

Genesis 39

King James Version (KJV)

(Joseph in Egypt)

39 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.

(Potiphar = belonging to the sun; he was the head of the Egyptian army)

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

³And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. (God blessed Joseph)

⁴And 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.

(Joseph was honest and hard working; he became the head of the household)

⁵And 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.

⁶And 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. (He earned it through hard work and honesty)

(Egyptians did not eat with the help. They saw it as degradation)

⁷And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. (Joseph was an attractive and nice young man)

⁸But 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; (Potiphar trusts Joseph. He's smart enough not to ruin that relationship over this loose woman. Potiphar must have known what his wife was like)

⁹There 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? (He won't betray God or Potiphar)

¹⁰And 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. (She keeps on trying to seduce Joseph. What a lowlife)

¹¹And 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. (The quartermaster's office would have been in the back of the main house. He saw her every day when he went to work)

¹²And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. (He ran out naked)

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

¹⁴That 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: (She was accusing Joseph of rape. Lust and rejection turn to hate – she is pure evil)

¹⁵And 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.

¹⁶And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.

¹⁷And 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: (She is falsely accusing Joseph of attempted rape)

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

¹⁹And 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.

(He was angry – but I think he knew his wife, and suspected there was more to the story. That’s probably why Joseph was thrown in prison, also under Potiphar, instead of being put to death)

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.

²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. (God intervened for Joseph’s sake. Potiphar was over the prison. He must have known that Joseph was not guilty)

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. (He put Joseph in charge of the daily business of the prison)

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. (People could see that God blessed everything that Joseph did for them)