

Genesis Chapter 39: Joseph's account, up to his being (109) sold to Ishmaelite slave traders, was detailed in Chapter 37.

He was the youngest, but "preferred" by Jacob. His 10 other brothers despised him because of his being Jacob's favorite and because he revealed that his dream's placed him as ruler over the family at some point. Now we pick up from there in chapter 39:

Genesis 39:1-6: Joseph is 17 years old (37:2) and in a strange land, surrounded by strange people doing strange things, but that does not seem to distress him. Why? Because Joseph senses the LORD's grace around him! And Potiphar, who was one of Pharaoh's top people, sensed something special about the lad and bought him. And sure enough he was right! Everything that Joseph did prospered, so much so that within a short amount of time this young man was running Potiphar's "house, and all that he had put under his authority". This was basically everything because the Scripture tells us that Potiphar trusted him so much so that "he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate" (basically, "except for what he had right in front of him"). So, not only did Joseph feel secure in the LORD's presence (the peace that surpasses all understanding) but Potiphar and his whole household also saw that Joseph was truly blessed.

Genesis 39:7: (Center satan through Potiphar's wife): Joseph being full of the Holy Spirit with his reverential fear of God was indeed righteous. And being righteous among the unrighteous is something that the devil can not stand! So Potiphar's wife, being morally bankrupt, hits on Joseph.

Genesis 39:8-9: Joseph speaks the truth in love! He does not beat around the bush, avoid her, play games, or anything else that could cause the sending of mixed signals. He tells her that he is honored to have been entrusted to all that he has and it would not ever enter his mind to take that which is forbidden. He did not want to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil!

Genesis 39:10 Satan, as far as God will allow, is going 110 to keep trying to destroy the reputation of people who walk with God. He continues to dig in to his arsenal and pulls out the same 3 tools that he has mastered, ① The lust of the eyes, ② the lust of the flesh, and ③ the Pride of Life; or to be like God (being exalted). And if those don't work then he tries to get permission to "Job" you. - "Day by day she spoke to him".

Genesis 39:11-15 ("Hell has no fury like a woman scorned"): Seeing that she can not break his character she resolves to have him punished, most likely killed. That would be the normal punishment for such a crime, especially against a high ranking official.

Genesis 39:16-20 She repeats the false accusation to Potiphar when he gets home. And although the Scripture says "his anger was aroused" I sense that much of his anger was towards his wife. I say that because people with evil traits don't just have them; "one and done". People like that have a history of honing their skills of evil. Not to say that Potiphar was innocent in this matter because I am sure that he "over looked" her behavior in the past choosing not to deal with it and this is what led to his trusted servant being put in this position. I think my theory is confirmed by the fact that Joseph was put in to the royal prison ("where the King's prisoners were confined) instead of being executed.

Genesis 39:21-23 (Down but by no-means out!): Joseph is taken down even further. Sentenced to even more Tribulation but still has contentment and peace in his turmoil. Why? Again, because the LORD is right there with him and even again blessing him in all that he does. So much so that it seems like in a very short time this less than 20 year old is now in charge of the King's prison. And even more notable; the Keeper of the prison lets him take over the prison.

note: the past two knock downs for Joseph have had great detail in the injustices that Joseph has had piled on top of him. But absolutely no detail on how Joseph complained to God about how these things were unfair! Not one mention.

of "why God why?": Joseph was not ignorant to what had been done to him to no fault of his own. I think (111) rather that Joseph had an attitude of, "I don't know why this is all happening Lord, but I trust you. I can feel your presence in all of this." He was able to hear what God told Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Rabbit trail (on the other side): We of course know that Joseph will survive all these persecutions and eventually save the whole nation of Israel by where God ultimately places him. But right now he does not. He only knows that God is in it and that's all the comfort and peace that he needs. At about 39 years old (based on Genesis 42-45 and the times between the two famines and Benjamin's age) he will see, "how his brothers had meant it for evil and how God meant it for good."

I can recognize that in my life like when I come out of a weeks long illness, or a month's long injury, where I am incapacitated and unable to participate in normal daily activities. Going through it is not pleasant, but the other side is always awesome and full of appreciation for the little things that I used to take for granted. Or how about the outside clean up on a beautiful Spring day after a brutal cold dark winter. Or the cool September and October days after the scorching summer months. Or a parents joy of holding God's gift of human life after 9 months of uncomfortable pregnancy.

