

Joseph Enslaved in Egypt  
Lesson #21  
Genesis 39:1-40:23

When Joseph arrived in Egypt it was already an ancient nation but highly civilized. The Egyptians were polytheistic, worshiping many gods. The reigning Pharaoh was most likely Hyksos, not an Egyptian but a conquering invader. It will help understand Joseph's story to know the Pharaoh was a descendant of Shem and called a "Shepherd King".

**Potiphar - Genesis 39:1-6a**

1. When Joseph arrived in Egypt, he was sold to a man named Potiphar. (Genesis 39:1)
  - Who was Potiphar?
  
  
  - How did he acquire Joseph?
  
2. What important information is given in Genesis 39, verse:
  - 2a
  
  
  - 2b
  
  
  - 3
  
3. How did Potiphar view Joseph? (Genesis 39:4)
  
  
4. What was the result? (Genesis 39:5, 6a)

**Potiphar's Wife - Genesis 39:6b - 23**

5. How old was Joseph when his brothers sold him into slavery? (Genesis 37:2a)

**Think about it!**

Joseph grew up the second youngest of twelve brothers and was his father's favorite. They lived in tents, were shepherds and spoke Hebrew. Egypt must have been overwhelming for Joseph.

6. While in Potiphar's service, Potiphar's wife "noticed him". What did Joseph look like? (Genesis 39:6b)
  
7. What did Potiphar's wife want from Joseph? (Genesis 39:7)
  
8. Joseph had been taught the ways of the LORD (Yahweh) by his father Jacob. Even as a teen, Joseph was a man of integrity. What was Joseph's answer to Potiphar's wife and why? (Genesis 39:8, 9)
  
9. Did she accept his answer? (Genesis 39:10)
  
10. How was Potiphar's wife finally able to "catch" Joseph? (Genesis 39:11, 12)
  
11. Since Joseph still wouldn't give in to her, how did this scorned woman draw attention to herself? (Genesis 39:13-15)
  
12. Now that she had "witnesses", what did she do with his cloak? (Genesis 39:16)
  
13. When Potiphar came home, what story did his wife tell him? (Genesis 39:17, 18)
  
14. What did she call Joseph? (Genesis 39:19)
  
15. What was Potiphar's reaction? (Genesis 39:19b, 20)

16. But Joseph had been falsely accused and now found himself in the palace prison. Who else was with Joseph in prison? (Genesis 39:21a)
  
17. What was the result? (Genesis 39:21b-23a)
  
18. One more time we are reminded that Joseph was not alone. Who was with him and what was the result? (Genesis 39:23b)

### **Pharaoh's Cupbearer and Baker - Genesis 40:1-23**

The text does not tell us how long Joseph was in the service of Potiphar or in prison, but at this point, Joseph had been in captivity for a total of eleven years. Joseph was 28 years old and in charge of all who were held in the palace prison.

19. Why did the king of Egypt (Pharaoh) have his cupbearer and baker imprisoned? (Genesis 40:1, 2)
  
20. Whose custody did Pharaoh put them under? (Genesis 40:3)
  - Who was that? (Genesis 39:1)
  
21. To whom did the captain of the guard assign these two high officials? (Genesis 40:4)
  
22. What does that tell you about Joseph's relationship with Potiphar?
  - Who do you think Potiphar was angry with? (Genesis 39:19)

For context, Potiphar stood daily in the presence of the Pharaoh. It was required for anyone close to the Pharaoh to be a eunuch. Because Potiphar was Egyptian and married (Genesis 39:1), this may have been a voluntary act after he was married to obtain this high position.

23. While they were under Joseph's care, each had a unique dream. What did Joseph notice the next morning? (Genesis 40:5, 6)
  
24. What did Joseph ask them? (Gen. 40:7)
  
25. What was their answer to Joseph? (Genesis 40:8a)
  
26. How did Joseph respond to their concerns? (Genesis 40:8b)
  
27. Who was the first to talk with Joseph? (Genesis 40:9a)
  
28. What was his dream? (Genesis 40:9b - 11)
  
29. What was Joseph's interpretation? (Genesis 40:12, 13)
  
30. What was Joseph's request? (Genesis 40:14, 15)
  
31. When the baker saw the cupbearer had gotten a favorable interpretation, he told Joseph about his dream. What was the baker's dream? (Genesis 40:16, 17)
  
32. What was Joseph's interpretation? (Genesis 40:18, 19)

33. What happened on the third day? (Genesis 40:20a)

34. What else did the Pharaoh do? (Genesis 40:20b-22)

35. How does this chapter end? (Genesis 40:23)