

Not Forgotten
Genesis 39

Not Forgotten

Begin with prayer

Read: Genesis 39

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Dear God,

Grant us the courage to flee temptation and remain faithful in suffering. Remind us that Your presence never leaves us, even in the pit.

Amen.



Joseph - Patriarch



Genesis 39

Joseph was the Old Testament illustration of *Romans 8:28*, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

No one else in the Old Testament illustrated the purpose and providence of God more clearly than Joseph. God's hand was on his life, and His guidance is evident from our perspective. From Joseph's perspective, everything seemed to go wrong, and the world often appeared dark. However, we can see that every event in Joseph's life was a step toward bringing good for the glory of God.

Interestingly, Joseph was the only patriarch in Genesis whom God didn't appear to personally. God appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but not to Joseph. In this way, we can relate to Joseph. God hasn't appeared directly to anyone today, yet we can still know that He is guiding us.

In one of the most powerful moments in Joseph's story, when his brothers thought he would turn against them because of what they had done years earlier, Joseph clearly knew that God was with Him. He said, "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive" (*Genesis 50:20*).

We learn a valuable lesson from Joseph. If we are God's children and acting within His will, we can be sure that nothing happens to us without His permission. God works all things together for good for those who love Him. Even our misfortunes, heartbreaks, and sufferings are for our good and His glory. If we could see through the events of our lives to His ultimate purposes, we would choose these things ourselves, or at least understand them.

God has built a hedge around every child of God, and nothing can penetrate it without His permission. Even Satan recognizes this, as he made clear in his contest for Job's heart (see *Job 1:10*).

Now, let's follow this young man, Joseph, and see what is going to happen to him in Egypt.



On The Slave Block

At 17, Joseph would have been highly valuable on the slave market. He was purchased by Potiphar, **a captain of the guard in the military.** He was a **prominent official** in Pharaoh's army.

Even as a slave, the Lord was with Joseph, and He made him prosper. When Joseph arrived at Potiphar's house, blessings quickly followed. Everything Joseph did thrived. Potiphar entrusted Joseph with his entire household and all its details, knowing Joseph would handle all responsibilities for him. He believed in Joseph's integrity and trusted him. Since Potiphar was focused on pleasing Pharaoh, he allowed Joseph to manage his personal affairs.

We wish it was "and they lived happily ever after," but this is reality, not a fairy tale, and trouble soon followed Joseph.

Tempted, Then Framed

Potiphar had given Joseph complete control of his house, and he was busy. Also in the house was Potiphar's wife, and she was busy scheming. **Joseph was a handsome young man, and it's very possible that Potiphar was much older than his wife, as was common at the time. Joseph was in front of her every day, and eventually she tried to seduce him.**

Joseph's response is worth examining. First, he refused purely out of loyalty to Potiphar. "Look, my master ... has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor 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?" (*Genesis 39:8-9*)

Even in this temptation, this young man served God. Egypt was a land of idolatry, yet Joseph maintained a testimony for the living and true God and upheld a high moral standard, including a high view of marriage.

But the woman didn't give up. Every day, she tempted Joseph to sleep with her, yet Joseph didn't give in. **Soon, she builds up a boiling resentment against Joseph for his "rejection," and she's going to get her revenge.**

One day, as Joseph went about his business, she caught him alone and grabbed his clothes. He managed to get away from her, but she pulled off his cloak. **Seeing that she had a weapon to use, she shouted and accused him of attempted rape.**

She also accused her husband of bringing "this Hebrew slave" in to mock her. Potiphar had no choice but to defend his wife, though maybe he suspected something of her all along. Maybe he knew Joseph was being set up. Still, the easiest option was to remove Joseph and forget the whole matter.

Prison

Joseph's life had taken some serious turns. Once he was his father's favorite son, but his brothers betrayed him and sold him into slavery. He was faring well in his new role when he was unjustly accused of sexual assault by his boss's wife. Unable to defend himself, he was immediately thrown into prison. He clearly didn't stand a chance of freeing himself.

But even now, *Genesis 39:21* says, "But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy..."

First, the Lord granted Joseph favor with the prison guards. They liked him and came to trust him. **It was God who gave Joseph this favor. God was with him and was guiding him.** All of these experiences were moving toward fulfilling God's purpose in this young man's life. Joseph recognized this, and it lifted his spirit and gave him hope. His difficult circumstances didn't defeat him. **He saw God's hand on his life and refused to be discouraged.** Was it God's will that Joseph was in prison? It's almost essential that he be there.



