



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

© 2007 Dr. Edgar Pierce

prosper. God blessed Potiphar because Potiphar was kind to Joseph.

Remember the promise to Abraham in *Genesis 12:3* **And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.** Joseph is the great-grandson of Abraham and God is keeping his promise to Abraham.

Potiphar had left such control to Joseph that he did not know what he even had. We see that Joseph was one who could be trusted to do right.

One thing that we must not let go unnoticed however is the last words of *Genesis 39:6* **...And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.**

II- Potiphar's Wife

This man Potiphar is said in *Genesis 39:1* to be **"an officer of Pharaoh."** The meaning of the word officer here given by *Strong's Dictionary* is **"...to castrate; a eunuch..."** With this fact, we can speculate that perhaps his wife had married him only for political or monetary reasons.

Now notice *Genesis 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. 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; 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?**

Joseph was a man of great integrity personally as well as politically. He could have easily rationalized away his morals and given in. He tells her that if he did so it would be a wickedness against his master and sin against God. All sin is ultimately against God though it affects and afflicts others around us.

David, after his adultery with Bathsheba confesses in *Psalms 51:1-4* **Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.** He then says in *Psalms 51:10* **Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.**

Notice next the temptation kept coming at him day by day. Wearing down resistance is one tactic of the enemy of moral living. *Genesis 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.**



Coordinates:
Gen 39:1-23

Sights to See:

- 1- God sees us in the midst of all our afflictions and prosperity.
- 2- God's blessings are seen in many ways that sometimes go unnoticed.
- 3- Temptation comes at us like waves on the ocean. Sometimes they are smaller sometimes in a torrid but always with another coming behind the last one.
- 4- Sometimes doing what is right may look like it was wrong to someone who does not have all the facts. By the way God is the only one with all the facts.
- 5- To cover our own sin we often create a smoke screen and divert attention to others.
- 6- God's hand of providence is always caring for us as He fleshing out our character and His purpose. We may not always like the fire we pass through but we can trust God.



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

© 2007 Dr. Edgar Pierce

that he left his garment with me, and fled out. 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.

The trap worked. After Potiphar returned, she again accused him of have bad judgment in bring Joseph into the house. When she tells her concocted story, he believes her and his anger is kindled toward Joseph.

VI- Providence Prison:

Surely, God would not allow His servant whom He had blesses and through him blessed all around him to end up in prison. Notice what takes place next. I have entitled this Providence Prison. God in His providence allows Joseph to end up in prison so He can bring him forth to palace of Pharaoh.

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

Did you notice that God still went before him into prison. He showed him mercy and before very long Joseph was running the prison he was in. This prison was up to what we would call modern day standards. We are told in *Genesis 41:14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.*

Even though Joseph was taking care of the prison, it was still dark, damp and not fit for animals let alone people. It is called a dungeon here.

Still in this place, God is going to provide the opportunities for Joseph to be used, in a great way. God was preparing Joseph to become the kind of man needed for a great task. His school was the school of hard knocks as we often say.

Now before we leave this Way Point let us notice one more thing. There are a total of 13 years that pass between Joseph at age 17, according to *Genesis 37:2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old...* being sold into slavery, and when Pharaoh brings him out of prison. He was 30 when he was released according to *Genesis 41:46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

We are not privileged with many details other than God showed him mercy and the keeper of the prison put him in charge. We do not know how long he was in Potiphar's house before he was cast into prison. However, we do know that Joseph continued to serve the best he could to the glory of God no matter the situation. How patient are we at times as we allow the providence of God to run it's course? We will see one component of our next Way Point another disappoint that occurred for Joseph. God is making the steel strong in this man for sure.