

Genesis 39

1 The study of Joseph is a study in the Sovereignty of God. If he had not been sold to a man who was Pharaoh's official, he probably would not have gone to the jail related to the government where he met the man that would speak of him to Pharaoh. see verse 20 Those who purchased him for trade were descendents of his grandfather's half brother.

2 Just as the Lord was with his father Jacob in a strange place, He is with Joseph, and you.

3,4 Sounds like Laban's observation. When employers and kings see our faithfulness and consistency they naturally promote us and that gives us more influence. Joseph has gone from prince to slave to general manager.

5,6 God even proportioned his body so that he would catch the eye of this man Potiphar as physically capable so God's will would come to pass. God is going to use that physique to get him in trouble and move him on to the next step.

7 Temptation of sexual sin! The Egyptians had a sense of physical beauty and dressed and used makeup to emphasize it. A man like Potiphar would have chosen a real beauty. Joseph must be around 18-21. Are you getting the picture of what a temptation this was?

8,9 I know this temptation is a powerful one. Purity, holiness, appreciation to the Father for his blessings, demand that our response be as Joseph's and no less. How can we sin against God after all his blessings, after all He entrusts us with?

10 Hear that men? "or even be with her" He knows his physical weakness and avoids the proximity of temptation. Thank God he did, for this is what got him thrown in jail and saved many people from starvation, preserving the lineage of the Seed. This may be where the early church got the command for the Gentiles, "avoid fornication" - a pre-law understanding of the Patriarchs.

11,12 Evil looks for opportunity. Holiness flees temptation. He didn't just resist, He ran!

13-16 A man usually had but one cloak. It would have been a gift from his master for his warmth. When she saw she was not able to tempt Joseph it angered her. She was rejected. Finally her lust turned to scorn when she could not have what she wanted. This is all too common. So she lies to "get even". God even uses the wickedness of man to bring about his will. Joseph may have looked back on all this and understood 50:20 before his encounter with his brothers.

17-21 Again and again we see the Lord with his children in their hour of need. Again, he finds favor with those over him.

22 Again he quickly ascends to the position of general manager. The jail keeper may have known of the reputation of Potiphar's wife and not held it against Joseph. The bottom line is, God is working.

23 Like Jacob his father, God blessed all he did. He does the same for all his children that are walking in Him.