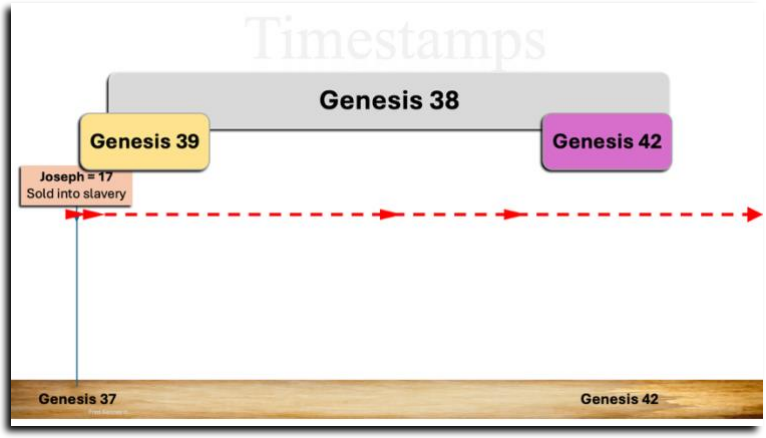
Genesis 39

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- Chapter 38 was not a random detour
  - The Bible contrasts Judah and Joseph; Canaan and Egypt are pictures of the fallen world
    - Judah's compromise with the world's influence
    - Joseph will not compromise
    - Adam/ Jesus?
- Joseph is the only patriarch (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) to whom God does not appear.
  - Yet we see the most wonderful picture of God being with him
    - Scripture tells us repeatedly that God was with him.
  - We will see Romans 8:28 in action in Joseph's story
    - Romans 8:28 – **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
    - Evangelist R. A. Torrey said, "Romans 8:28 is a soft pillow for a tired heart."[1]

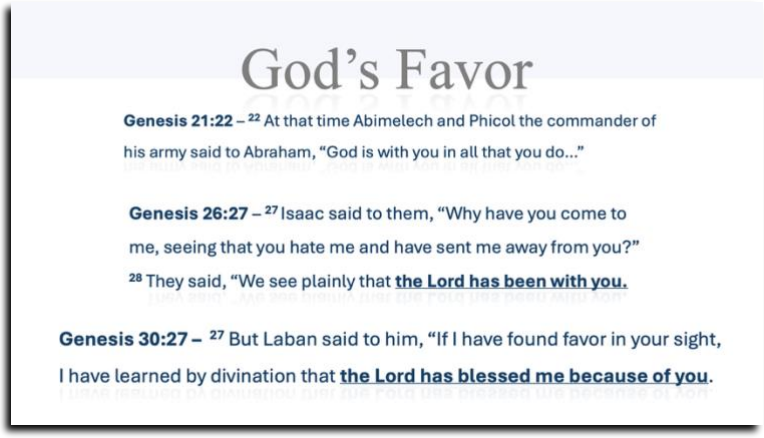
39:1 Now **Joseph had been brought down** to Egypt, and **Potiphar**, an **officer** of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the **Ishmaelites** who had brought him

[1] William R. Newell, Romans: Verse-by-Verse (Chicago: Moody Press, 1938), commentary on Romans 8:28, https://www.ccel.org/ccel/newell/romans.ix.html.

down there. [2] **The LORD was with Joseph**, and he became a **successful man**, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. [3] **His master saw that the LORD was with him** and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

- **brought down** –
  - 17-year-old kid
  - Language?
  - Culture?
- Joseph suffers punishment because of someone else's sin.

