

# Genesis - Lesson 39

Genesis 39

*Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies*

Email: [mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com](mailto:mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com)

Website: [www.KjvBibleStudies.net](http://www.KjvBibleStudies.net)

Memory verses for this week: *Psa 116:13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. Psa 116:14 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people.*

**Introduction:** We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as we cover Chapter 39 covering Joseph's testing and trials in house of Potiphar. We saw Joseph sold to the Midianites in last week's lesson by his brothers and being taken to Egypt where the captain of the guard purchased him.

## I. Joseph Prospers as a Servant

**Gen 39:1** *And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.*

**Gen 39:2** *And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.*

**Gen 39:3** *And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.*

Loyalty to God may bring a believer into serious testing but the almighty grace of God will enable him to overcome the enemy's assaults. Though stripped of possessions, we need not be stripped of virtue.

Joseph prospered here in Egypt, and there are practical reasons for his prosperity. Even though sold into slavery, Joseph prospered in spite of his environment. This is in stark contrast with his brother Judah. Many today blame society for their wrong doing. Until we recognize that self has a lot to do with our position in life, we won't find much happiness.

Joseph left his father and home, but he did not leave his God. Despite his circumstances, he remained faithful to his God, even if he lived in the house with an idolater. "Potiphar" means "devoted to Ra," who was the sun god. Many we come in contact with in our daily lives may not share our love for God. But that doesn't exempt us from still serving Him. God's blessings and grace is with His people when under severe trial as it clearly states there in verse 2. The Lord was with Joseph. When God's hand is on us, others can see it. God's blessing can be observed by sinners, and there was no exception here as Potiphar saw that the Lord was with him and made all that he did to prosper.

*Gen 39:4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.*

*Gen 39:5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.*

*Gen 39:6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.*

God blesses others for the sake of His people. We are still blessed today for the sake of Abraham and these other great men of God who served the Lord in the Old Testament. God is still working out His plans even when when our 'worldly' plans seem to fail. Remember what Joseph told his brothers years later when he identified who he truly was when he was second in charge to only Pharaoh in the land of Egypt.

*Gen 45:5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.*

*Gen 45:6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.*

*Gen 45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.*

*Gen 45:8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.*

Joseph was a very clear type of Christ. In verse 1, it tells us that Joseph became a servant. Although King of Glory, so also did our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

*Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

*Php 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

*Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

*Php 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

*Php 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;*

*Php 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Joseph was a prosperous servant. Likewise, so was Christ.

*Isa 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

*Isa 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

Potiphar, Joseph's master was well pleased with him and gave him additional

responsibilities. God, the Heavenly Father was very pleased with Christ.

*Isa 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:*

*Isa 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

*Joh 8:26 I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.*

*Joh 8:27 They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.*

*Joh 8:28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*

*Joh 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.*

In verse 5, it says Joseph made a blessing to others. Christ is made a blessing to all who have Him in their house. Egypt is a type of the world, yet the nation was blessed for Joseph's sake. Think how the world has been blessed for Christ's sake. All nations of the earth have been blessed because of Jesus. Joseph was a goodly person as verse 6 records. Christ the greatest person of all.

*Mat 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.*

## II. Joseph Refuses to Become a Slave to Sin

*Gen 39:7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.*

*Gen 39:8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;*

*Gen 39:9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*

Verse 7 explains the opportunity he had to yield and sin. No doubt this was a great temptation to this young man.

Joseph showed great resistance to the temptation. (He does not condemn the woman but simply states what he ought to do). He pleads the law of honor, that he certainly should not betray the confidence of his master. He pleads the law of chastity and says they should not do this "wickedness". And finally at the end of verse 9, Joseph pleads the law of holiness. He does not want to "sin against God".

Matthew Henry said this about the sin of Potiphar's wife.

A most shameful instance of impudence and immodesty in Joseph's mistress, the shame and scandal of her sex, perfectly lost to all virtue and honour, and not to be mentioned, nor thought of, without the utmost indignation. It was well that she was an Egyptian; for we must have shared in the confusion if such folly had been found in Israel. Observe,

I. Her sin began in the eye: She *cast her eyes upon Joseph* ([Gen 39:7](#)), who *was a goodly person, and well-favoured*, [Gen 39:6](#). Note, (1.) Remarkable beauty, either of men or women, often proves a dangerous snare both to themselves and others, which forbids pride in it and commands constant watchfulness against the temptation that attends it; favour is deceitful - deceiving. (2.) We have great need to make a covenant with our eyes ([Job 31:1](#)), lest the eye infect the heart. Joseph's mistress had a husband that ought to have been to her for a covering of the eyes from all others, [Gen 20:16](#).

2. She was daring and shameless in the sin. With an impudent face, and a harlot's forehead, she said, *Lie with me*, having already, by her wanton looks and unchaste desires, committed adultery with him in her heart. Note, Where the unclean spirit gets possession and dominion in a soul, it is as with the possessed of the devils ([Luk 8:27](#), [Luk 8:29](#)), the clothes of modesty are thrown off and the bands and fetters of shame are broken in pieces.

If you are a young person (or even an old person), you can be sure that temptation will not be long in coming. All of us face tests and trials day by day. Joseph offers a very practical lesson on how to deal with temptation.

The devil knows how to tempt man in his weakest area. Ever notice that the very thing you may be weak in is what typically presents itself in our daily lives. This temptation should be resisted at all costs. The bible is very clear about sexual temptations that befall us.

