

# CHRIST

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Passage: Genesis 39:1 - 42:46

Lesson: **From Prison to Prominence**

Bereans 4 January 2026





Mediterranean Sea

CANAAN

EGYPT

The Way of the Sea

Dothan

Shechem

Hebron

Dead Sea

# **Joseph: From Prison to Prominence**

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**Theme: Integrity, faithfulness, and trust in God's goodness are essential even when life seems unfair. Joseph's story reminds us that God's plan often unfolds through trials and difficulty, and His faithful presence ensures blessings despite life's circumstances.**

# Genesis 39:1-23

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## **I. Potiphar's Name & Joseph's Condition. (1)**



GOD OF  
EGYPT

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# **Genesis 39:1-23**

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**I. Potiphar's Name & Joseph's Condition. (1)**

**II. God's Presence & Joseph's Success. (2-6)**

**Divine Providence: *God's care for the creation, involving His preserving its existence and meticulously guiding it to His intended ends.***

*Bible Doctrine*

**Edited by John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue**

***God's providence is His wise, kind, and minute care over all creation, governing both great events and the smallest details for the good of His people and the glory of His name.***

**Charles Spurgeon**



## **Isaiah 46:9-10**

**<sup>9</sup> “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me,**

**<sup>10</sup> Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.**

## **Daniel 4:35**

**All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’**

## **2 Corinthians 4:16-18.**

**<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.**

**<sup>17</sup> For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

# **Application:**

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**True success is measured by God's presence in our lives and that is manifested in our integrity and trust in God during the good times and as well as difficult times.**



# **Genesis 39:1-23**

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**I. Potiphar's Name & Joseph's Condition. (1)**

**II. God's Presence & Joseph's Success. (2-6)**

**III. Joseph's Temptation & His Integrity. (7-10)**

***When I regarded God as a tyrant, I thought sin a trifle; but when I knew Him to be my father, then I mourned that I could ever have kicked against Him. When I thought that God was hard, I found it easy to sin; but when I found God so kind, so good, so overflowing with compassion, I smote upon my breast to think that I could ever have rebelled against one who loved me so and sought my good.***

**Charles Spurgeon**

# **Application:**

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**Temptation will come—whether in secret habits, workplace shortcuts, or moral compromises. Providence doesn't remove temptation; it empowers us to resist.**

## **Proverbs 29:25**

**The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.**

# **Genesis 39:1-23**

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**I. Potiphar's Name & Joseph's Condition. (1)**

**II. God's Presence & Joseph's Success. (2-6)**

**III. Joseph's Temptation & His Integrity. (7-10)**

**IV. Joseph's Purity & His Persecution. (11-20)**



# **Application:**

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**We may face slander, unfair treatment, or betrayal. Providence reminds us that injustice is not the end of the story. God can use even false accusations to position us for His greater purposes.**

# **Genesis 39:1-23**

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**I. Potiphar's Name & Joseph's Condition. (1)**

**II. God's Presence & Joseph's Success. (2-6)**

**III. Joseph's Temptation & His Integrity. (7-10)**

**IV. Joseph's Purity & His Persecution. (11-20)**

**V. God's Presence & Joseph's Prosperity. (21-23)**

# Implications:

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- **God's Presence in Trials:** The repeated phrase “the Lord was with Joseph” shows that God's presence is not limited to success or comfort.
- **Providence in Setbacks:** Our disappointments may be divine appointments, preparing us for opportunities we cannot yet see.