Joseph and Jesus

Unlike any other figure in the Old Testament, Joseph's life highlights many details that are fulfilled in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's explore these comparisons:

Joseph

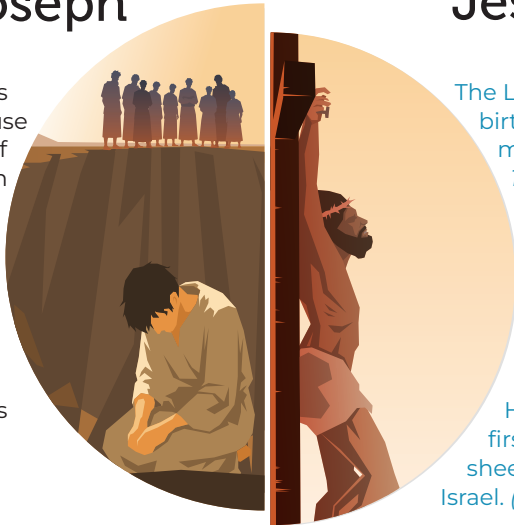
Joseph's birth was miraculous because it was the result of God's intervention as an answer to prayer.

Joseph was sent by his father to his brothers.

Joseph was loved by his father.

Joseph was hated by his brothers without reason.

Joseph had the coat of many colours, which set him apart.



Jesus

The Lord Jesus' virgin birth is definitely miraculous! (Luke 1:27)

Jesus was sent to His brothers; He first came to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (Matthew 15:24)

The Lord Jesus was loved by His Father, who declared, "This is My beloved Son." (Matthew 3:17)

This is what the Lord Jesus says about Himself: "They hated Me without a cause." (John 15:23-25)

Christ was set apart in that He was "separate from sinners." (Hebrews 7:26)

Joseph was sold by his own brothers for 20 pieces of silver

Joseph announced that he was to rule over his brothers, and they ridiculed Joseph's message.

Joseph was thrown into the pit, which was meant to be a place of death for him.

Joseph was raised up out of that pit.

Joseph obeyed his father when he was sent to find his brothers.

Joseph was mocked by his brothers. When they saw him approaching, they said, "Look, this dreamer is coming" (Genesis 37:19)

The brothers refused to receive Joseph, and they plotted to kill him.

The Lord Jesus was sold by one of His own brethren, Judas, for 30 pieces of silver. (Matthew 26:15)

The Lord Jesus presented Himself as the Messiah. They also ridiculed Jesus. In fact, nailed to His cross were the words: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. (Matthew 27:37)

The Lord Jesus was crucified. (Luke 23:33)

The Lord Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day. (Acts 10:40)

The Lord Jesus obeyed His Father so that He could say He always did the things that pleased His Father. (John 6:38-39)

The Lord Jesus was also mocked by His brothers. While He was on the cross, they said, "If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross." (Matthew 27:42)

The brethren of the Lord Jesus, the Jews, also refused to receive Him. We are told they conspired to execute the Lord Jesus. "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." (John 1:11)

Joseph's coat, dripping with blood, was returned to his father.

After Joseph was sold into Egypt, he was out of sight for many years.

Joseph was tempted by the world, the flesh, and the devil, and he resisted.

Joseph became the saviour of the world during this period, in a physical sense, he saved them from starvation.

Joseph was hated by his brothers, and they delivered him to the Gentiles. He couldn't defend himself, and he was unjustly accused.

Joseph had to suffer, although Potiphar probably knew he was innocent. Potiphar did not want to stand in shame before Pharaoh.

Joseph found favour in the sight of the jailer.

They took the coat of the Lord Jesus and gambled for it. *(Matthew 27:35)*

Christ ascended into heaven. He told His disciples that they would not see Him again until His return. *(John 16:16)*

The Lord Jesus was tempted by the world, the flesh, and the devil, and He won the victory. *(Luke 4:1-2)*

The Lord Jesus Christ in every sense is the Savior of the whole world. *(John 4:42)*

The Lord Jesus was also delivered by His own to the religious rulers, who in turn delivered Him to the Gentiles. He was innocent. *(Matthew 27:17-26)*

Pilate didn't believe the accusation that was brought against the Lord Jesus. He found Him innocent, yet he scourged Him. Pilate did not lose his face before Caesar. *(Luke 23:4)*

In the case of Jesus, the Roman centurion said of Him, "Certainly this was a righteous Man." *(Luke 23:47)*

Joseph was numbered with the transgressors. He was a blessing to the butler, and he brought judgment for the baker.

Joseph stood before Pharaoh when he was 30 years old.

