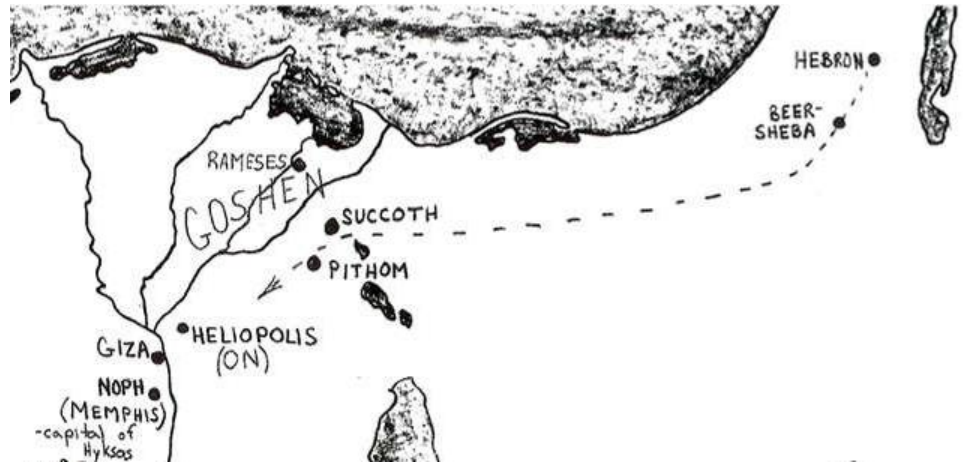


Genesis 39:1-23

Genesis 39:1 – Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.



39:2 – The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.

6743 [e]	582 [e]	1961 [e]	3130 [e]	854 [e]	3068 [e]	1961 [e]
maṣ·lī·ah;	ʾīš	way·hī	yō·w·sēḇ,	ʾet-	Yah·weh	way·hī
מַצְלִיחַ	אִישׁ	וַיְהִי	יֹסֵף	אֶת־	יְהוָה	וַיְהִי 2
successful	a man	and he was	Joseph	with	Yahweh	And was
V-Hifil-Prtcpl-ms	N-msc	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms	N-proper-ms	Prep	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms

4713 [e]	113 [e]	1004 [e]	1961 [e]
ham·miṣ·rī.	ʾă·dō·nāw	bə·bēt	way·hī
הַמִּצְרִי:	אֲדֹנָיו	בְּבֵית	וַיְהִי
the Egyptian	of his master	in the house	and he was
Art N-proper-ms	N-mpc 3ms	Prep-b N-msc	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms

1. “Lord” is YHWH the personal name for God. This indicates the God (Elohim) of the universe is personally involved in Joseph’s life.

39:3 – When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did,

39:4 – Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

1. Even though Joseph had been through hardships and had been treated unfairly Joseph was able to maintain a personality and a work ethic that was recognized as beneficial to others and not a detriment to individuals, a home or society.

39:5 – From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.

1. Just as Laban’s house was blessed because of Jacob’s presence, now, Potiphar’s house is blessed because of Joseph’s presence.

39:6 – So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph’s care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,

518 [e]	3588 [e]	3972 [e]	854 [e]	3045 [e]	3808 [e]	3130 [e]	3027 [e]	834 [e]	3605 [e]	5800 [e]	
'im-	kī	mə-'ū-māh,	'it-tōw	yā-da'	wə-lō-	yō-w-sēp	bə-yad-	lōw	'ā-šer-	kāl-	way-ya-'ā-zōb
אִם	כִּי	מֵאִמָּה	אֵתוֹ	יָדָע	וְלֹא	יֹסֵף	בְּיָד-	לֹא	אֲשֶׁר-	כָּל-	וַיֵּזֶב
for	except	with anything	himself	concerns	and not	of Joseph	in hand	he had	that	all	Thus he left
Conj	Conj	N-ms	Prep 3ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	N-proper-ms	Prep-b N-fsc	Prep 3ms	Pro-r	N-msc	Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3ms