# **Genesis 40:1-23**

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## **I. God's Providential Care & Joseph's Faithful Response. (chapter 40)**

### **Proverbs 21:1**

**The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.**



# **Application:**

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**Genesis 40 teaches us that it's right to desire and pursue better circumstances, but true faith is shown when we trust God's timing and remain faithful where He has placed us.**

## **Psalm 37:3-7**

**<sup>3</sup> Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. <sup>4</sup> Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. <sup>6</sup> He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday. <sup>7</sup> Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him;**

# **Genesis 41:1-46**

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## **I. Pharaoh's Dreams & Egypt's Distress. (1–8)**

## **Romans 8:28-30**

**<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.**



# **Genesis 41:1-46**

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**I. Pharaoh's Dreams & Egypt's Distress. (1–8)**

**II. Joseph Remembered & His Humble Readiness. (9–16)**

**III. Joseph's Interpretation & God's Revelation. (17–32)**

# **Application:**

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**Do we engage people conversations like this?**

**Ecclesiastes 12:13**

**The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.**

# **Genesis 41:1-46**

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**I. Pharaoh's Dreams & Egypt's Distress. (1–8)**

**II. Joseph Remembered & His Humble Readiness. (9–16)**

**III. Joseph's Interpretation & God's Revelation. (17–32)**

**IV. Joseph's Counsel & Pharaoh's Confidence. (33–36)**

**V. Joseph's Exaltation & His New Commission. (37–46)**

# **Application:**

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- 1. God's timing may feel slow, but it is always purposeful.**

## **Psalm 27:14**

**Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.**

# **Application:**

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- 1. God's timing may feel slow, but it is always purposeful.**
- 2. God can elevate a person in a moment when His time arrives.**

## **Psalm 75:6-7**

**<sup>6</sup> For not from the east, nor from the west, Nor from the desert comes exaltation; <sup>7</sup> But God is the Judge; He puts down one and exalts another.**



# **Application:**

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- 1. God's timing may feel slow, but it is always purposeful.**
- 2. God can elevate a person in a moment when His time arrives.**
- 3. God positions His people for the sake of His larger redemptive plan.**

## **Ephesians 2:10**

**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

# **Theological Definition of “Type”**

**A “Type” is an actual historical event or person that in some ways symbolizes or anticipates a later occurrence; particularly, an Old Testament foreshadowing of a New Testament event.**

# Types of Christ

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## Both were rejected and mistreated despite innocence

### Joseph

- Falsely accused by Potiphar's wife
- Imprisoned though he had done nothing wrong
- Suffered injustice quietly and faithfully

### Christ

- Falsely accused by religious leaders
- Condemned though Pilate declared Him innocent
- Suffered injustice without retaliation

# Types of Christ

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## Both were faithful servants in every circumstance

### Joseph

- Served faithfully in Potiphar's house
- Served faithfully in prison
- Served faithfully before Pharaoh

### Christ

- Took the form of a servant (Phil. 2:7)
- Obeyed the Father perfectly
- Served the broken, the poor, and the outcast

# Types of Christ

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## Both were exalted by God after suffering

### Joseph

- Goes from prison to the palace in a single day
- Given authority over Egypt
- Receives a new name and honor

### Christ

- Goes from the cross to resurrection
- Exalted to the right hand of the Father (Phil. 2:9–11)
- Given the name above every name

# Types of Christ

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## Both became sources of salvation for others

### Joseph

- Interprets Pharaoh's dreams
- Stores grain
- Saves Egypt and surrounding nations from famine

### Christ

- Offers the bread of life
- Saves the world from sin and death
- Provides eternal life



# Types of Christ

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## Both were recognized by Gentiles before their own people

### Joseph

- Pharaoh and the Egyptians honor him
- His own brothers do not recognize him at first

### Christ

- Gentiles (wise men, Roman centurion, Greeks) acknowledge Him
- His own people largely reject Him

# Types of Christ

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## Both speak only what God reveals

### Joseph

- “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh the answer”  
(Gen. 41:16)
- Gives God full credit for revelation

### Christ

- “The Son can do nothing of His own accord”  
(John 5:19)
- Speaks only what the Father gives Him

# Types of Christ

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## Both were given authority to rule

### Joseph

- Pharaoh places all Egypt under his authority
- Only Pharaoh is greater in the throne

### Christ

- All authority in heaven and earth is given to Him (Matt. 28:18)
- Rules as King of kings

# Types of Christ

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## Both bring reconciliation

### Joseph

- Eventually reconciles with his brothers
- Extends forgiveness to those who wronged him

### Christ

- Reconciles humanity to God
- Offers forgiveness to His enemies