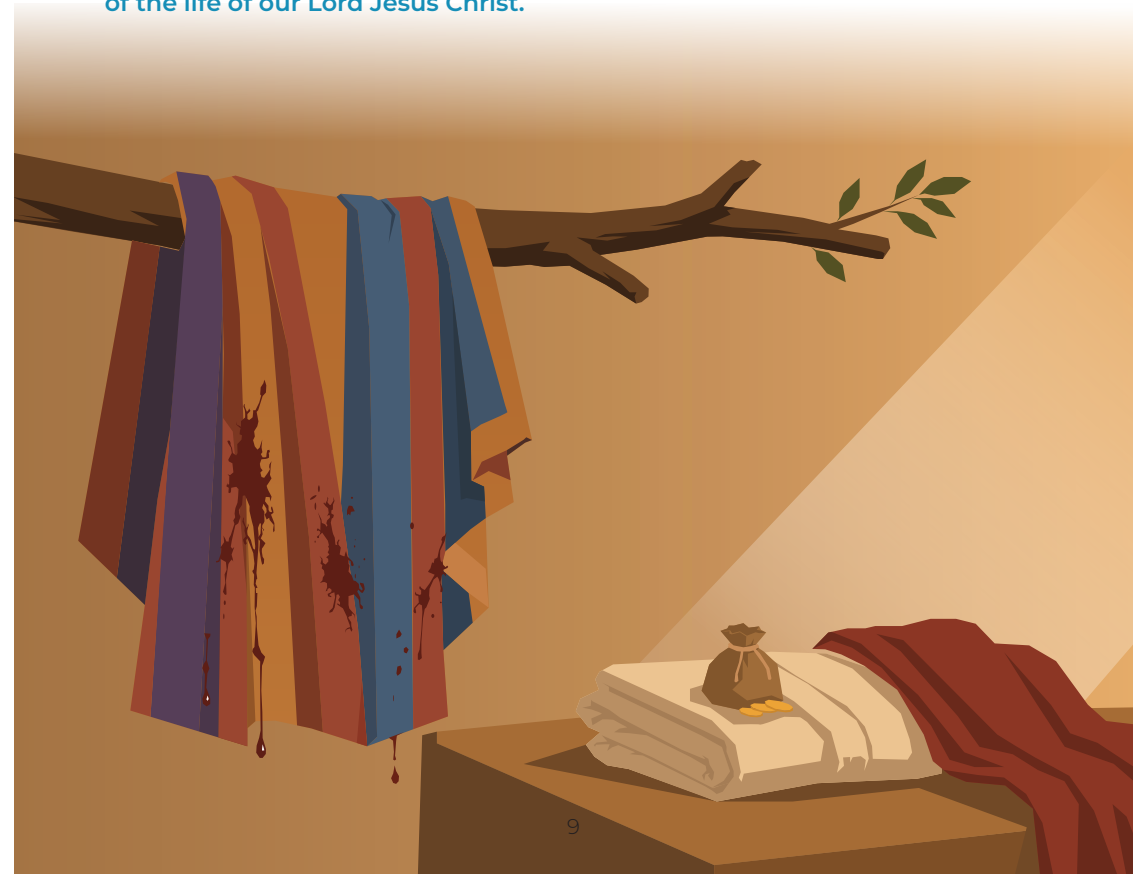
Joseph is the one who had the bread during the famine.

The Lord Jesus was crucified between two thieves. One was judged, and the other was blessed. *(Luke 23:39-43)*

The Lord Jesus began His ministry when He was 30. *(Luke 3:23)*

Jesus Christ said, "I am the bread of life." *(John 6:35)*

Without a doubt, there was something special about this man, Joseph. But as special as he was, nothing can compare to the beauty and majesty of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.



God's Eternal Truths

Relevant to us from Genesis 39

1

God is with His People in every Circumstance:

The Lord was with Joseph in Potiphar's house and in prison. God's presence was not removed by slavery, temptation, false accusation, or confinement. For believers today, God's nearness is not determined by outward comfort but by His covenant faithfulness. (*Genesis 39:2-3, 21-23; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20*)



2

Faithfulness to God must govern our Moral Choices:

Joseph refused Potiphar's wife because adultery was "great wickedness" and "sin against God." Even when no human authority seems to be watching, God calls His people to holiness, loyalty, and purity in body and heart. (*Genesis 39:7-9; Psalm 51:4; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20*)



3

Obedience to God may involve Unjust Suffering, but God still uses it for His Purpose:

Joseph did right and suffered for it. Yet the prison was not proof that God had abandoned him; it was part of God's path for Joseph's future calling. (*Genesis 39:19-23; 1 Peter 2:19-20; Romans 8:28*)



Reflection Questions

Question 1

God's Presence: In what situations do you tend to doubt God's presence - especially when life feels unfair, painful, or uncertain? Are you measuring God's nearness by your circumstances or by His promises? This week, how can you consciously acknowledge God's presence in your daily situations?

Question 2

Moral Faithfulness: Are there areas in your life where you are tempted to compromise because no one is watching? Do you view sin primarily as wrongdoing against people, or as an offence against God? What specific step can you take to guard your heart and maintain purity?

Question 3

Unjust Suffering: Have you ever done what is right and still experienced unfair treatment? Do you believe God is still at work in seasons that feel confusing or unjust? How can you choose to remain faithful in your current difficult situation?



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