- **Potiphar … Officer** – Officer/Eunuch. Was he a eunuch? We don't know.
  - Same word used for officers and eunuchs: Dan, Esther, Jeremiah
- **Ishmaelites –** Before it was the **Midianites** (Genesis 37:28-36)
  - Ishmael & Midian were sons of Abraham
- **successful man** – **prosperous** (KJV)
  - **Note**: He didn't have a Mercedes-Benz, Tesla, or a house in Saint James
    - **Success** is not about **what** you have; it's about **Who** you have**!!**
      - **He Had God!**
    - If you have **Christ Jesus, you have everything! Know that!**
- **The LORD was with Joseph –** This is the **KEY**!
  - **Notice:** This did not keep him from difficulty
    - This allowed Joseph to go through difficulty



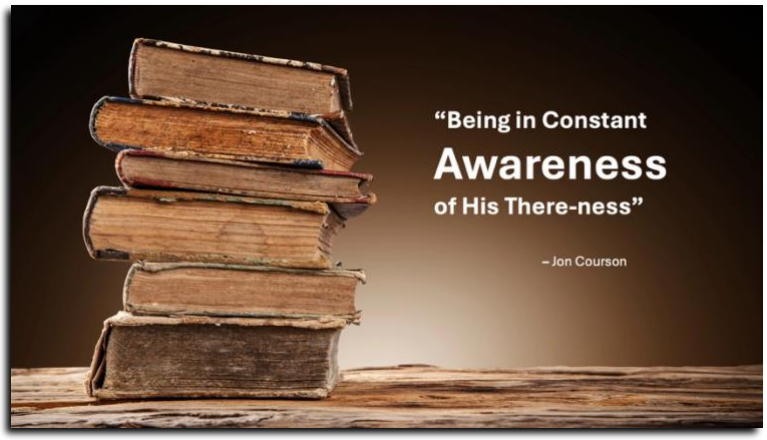
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- **<u>His master saw that the LORD was with him</u>** –
    - This theme happened to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and now Joseph
        - Abraham 168 years before this story
        - Isaac 108 years before this story
        - Jacob 17 years before this story
    - The favor of God on His own is often evident to the world
- Joe was now a slave, but God made him a successful slave!
    - God-with-you, will bless you even in difficult situations.
        - Look for those blessings and thank Him!

4 So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house **<u>and put him in charge</u>** of all that he had. **5** From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. **6** So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

- Blessings come from God – even when it seems like we are contributing
    - Let's have an attitude of gratitude for all good!
- **Faithfulness produces Favor**

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. [7] And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." [8] **But he refused** and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.

- his master's wife cast her eyes – The eyes are the window to trouble
    - Eve saw the fruit and then wanted it
    - Judah saw (Tamar), whom he thought was a prostitute
- Was Potiphar a true eunuch (castrated)? If so, this could be why she is doing this.
- "Lie with me"
    - Before this, was he thinking, "Finally, things are all good for me!"
    - Here he is just doing his job, and now he has this hostile situation.
- [8]**But he refused** –
    - We have an example here.
        - We **can** refuse sin when presented with temptation
            - God **being with you** is the key! **Practice His Presence**
            - 

            - **"Being in Constant awareness of His thereness" –** Jon Courson[2]
        - The excuse, "I couldn't help myself," is not valid

[2] https://blb.sc/002hTy

- The man or woman cheating on their spouse and says, “I can’t help myself,” **would** help themselves if the person in their affair had AIDS or another disease.
- The guy looking at filth on TV or the web would not do so with his mother/ the president/ or someone he wants to impress right there.

9 He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and **sin against God?”** **10** And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

- wickedness …**sin against God? – His presence** facilitates this response!
  - Interesting that Joseph didn’t say “My master or you”
  - David recognized that his sin was against God in Psalm 51
- day after day – The enemy’s tactic is often to wear down the saints.
- he would not listen to her – Another lesson for us!
  - Don’t listen to the enemy’s constant temptations.
- **Joseph demonstrates Integrity –**
  - **From - integer(n.)**
    "a whole number" (as opposed to a **fraction**), 1570s, from noun use of Latin *integer* (adj.) "intact, whole, complete," figuratively, "untainted, upright," literally "untouched," from *in-* "not" (see **in-** (1)) + root of *tangere* "to touch" (from PIE root ***tag-** "to touch, handle"). The word was used earlier in English as an adjective in the Latin sense, "whole, entire" (c. 1500).[3]
  - God is calling us to be complete and whole, not fractional in our faith or life!