*Pro 22:14 The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.*

*Pro 2:12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;*

*Pro 2:13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;*

*Pro 2:14 Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;*

*Pro 2:15 Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:*

*Pro 2:16 To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;*

*Pro 2:17 Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.*

*Pro 2:18 For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.*

*Pro 2:19 None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.*

*Pro 5:3 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:*

*Pro 5:4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.*

*Pro 5:5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.*

*Pro 5:6 Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.*

*Pro 5:7 Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.*

*Pro 5:8 Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:*

*Pro 5:9 Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:*

*Pro 5:10 Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger;*

*Pro 5:11 And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,*

*1Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

*1Th 4:4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

*1Th 4:5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:*

Potiphar's wife was a beautiful woman and it was a strong temptation. Here he was a youth serving in his master's house, and the lady of the house has eyes for Joseph.

Paul warned young Timothy to flee youthful lusts and serve God with a whole heart.

*2Ti 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

*Gen 39:10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.*

*Gen 39:11 And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.*

Potiphar's wife had set this up and sent the other servants home. Joseph had a chance for advancement if he yielded. When at first he does not yield, she does not stop. Rather there is a repetition of temptation. Even when we resist, be sure another opportunity will be there.

*Gen 39:12 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.*

Joseph has victory over temptation. It was obtained by flight as we read in II Timothy where we are exhorted to flee from youthful lusts. It was obtained through loss of name and occupation. By abstaining from sin, it allowed him to be falsely accused and he lost the job he had with Potiphar.

*1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

*1Co 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

*1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is*

*faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

**Job 31:1** *I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?*

*Job 31:2 For what portion of God is there from above? and what inheritance of the Almighty from on high?*

*Job 31:3 Is not destruction to the wicked? and a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity?*

*Job 31:4 Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?*

*1Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*

*1Th 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

Here we have another clear typification of Christ by Joseph. Joseph was sorely tempted. So was Christ, yet without sin.

*Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

*Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

*Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

*Mat 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

*Mat 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

### **III. Joseph on Trial and in Prison**

*Gen 39:13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,*

*Gen 39:14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:*

*Gen 39:15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.*

*Gen 39:16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.*

*Gen 39:17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:*

*Gen 39:18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.*

*Gen 39:19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.*

There are several practical lessons from Joseph's experience.

1. Sin is cunning.
2. Sin is filled with malice.
3. Not everyone who is accused of sin is guilty.
4. We should do right regardless.
5. God's providence works everywhere as we will read in verse 21.
6. God can promote and prosper His people regardless of circumstances.

Here again Joseph is a type of Christ. Joseph was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife.. So was Christ falsely accused.

*Mat 26:59 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;*

*Mat 26:60 But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,*

*Mat 26:61 And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.*

*Mat 26:62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?*

Joseph made no defense for himself. Despite all the accusations brought against our Lord, neither did Christ defend himself.

*Isa 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

*Gen 39:20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.*

*Gen 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.*

*Gen 39:22 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.*

*Gen 39:23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.*

Although he had done nothing wrong, Joseph cast into prison. Christ was also arrested under false pretenses. Joseph suffers at the hand of Gentiles. So also did Christ.

*Act 4:25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?*

*Act 4:26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.*

*Act 4:27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,*

Despite being a prisoner, Joseph won the respect of the jailer. So also did Christ with the Roman centurion.

*Luk 23:45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.*

*Luk 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.*

*Luk 23:47 Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.*

Sadly, Joseph was numbered with transgressors. No doubt was Christ numbered with the transgressors there on Mount Calvary.

*Isa 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What are some reasons for Joseph's prosperity in Egypt and give some practical lessons from his prosperity?

Joseph still showed faith to God, and because of this God blessed him and made everything he did prosper. If we will but trust God and not waiver, no matter how bleak our circumstances, God will bless us no matter what we face.

2. What are some of the types of Christ seen in Joseph in v. 1-6?

Joseph became a servant as Christ did for us.

Joseph was prosperous as was Christ.

His master was pleased with Joseph. God was greatly pleased with Jesus.

Joseph was a blessing to all those around him. Through Christ, all nations of the earth have been blessed.

3. Who was used of Satan to tempt Joseph?

Potiphar's wife.

4. What was Joseph's plea as he resisted this temptation?



He asks that they not betray the master's confidence and not do this great evil and sin against God.

5. How was Joseph a type of Christ in being tempted?

The devil took Christ out in the wilderness and tempted him 3 times. Other temptations befell him all through life, but yet Christ was without sin.

6. Give some practical lessons from Joseph's experience.

1. Sin is cunning.
2. Sin is filled with malice.
3. Not everyone who is accused of sin is guilty.
4. We should do right regardless.
5. God's providence works everywhere as we will read in verse 21.
6. God can promote and prosper His people regardless of circumstances.

7. How is Joseph a type of Christ in his imprisonment?

He was falsely accused, just as the Lord was falsely accused. Numbered among the transgressors, although neither Joseph nor Christ had committed any wrong.

*KJV Bible Studies are prepared and distributed free of charge. The lessons may not be sold without consent. If you have questions or wish to discuss the lessons, or possibly need help in finding Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior, contact us at the email below.*

*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

**Website:** [www.KjvBibleStudies.net](http://www.KjvBibleStudies.net)

**Email:** [mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com](mailto:mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com)

**Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.**