

GENESIS

Lesson 15

You shall be over my house . . .

JOSEPH AND POTIPHAR'S WIFE

Genesis 39:1-23

This episode in the life of Joseph shows him overcoming temptation and relying upon God. Four times in Genesis 39 we read the phrase, "The Lord was with Joseph (Genesis 39:2, 3, 21, 23). We should estimate Joseph to be about 25 years old at this time.



This story differs a little from the earlier patriarchs. In the case of Abraham and Isaac, it was a foreign ruler who wanted their wives. Now it is a foreign ruler's wife who wants one of the patriarchs.

1. **Describe the success of Joseph. (Genesis 39:2-3)**
2. **What position did Joseph hold in Potiphar's house? (Genesis 39:4-6)**

Potiphar's wife wanted a sexual relationship with Joseph seeing he was a handsome man. Though he refused, she asked him day after day to join him in her bed. Time and time again Joseph refused her. Then one day when the house was empty of men servants, she caught him by his clothing and begged him to go to bed with her. Again Joseph refused and this time fled even as Potiphar's wife clung his garment literally ripping it from his body. She then accused Joseph of trying to instigate a sexual affair with her. Potiphar became angry and threw Joseph into prison.

3. **What two reasons did Joseph give Potiphar's wife as to why he could not engage in a sexual relationship with her? (Genesis 39:7-10)**

4. What position did Joseph gain while in the prison? (Genesis 39:22-23)



JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS

Genesis 40:1-41:36

5. What two servants of Pharaoh came to be in the prison with Joseph (Genesis 40:1-4)

6. What were the dreams of the cupbearer and the baker and what were the interpretations? (Genesis 40:5-19)

7. What request did Joseph make of the cupbearer and did he grant it? (Genesis 40:14-15, 23)

Pharaoh was next to dream, two years after the cupbearer and the baker. Now the cupbearer remembers Joseph and relates his experience to Pharaoh.

8. What were Pharaoh's dreams and what did they mean? (Genesis 41:1-32)

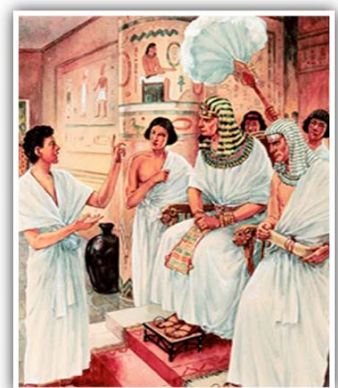
9. What was Joseph's recommendation to Pharaoh. (Genesis 41:33-46)

JOSEPH RISES TO POWER

Genesis 41:37-57

10. What position did Joseph receive from Pharaoh. (Genesis 41:38-45)

11. What name was Joseph given and who was given to him in marriage? (Genesis 41:45)



12. Describe how Joseph prepared for the famine and how well his plan worked (Genesis 41:46-57)

13. What two sons were born to Joseph prior to the famine? (Genesis 41:50-52)

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS GO TO EGYPT

Genesis 42:1-38

God provided for the children of Israel providentially as Joseph finds himself second in power in Egypt as a famine approaches. He is in position to help his family when Jacob sends his ten oldest sons to Egypt to buy grain. He did not allow Benjamin to make the trip.

14. How did Joseph treat his brothers when they came to buy grain? (Genesis 42:6-17)

15. What demand did Joseph make of his brothers? (Genesis 42:15-20)

Joseph pretended not to recognize his brothers so that he could gain information about his father and Benjamin. He also wanted to see how his brothers might have changed in the past twenty years. His brothers did not know he was Joseph because he spoke through an interpreter, they had not seen him for twenty years, and he would have been dressed like an Egyptian.

16. What (besides grain) did Joseph put in his brother's sacks of grain and how did the brothers react when they discovered what had been put in their sacks? (Genesis 42:25-35).

17. What did Rueben propose to his father? (Genesis 42:36-38)

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS RETURN TO EGYPT

Genesis 43:1-34

18. What forced the brothers to return to Egypt? (Genesis 43:1-2)

19. Why did Jacob allow Benjamin to go to Egypt? (Genesis 43:3-10)

20. What gifts did Jacob send to Egypt? (Genesis 43:11-14)

21. Describe the reaction of the brothers when they are brought to the house of Joseph. (Genesis 43:16-25)

The second meeting between Joseph and his brothers is filled with emotion. Joseph must have waited in eager expectation of this meeting since he first saw his brothers. He asked them about their welfare and then sought information about his father. When he saw Benjamin his emotions got the better of him and he had to leave the room to compose himself. Joseph reentered the room and asked for food to be served. Joseph had his brothers seated by age and they were amazed.

JOSEPH TESTS HIS BROTHERS

Genesis 44:1-34

In this final test of his brothers, Joseph is fully convinced that they have changed from what they were. Whereas they had sold him previously into slavery, now they were willing to do anything they could to protect Benjamin and their elderly father.

22. What did Joseph have placed in his brother's sacks? (Genesis 44:1-2)

23. What accusation does Joseph make against his brothers? (Genesis 44:3-5)

24. Why did the brothers tear their clothes in Genesis 44:13?

25. Describe the passionate plea of Judah. (Genesis 44:16-34)