11 But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, **12** she caught him by **his garment**, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his

[3] https://www.etymonline.com/word/integer

garment in her hand **and fled** and got out of the house. [13] And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house,

- If you can avoid being alone with someone who is causing trouble, you should do so.
- **his garment** – His brothers grabbed him by his other garment
    - The Dreamcoat. Now she rips off his Egyptian cloak
- Avoid the appearance of impropriety.
    - I do not meet one-on-one with women unless at a public place
- **and fled** – We are to flee from sin
    - 1 Corinthians 6:18 **– Flee** from **sexual immorality**. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.
    - 2 Timothy 2:22 – [22] So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.
        - Judah did not flee from it; he embraced it (Genesis 38:15-17)
- **Resisting Sin Requires Action –** Joe fled
    - **Daniel 1:8 –**[8] But **Daniel resolved** that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.
- **Conversely, Faith should also produce action –** If you know Him, you will do something – James 2:14-26

[14] she called to the men of her household and said to them, “See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. [15] And

as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." [16] Then she laid up **his garment** by her until his master came home,

- **his garment** – Once again, Joseph's garments tell a lie!
    - Before, his bloody Dreamcoat appeared to say Joseph was dead
    - Now, his Egyptian garment appears to say Joseph was a homewrecking adulterer

[17] and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, **whom you have brought among us**, came in to me to laugh at me. [18] But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."

- **whom you have brought among us** – Notice she even indirectly blames him!

[19] As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," **his anger was kindled**. [20] And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there **in prison**.

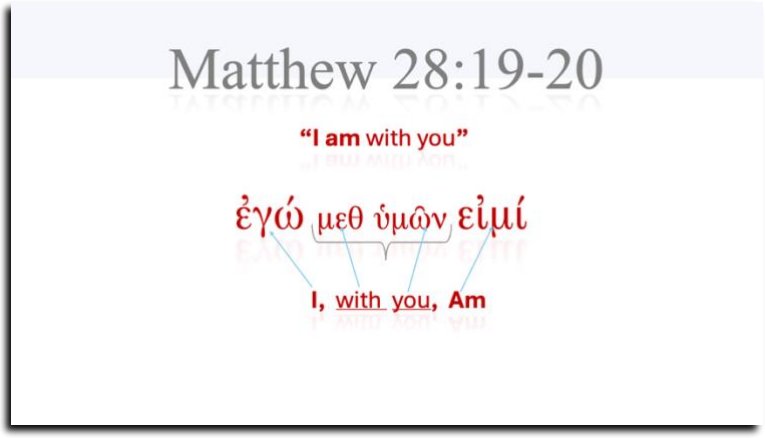
- **his anger was kindled** –
    - Was he angry because he was now forced to act, and he knew Joseph was the reason he was blessed?
        - He had a good thing going, and now it was messed up!?
    - If he didn't act, would this mean open season on his authority and property?
    - Was he angry because he knew she was shady and this was probably not true?

- **In prison** – Many scholars think that Potiphar knew it was a con because attempted rape was a capital offense and he had Joe put in jail.
    - Maybe he still wanted a blessing?
    - I wonder how Joe treats him later.
- HE DID NO **WRONG**, NOR WAS THERE ANY DECEIT IN HIS MOUTH

- **1 Peter 2:22 –** [22] He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.
- **Isaiah 53:9 –** [9b] …although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

[21] **<u>But the LORD was with Joseph</u>** and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. [22] And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.

- **<u>But the LORD was with Joseph</u> –** If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)
  - John 8:29 – And **he** who sent **me** is with **me**. **He has not left me alone**, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him."
  - If you have Christ, then God is with you!
    - Emanuel, God with us
    - Matthew 28:19-20 – [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **<u>I am with you</u>** always, to the end of the age."



