

Miketz, Genesis 41:1-44:17

Gen. 40:8

And they said to him, “We had dreams, and there is no one to **interpret** them [וּפְתָר אֵין אֹתוֹ].”

So Joseph said to them, “Surely God can **interpret** [לְאֱלֹהִים פְּתָרְנִים]! Tell me [your dreams].”

Gen. 40:16

When the chief baker saw how favorably he had **interpreted**, he said to Joseph, “In my dream, similarly, there were three openwork baskets on my head.

Gen. 40:22

but the chief baker he impaled — just as Joseph had **interpreted** to them.

Gen. 41:8

Next morning, his spirit was agitated, and he sent for all the magicians of Egypt, and all its wise men; and Pharaoh told them his dreams, but none could **interpret** them for Pharaoh.

Gen. 41:12

A Hebrew youth was there with us, a servant of the chief steward; and when we told him our dreams, he **interpreted** them for us, telling each of the meaning of his dream. ¹³ And as he **interpreted** for us, so it came to pass: I was restored to my post, and the other was impaled.”

Gen. 41:15

And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, but no one can **interpret** it. Now I have heard it said of you that for you to hear a dream is to tell its meaning.”

פתר: MHeb., JArm. to solve, interpret; → פִּשֵּׁר.

qal: pf. פָּתַר, פָּתְרָה, פָּתְרָה Gn 41:13; impf. וּפְתָרָה; inf. לְפָתֵר; pt. פָּתַרְתָּ: to **explain, interpret** a dream (Rabinowitz RQ 8 (1973) 219ff) [Gn 40:8.16.22](#) [41:8.12f.15](#). †

* פְּתָרוֹן, *פְּתָרוֹן; פתר; SamP. *fitron*, **fitrān* in pl. and with sf.: *fitrānu/ām*; MHeb. JArm. פְּתָרוֹן/נָא the meaning of a dream: cs. פְּתָרוֹן, sf. פְּתָרוֹנִי, pl. פְּתָרְנִים: **meaning** [Gn 40:5.8.12.18](#) [41:11](#). †

פִּשֵּׁר, *פִּשֵּׁר, Bauer-L. *Heb.* 460g; Arm. loanword; MHeb. DSS (Kuhn *Konkordanz* 182; Roberts BJRL 34 (1951/52) 368ff; Rabinowitz RQ No. 30 = 8 (1973) 219ff); **Sir 38:14** diagnosis; JArm. פִּשְׁרָא diagnosis, meaning; Akk. *pišru* solution, meaning; cf. *pišertu* (AHw. 868b) which may mean a magical solution, a ritual of absolution; Syr. *pašārā* solution, explanation, etc.; CPArm. pl. **pšwryn* explanation (Schulthess *Lex.* 165a); Mnd. (Drower-M. *Dictionary* 372b) *pišra* exorcism; Sam., see Cowley *Sam. Lit.* 2: lxvii; Wagner *Aramäismen* 239: **meaning, explanation** [Qoh 8:1](#) :: Roberts BJRL 34 (1951/52) 368: wisdom. †

Ecc. 8:1 Who is like the wise man, and who knows the meaning [פִּשְׁר] of the adage: (NJPS)

Ecc. 8:1 Who is like the wise man? And who knows the interpretation [פִּשְׁר] of a thing?