4758 [e]	3303 [e]	8389 [e]	3303 [e]	3130 [e]	1961 [e]	398 [e]	1931 [e]	834 [e]	3899 [e]
mar-'eh.	wī-pēh	tō-'ar	ye-pēh-	yō-w-sēp,	way-hī	'ō-w-kēl;	hū	'ā-šer-	hal-le-ḥem
מַרְאֵה:	וַיִּהְיֶה	תָּאָר	יִפְהַ-	יֹסֵף	וַיְהִי	אָכַל	הוּא	אֲשֶׁר-	הַלֶּחֶם
in appearance	and handsome	in form	handsome	Joseph	And was	ate	he	which	the bread
N-ms	Conj-w Adj-msc	N-ms	Adj-msc	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3ms	V-Qal-Prtclp-ms	Pro-3ms	Pro-r	Art N-ms

1. The ancient Egyptians had particular dietary practices as is seen again in Genesis 43:32. So, Potiphar did not want Joseph overseeing his food.
 - a. This was likely due to different dietary laws and religious traditions.
 - b. This highlights the cultural barrier, as a foreigner like Joseph would not have been involved in the preparation of his Egyptian master’s personal meals.
 - c. “They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.” – GENESIS 43:32

39:7 – and after a while his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!”

5869 [e] 'ē-ne-hā עֵינֶיהָ	853 [e] 'et- אֶת	113 [e] 'ā-dō-naw אֲדֹנָיו	802 [e] 'ē-šet- אִשְׁתּוֹ	5375 [e] wat-tis-šā וַתִּשָּׂא	428 [e] hā-'ēl-leh, הָאֵלֵה	1697 [e] had-de-bā-rim הַדְּבָרִים	310 [e] 'a-ḥar אַחֲרַי	1961 [e] way-hī, וַיְהִי
her eyes	-	of his master	the wife	that cast	these	things	after	And it came to pass
N-cdc 3fs	DirObjM	N-mpc 3ms	N-fsc	Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3fs	Art Pro-cp	Art N-mp	Adv	Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3ms

5973 [e] 'im-mī. עִמִּי	7901 [e] šik-bāh שִׁכְבָּהּ	559 [e] wat-tō-mer וַתֹּאמֶר	3130 [e] yō-w-sēp; יֹסֵף	413 [e] 'el- אֵל
with me	Lie	and she said	Joseph	on
Prep 1cs	V-Qal-Imp-ms 3fs	Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3fs	N-proper-ms	Prep

1. Potiphar’s wife says only two words:

39:8 – But he refused. “With me in charge,” he told her, “my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.

39:9 – No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?”

1. Three reasons Joseph provides:

- a. My master trusts me with everything.
- b. She is his wife.
- c. Sin against God

2. Proverbs 6 indicates there is no recovery, no payment, no excuse for adultery:

- 27 Can a man carry fire next to his chest
and his clothes not be burned?
- 28 Or can one walk on hot coals
and his feet not be scorched?
- 29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife;
none who touches her will go unpunished.
- 30 People do not despise a thief if he steals
to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry,
- 31 but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold;
he will give all the goods of his house.
- 32 He who commits adultery lacks sense;
he who does it destroys himself.
- 33 He will get wounds and dishonor,
and his disgrace will not be wiped away.
- 34 For jealousy makes a man furious,
and he will not spare when he takes revenge.
- 35 He will accept no compensation;
he will refuse though you multiply gifts.

39:10 – And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

39:11 – One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside.

39:12 – She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

39:13 – When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house,

39:14 – she called her household servants. “Look,” she said to them, “this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.

