



2.03 JOSEPH'S LIFE IN EGYPT, PART 1

GENESIS 39 & 40

Joseph was the favorite son of his father, Jacob. Jacob had even made Joseph a colorful coat to wear to show how special he was to him. Joseph's brothers were very jealous. They hated Joseph. One day, the brothers sold Joseph to some Egyptian traders. They told their father Joseph had died. It was a very sad day for Jacob.

But Joseph did not die. When the traders got to Egypt, they sold Joseph to an Egyptian officer named Potiphar. Potiphar worked for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

Because God was with Joseph, watching over him, Joseph was successful in everything he did. Potiphar noticed how successful Joseph was and how God was with him, so he gave Joseph a more important job. Joseph would now be responsible for Potiphar's whole house and everything he owned. Then, Potiphar began to have good things happen to him. His crops and his animals began doing very well—better than before. Potiphar gave Joseph even more responsibility. Joseph didn't have to worry about anything.

One day, Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to spend some time with her. Joseph knew this was not his job. Potiphar would not be pleased if he knew Joseph was spending time with his wife. Because of that, Joseph tried to run away from her. She grabbed his coat while he tried to run. Later, she told her husband, Potiphar, that Joseph had been bothering her and she had grabbed his coat in a struggle to escape. She was telling a lie, but Potiphar believed his wife. Potiphar became angry at Joseph and put him in prison.

However, even in prison, God blessed Joseph and took care of him. The keeper of the prison trusted Joseph and put him in charge of all the other prisoners.

There were two other men in prison who had made the king of Egypt angry. One man was a butler, who served the king by bringing him his cup. The other was a baker, who cooked for the king. During the time they were in prison, they had some dreams. Joseph asked them to tell him the dreams. "God will tell me what the dreams mean," he said.

The butler told Joseph, "I dreamed about a grapevine with three branches on it. Some grapes grew on the branches. I squeezed the grape juice into the king's cup and handed it to him." Joseph said, "This dream means in three days you will be released from prison and go back to your job of serving the king by bringing him his cup."

The baker also told Joseph his dream. He said, "I dreamed there were three baskets on my head. There were baked goods in them for Pharaoh, the king. Birds were eating from the basket." Joseph said this dream meant in three days the king would execute the baker.

Three days later, everything happened just as Joseph had said. The cupbearer was given back his job, and the baker was punished. God had given Joseph wisdom and understanding to understand dreams. Joseph was still in prison, but God had not forgotten him. God was still working in Joseph's life.

When life feels unfair, we can still trust God. God knows the truth. God is with us, and He can help us know what to do when life seems difficult!

Key Verse Genesis 39:21 "The Lord was with Joseph and showed him kindness."

2.03 JOSEPH'S LIFE IN EGYPT, PART 1 - TEACHER'S GUIDE

GENESIS 39 & 40

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Joseph was sold to Potiphar, an Egyptian officer who worked for the king of Egypt.
- 2) God was with Joseph and took care of him. Potiphar gave Joseph the important job of taking care of his house.
- 3) Joseph kept doing his job well. Potiphar gave him more responsibility.
- 4) Potiphar's wife got angry with Joseph because he wouldn't spend time with her, so she lied to Potiphar. She said Joseph had been bothering her a lot, so Potiphar became angry at Joseph and put him in jail.
- 5) In prison, there was a butler and a baker. These two men had worked for the king. They had dreams they didn't understand. They asked Joseph if he could tell them what they meant.
- 6) Joseph said that God knew what the dreams meant, so he was able to tell them the meaning of their dreams.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Who was Joseph sold to in Egypt?
- 2) How did God show He cared for Joseph?
- 3) What made Potiphar's wife lie?
- 4) Who was in prison with Joseph?
- 5) What problem did the butler and the baker have?
- 6) Was Joseph able to tell them the meaning of their dreams?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Joseph was sold to Potiphar, who worked for the king of Egypt.
- 2) God helped Joseph do his work well, so Potiphar gave Joseph the important job of taking care of his house.
- 3) Potiphar's wife was angry with Joseph and lied because he would not spend time with her.
- 4) A butler and a baker were in prison with Joseph.
- 5) The butler and baker had dreams they did not understand.
- 6) Yes. God helped Joseph give them the meanings of their dreams.

Joseph was far from home, lied about, and put in prison. But God was with Joseph in every place. God gave Joseph wisdom and understanding. When we trust God like Joseph, God will help us and give us understanding and direction about our life.

When life feels unfair, we can still trust God. God knows the truth. God is with us, and He can help us know what to do when life seems difficult!

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