

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JULY 19, 2023

GENESIS 39:1FF

INTRODUCTION:

1. Genesis 39 resumes where chapter 37 left off. Joseph was sold by his brothers to the Ishmaelites who sold him to Potiphar. (Gen. 37.36; 39.1)
2. Potiphar is described in three ways. (Gen. 39.1)
 - a) He was “*an officer of Pharaoh.*” A government official who reported directly to the king.
 - b) He was “*captain of the guard.*” A captain is a chief over a group. (cf. Gen. 40.2,7; 41.10)
 - c) He was “*Egyptian.*” The Egyptians played a role in Israel’s history. (cf. Gen. 15.12,13)
3. Two themes: God’s presence and Joseph’s integrity.

I. JOSEPH THE STEWARD

- A. The success that Joseph enjoyed was from God.
 1. **GENESIS 39.2:** “*The LORD was with Joseph*”
 - a) God was with Isaac and blessed his life. (Gen. 26.24,25)
 - b) God was with Jacob giving him protection and prosperity. (Gen. 28.15; 31.5,42,53)
 2. **GENESIS 39.2:** “*...and he became a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian*” What is the significance of Joseph being in Potiphar’s house?
 3. **GENESIS 39.3:** “*His master saw that the LORD was with him*”
 - a) When God is with you, others can see it. (Gen. 21.22,23; 26.26-29)
 - b) When God is with you, others benefit from it. (Gen. 30.27; 39.5)
 - c) God was with Joseph and Potiphar enjoyed
- B. Joseph earned the trust of Potiphar.
 1. **GENESIS 39.4:** “*So Joseph found favor in his sight.*” Joseph found favor by serving Potiphar with integrity. (cf. Gen. 6.8; Luke 12.45)
 2. **GENESIS 39.4:** “*Then he made him overseer of his house*”
 - a) Overseer (paqad): Literally, “to pay attention, care for”
 - b) In the New Testament, a steward. (Oikonomos; Luke 12.42; 1 Cor. 4.1,2; Titus 1.7)
 3. **GENESIS 39.4:** “*and all that he had he put under his authority.*”
 - a) God blessed Potiphar “for Joseph’s sake” (Gen. 39.5)
 - b) How much of Potiphar’s house did Joseph manage? (Gen. 39.5,6)

II. JOSEPH THE PRISONER

- A. During the time that Joseph spent in prison, God was with him.
 1. **GENESIS 39.21:** “*But the LORD was with Joseph*” (v. 23).
 2. Sometimes bad things happen even when God is with us. (Heb. 13.5)
- B. The desire of Potiphar’s wife.
 1. **GENESIS 39.6:** “*Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.*”
 2. Potiphar’s wife makes advances on Joseph relentlessly. (Gen. 39.7,10).
 3. Joseph tirelessly refused her advances. Why? (Gen. 39.8-10)
 - a) **GENESIS 39.9:** “*How then can I do this wickedness and sin against God.*”
 - b) To sin against another is to sin against God. (Ps. 51.4; 1 Cor. 8.12)
- C. The deception of Potiphar’s wife.
 1. Potiphar’s wife accused Joseph of trying to lie with her. (Gen. 39.11-18)
 2. Potiphar believed his wife and threw Joseph into prison. (Gen. 39.19,20)