Or how we struggle for a lifetime, as the minority, speaking the Truth in love to others and having our victories be few and far in between, yet still being refreshed, sometimes several times a week when we get together with our family of believers. Not always an easy walk. BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE: Yes, I am certain that when we are called home and here the most beautiful 7 words ever spoken ("Well done My good and faithful servant") we will feel like it was no effort at all.

I think that Joseph had this mindset of believing that the end result would be absolutely worth today's troubles. And I know for a fact that Jesus did!

Genesis 40:1 The baker and the butler offended their lord (which means ruler) and ended up in jail also. Lord = ruler, Lord = Jesus  
LORD = YAWEH / JEHOVA and many/most times the incarnate Christ.

Genesis 40:2-4: The butler and the baker end up in the same prison as Joseph and even under Joseph.

Genesis 40:5-8: While in prison both the butler and the baker had dreams that left them perplexed and distressed. (We have to understand that in the Old Testament times the Supernatural was more common. Even mindblowing. In Genesis through Malachi (and even the first 100 years A.D.) the ground would open up and swallow whole tribes, the Red Sea (with a depth of up to 9,970 feet) would spread itself open leaving dry ground at its base, a man could defeat hundreds, and even 1,000's under God's strength, a boy could slay a lion, a bear, and a 9' tall giant with a sling shot, the dead would be brought to life, a donkey would speak, the earth (or time) would stand still and the sundial would even turn back 10 degrees, a Child would be born of a virgin, an angel would intercede in a pending battle and wipe out 185,000 Assyrians, a large fish would be created to take Jonah on a Gilligan's Island tour, fire would engulf a bush but not consume it, demon's were everywhere, miracles would be brought about by God's prophets, and sorceries were performed as God would allow.

God would also, more frequently and definitively speak to people with a human voice, His own hand writing on a wall or on two tablets, and in Joseph's, the butlers, the bakers, and son Pharaoh's case in a dream. These were "visions" that when one had them you knew had a real meaning. Not like the "normal" weird dreams that we have in today's day and age. This is because the extreme Spiritual and spiritual activities have been restrained during this age of Grace that we have lived in for the past, almost, 2,000 years. And once the church is removed and the fullness of the Gentiles has come in and God starts the prophetic time clock back up again for the final 7 years of the fallen world's extinction then the extreme Supernatural occurrences will once again be common place as we...

horrifically witnessed as the Holy Spirit opened our eyes to in our study of the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

So these dreams had a meaning and this is what

perplexed them. And Joseph wisely recognized that they came from God and only He could interpret them.  
Genesis 40:9-11: The butler dreamed saw a vine with 3 branches,

They budded and he took the grapes and made wine for Pharaoh.

Genesis 40:12-13: Joseph, with God's interpretation, tells him that he will be restored in 3 days to serving Pharaoh.

Genesis 40:14-15: In complete faith that it would be so, Joseph asks the chief butler to remember him and to advocate for his release since he truly is an innocent <sup>young</sup> man.

Genesis 40:16-17: The baker, seeing that Joseph's revealing the dreams significance was positive, he decided to also ask Joseph for an interpretation. His dream had him carrying 3 baskets on his head full of all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh but that he noticed the birds were eating them.

Genesis 40:18-19: Joseph tells him that the 3 baskets are also 3 days but that in his case his head would not be lifted up in restoration but rather lifted off when he is hanged.

(And this is just another indicator that people who were guilty of a crime against the rulers were executed. If Potiphar truly believed Joseph did this horrendous act that he was accused of doing that he too would have been executed a while ago. I am sure that the Lord impressed upon Potiphar that it would not be right to do so!

Genesis 40:20-22: To the exact detail everything turned out exactly as Joseph had prophesied (Yes, it is always prophecy when a person speaks forth what God wants to be said. Prophecy is professing what God wants others to know.

Genesis 40:23: Yes, God is in everything and yes, all things work together for the good of those who love Him. But His timing is not always our timing. In this case it is not yet the perfect timing for Joseph's release. The butler forgot him. (Next week we will see that 2 years pass before the butler remembers him. We will not see Joseph complain to God about his predicament.