- **I**, with you, **AM**
    - ἐγώ μεθ ὑμῶν εἰμί

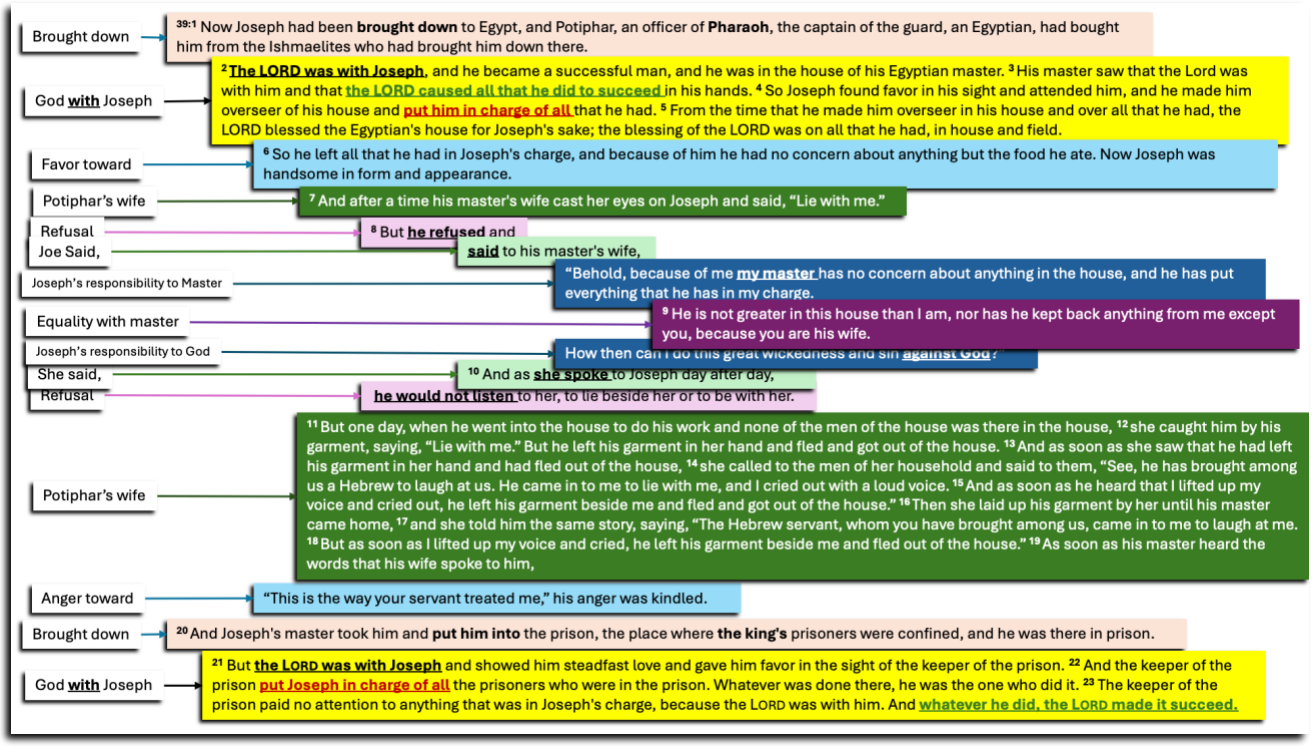
23 The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because **the LORD was with him**. And whatever he did, **the LORD made it succeed**.

- Joe has gone from favorite son to a prisoner
    - We might not relate to being a prisoner, but we can all relate to things in life not going according to our plan.
    - We have to trust that God sees, cares, hears, and has a plan.
    - James 1:12 – **12** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.
- Joseph is again suffering punishment due to someone else's sin.

- 1 Peter 2:19 NKJV– For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

Seek God's Favor[4]

In every circumstance, seek to live in a way that honors God, trusting that His favor will follow you, even in the most challenging situations.



Numbers 6:24-27 KJV

24 The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:
25 The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:
26 The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.
27 And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel, and I will bless them.

[4] https://biblehub.com/topical/s/seek_god's_favor.htm