 42.16

Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and you **shall be kept in prison, tied up confined [in my house]** that **your words** may be proved, whether there is any **truth in you**; or else by the life of Pharaoh surely you are spies.

וַיֹּאסֶף אֹתָם אֶל־מִשְׁמָר שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים:

Genesis 42.17

17 And he put them all together under guard [in the prison] for three days.

אִם־כֹּנְנִים אַתֶּם אַחֲיֵיכֶם אֶחָד יֵאָסֵר בְּבַיִת
מִמִּשְׁמָרְכֶם וְאַתֶּם לָכוּ הִבִּיאוּ שֶׁבֶר רַעְבוֹן בְּתֵיכֶם:

Genesis 42.19

If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined in the house of your prison; you go, carry grain for the famine of your houses.

Yoseif did not want his brother to experience the prisons he did. May we be kind to those around us. May we be tender hearted about their needs. May our Creator be blessed.

Blessings and peace,

Dr. Akiva Gamliel & Rebbetzin Revi Belk