7200 [e] re-'û, ראו Look V-Qal-Imp-mp	559 [e] lê-môr, לאמר saying Prep-I V-Qal-Inf	la-hem להם to them Prep 3mp	559 [e] wat-tô-mer ותאמר and spoke Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmp-3fs	1004 [e] bê-tah, ביתה of her house N-msc 3fs	376 [e] lê-'an-šê לאנשי to the men Prep-I N-mpc	7121 [e] wat-tiq-râ ותקרא that she called Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmp-3fs
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"saheq" = "laugh, mock, play, make sport"

5973 [e] 'im-mî, עמי with me Prep 1cs	7901 [e] liš-kab לשקב to lie Prep-I V-Qal-Inf	413 [e] 'ê-lay אלי to me Prep 1cs	935 [e] bā בא He came in V-Qal-Perf-3ms
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6711 [e] lê-ša-heq לצחק to mock Prep-I V-Piel-Inf	5680 [e] 'ib-rî עברי Hebrew N-proper-ms	376 [e] 'îš איש a man N-ms	935 [e] lā-nū לנו to us Prep 1cp	hê-bî הביא he has brought in V-Hifil-Perf-3ms
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"came in to lie with me"
is more specific than
"he came into me"

1419 [e] gā-dô-wl. גדול loud Adj-ms	6963 [e] bē-qō-wl בקול in a voice Prep-b N-ms	7121 [e] wā-'eq-râ ואקרא and I cried out Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmp-1cs
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1. "Calling out" clears the woman of guilt. Even in Deut. 22:23-27:

"If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbor's wife. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

"But if in the open country a man meets a young woman who is betrothed, and the man seizes her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die. But you shall do nothing to the young woman; she has committed no offense punishable by death. For this case is like that of a man attacking and murdering his neighbor, because he met her in the open country, and though the betrothed young woman cried for help there was no one to rescue her."

39:15 – **When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."**

39:16 – **She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home.**

39:17 – **Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me.**

5650 [e] hā-'e-bed העבד servant Art N-ms	413 [e] 'ê-lay אלי to me Prep 1cs	935 [e] bā- בא came in V-Qal-Perf-3ms
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559 [e] lê-môr; לאמר saying Prep-I V-Qal-Inf	428 [e] hā-'êl-leh האלה like these Art Pro-cp	1697 [e] kad-dē-bā-rîm כדברים with words Prep-k, Art N-mp	413 [e] 'ê-lāw, אליו to him Prep 3ms	1696 [e] wat-te-dab-bêr ותדבר And she spoke Conj-w V-Piel-Conseclmp-3fs
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"saheq" = "laugh, mock, play, make sport"

"came in to me"
is not the same thing
as saying
**"he tried to have sex
with me"**

bî. בי me Prep 1cs	6711 [e] lê-ša-heq לצחק to mock Prep-I V-Piel-Inf	935 [e] lā-nū לנו to us Prep 1cp	834 [e] hê-bē-tā הבאת you brought V-Hifil-Perf-2ms	5680 [e] hā-'ib-rî העברי the Hebrew Art N-proper-ms
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39:18 – But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

39:19 – When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger.

1. Potiphar may have been angry at his wife

39:20 – Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison,

1. Jails were not common. Prisoners were punished with a penalty or execution. There were not normally confined to prison.
2. Joseph is placed in a prison with the king’s (pharaoh’s) prisoners were kept. Potiphar is NOT the king. These are political prisoners waiting for a trial and a decision
3. If Joseph was guilty, he would have been punished. Since he was a slave, he should be executed immediately if Potiphar thought he was guilty.
4. Joseph is in prison like the baker and cupbearer while the crime is being investigated.
5. Potiphar is “the captain of the guard” in 39:1
 - a. Joseph will meet officials of Pharaoh in “the house of the captain of the guard (40:3)
 - b. Joseph is in prison detained under Potiphar’s supervision and once again is given authority.
 - c. So, Joseph continues to work for Potiphar, but is moved to another part of Potiphar’s house.
 - d. Potiphar’s original anger may have been directed towards his wife. And, Joseph is moved to a different place of authority.
6. There is no recording of Potiphar asking Joseph his side of the story.

39:21 – the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

39:22 – So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.

1. “Placed”
 - a. Potiphar placed Joseph in prison (39:20)
 - b. YHWH disposed the chief Jailer in his favor (39:21)
 - c. Jailer placed prisoners in Joseph’s charge (39:22)

39:23 – The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

1. Joseph and the jailer have a similar relationship as Joseph and Potiphar