


Genesis 39:1-23

Joseph has been sold into slavery at 18 years old into Egypt by his brothers. He was young, good-looking, strong young fellow. By the time he got to Egypt, the pyramids were over 1000 years old. Egypt was the most powerful nation on the face of the earth at that time. Joseph enters into an ancient powerful society as a slave.

- 1 ¶ And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hand of the Ishmaelites, that had brought him down thither.** Joseph was brought directly to the captain of the pharaoh's guard and the captain protected Joseph.
- 2 And Jehovah was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.** The captain takes Joseph directly to his house.
- 3 And his master saw that Jehovah was with him, and that Jehovah made all that he did to prosper in his hand.** The captain was a very powerful man and he noticed that everything that Joseph did prospered. In those days the mindset of these people believed everything was random and they had many gods. They really liked money.
- 4 And Joseph found favor in his sight, and he ministered to him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.** The captain saw everything Joseph did prospered and made money, so he made Joseph head of the house to get rich.
- 5 And it came to pass from the time that he made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that Jehovah blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of Jehovah was upon all that he had, in the house and in the field.** Many pagans got rich from a Christian serving the lord living in the pagan's house. It didn't matter what Joseph did made money for his pagan master's estate.
- 6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not aught *that was with him, save the bread which he did eat.* And Joseph was comely, and well-favored.** The pagan Captain became so confident in Joseph that he put everything he owned in Joseph's hands, didn't ask for tally sheets or reports. He just trusted Joseph completely. All the captain cared about was that he had food on the table. The pagans recognized immediately that Joseph was different. Joseph had integrity and substance.
- 7 ¶ And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.** Christians are always tested, every one of us. Everything was going great for Joseph, and then the wife of the captain noticed him and tried to seduce Joseph. The wife was home all day while her husband worked, she didn't have Wal-Mart to go shopping, so she was bored to pieces.
- 8 But he refused, and said to his master's wife, Behold, my master knows not what is with me in the house, and he has put all that he has into my hand:** Joseph said, "Listen lady, your husband has trusted me with everything he owns. I got the run of the house and the business."
- 9 he is not greater in this house than I; neither has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?** "How can you even think I would betray a man who trusts me so and is so good to me?"
- 10 And it came to pass, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not to her, to lie by her, *or to be with her.*** She continues to pester Joseph everyday – "come on Joseph, have an affair with me."
- 11 And it came to pass about this time, that he went into the house to do his work; and there was none of the men of the house there within.** An opportunity came up when there was no one else in the house. Joseph and wife were alone in the house.
- 12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.** She cornered Joseph, demanding an affair, but Joseph got out of the house, and she got ahold of his coat.
- 13 ¶ And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,** Joseph got out of the house like his bottom was on fire.

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- 14 that she called to the men of her house, and spoke to them, saying, See, he has brought in a Hebrew to us to mock us: he came in to me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:** Notice how she refers to Joseph: a "Hebrew". Not "Joseph the Hebrew", but that "Hebrew". This is anti-Semitism.
- 15 and it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment by me, and fled, and got him out.** Joseph got the heck out of that house, but there is nothing like the wrath of a scorned woman.
- 16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his master came home.** The wife kept Joseph's coat and waited for her husband to come home.
- 17 And she spoke to him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought to us, came in to me to mock me:** Again she refers to Joseph as "the Hebrew". This is the world pointing the finger at the Jews. The wife told the husband a lie about Joseph, false accusations.
- 18 and it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment by me, and fled out.**
- 19 ¶ And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, After this manner did your servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.** The captain listened to his wife's side of the story. After trusting Joseph with everything he owned, he didn't ask for Joseph's side of the story.
- 20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.** The captain just threw Joseph in a special prison.
- 21 But Jehovah was with Joseph, and showed kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.**
- 22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.** Here's a young man about 20 years old now, and he stays in this prison approximately 10 years. Think about what Joseph has gone through. He was the favorite of his dad and got the special cloak, the brothers got jealous and hated him and sold him into slavery. Then Joseph is chained and made a slave in Egypt where he prospers and is elevated to head of household and completely trusted. Then he is stripped of his position again and thrown into prison. Joseph didn't do anything wrong either time. He is elevated and torn down over and over. Think what he went through mentally and physically. But God keeps blessing him and using Him for His will.
- 23 The keeper of the prison looked not to anything that was under his hand, because Jehovah was with him; and that which he did, Jehovah made it to prosper.** It didn't matter what position Joseph was in, he stayed faithful to God. God presents Joseph as a man after His own heart. Even in prison, Joseph became the leader of all the prisoners. He consoled them, fed them, cared for them. The prisoners loved Joseph because he had a wonderful faithful attitude about God. Remain faithful to God, don't brag about good things that happen to you. God will elevate the humble and those with an attitude of humility and tear down the proud. God will humble you for you.
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