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Genesis 39-40

Joseph now becomes the central figure in the remainder of Genesis, more is written about him than any of the patriarchs.

-He has been said to be a beautiful type of Christ and in the past I have also taught that, but in reality there is no basis for that conclusion.

There is not one Old or New Testament text that teaches he is a type of Christ.

-What I think is more Biblical is that there are many parallel between Joseph and Christ, this can not be denied, but they are not types.

-Joseph offers us many practical lessons regarding difficulties that are beyond our control in life and often are judged to be unfair and unjust by us.

-But God is complete behind them, working His purposes and plan for our lives.

-Chapter 39-41 are a unit revealing the hand of God to fulfill what He has decreed beforehand, called prophecy!

He has been sold by his brothers to the Midianites who in turn sold him to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's and captain of the guard. Gen. 37:36

39:1-6 **The sale of Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar.**

39:1 The person who bought Joseph.

- 1) His name was Potiphar, "powtiyphar" which means "belonging to the sun".
. Vs. 1a-b, e
- 2) He was an officer of Pharaoh. Vs. 1c
 - a) The word officer "caryc" is based on the root to castrate, so it is used for both an officer and a eunuch.
 - b) Context is import, it is very evident that he is not a literal eunuch, he is married. Vs. 7
- 3) He is a captain of the guard. Vs. 1d
 - a) The word captain "sar" the prince or ruler, a chieftain.
 - b) The word for guard "tabbach" means executioner.
 - c) Potiphar was the ruling executioner of Pharaoh.
- 4) He bought him from the Ishmaelites. Vs. 1f
 - a) This ties the last verse of chapter 37, to the event of chapter 39. Gen. 37:36
 - b) Egypt is a type of the world that lives apart from God.

39:2 The success of Joseph.

- 1) Yahweh enabled Joseph, this was the secret of his success and perseverance.
Vs. 2a-b

* The covenant name of God Yahweh permeates the chapter. Vs. 2, 3(2x's), 5(2x's), 21, 23(2x's)

2) Yahweh did it through the service to his master Potiphar. Vs. 2c

* We are In the world but not of the world, Jn. 17:11, 14

39:3-4 The promotion of Joseph.

1) Potiphar understood God was with Joseph and that it would benefit him. Vs. 3

a) His master saw that Yahweh was with him, implying a personal relationship.

* The word saw “ra’ ah” means to behold or consider and perceive.

b) His master saw that the Yahweh made all he did to prosper in his hand.

1) The word hand “yod” is key to the text, appearing eight times.

2) Six times it is used symbolically to infer under the management and authority of Joseph, as in this verse, being translated “hand” and “authority”. Vs. 3, 4, 6, 8, 22, 23

3) While it is used in a symbolic way, we must make sure we understand that it is applied in a literal way.

4) The other two times it is used in a literal way, for the wife of Potiphar. Vs. 12, 13

2) Joseph found favor and was promoted to overseer his personal service. Vs. 4

a) All that he had he put under his authority. Vs. 4c

b) At times people will see the profit of being joined to Christians without any intention of being joined to Christ.

39:5-6 The promotion of Joseph to head steward.

1) From the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed Potiphar’s house for Joseph’s sake. Vs. 5a-c

2) The extent was all that he had in the house and in the field. Vs. 5d

3) Potiphar delegated all things to his hand except for his personal matters and did not check on him. Vs. 6a-b

4) We are told that Joseph was handsome in form and appearance, meaning in face and physic. Vs. 6c

a) Joseph was seventeen when his brothers sold him to the Ishmaelites.

b) Joseph had to have been twenty-eight years of age at this time and the event of the next chapter, which do not indicate any great passage of time.

c) Joseph two years later was brought before Pharaoh to interpret his dream,

being thirty years of age. Gen. 41:1, 46

39:7-20b The test of Joseph in the house of Potiphar.

39:7-9 The wife of Potiphar propositioned Joseph.

- 1) She had been lusting after Joseph for a long time and cast longing eyes on him. Vs. 7a
 - a) Joseph was 17 when he was sold to the Ishmaelites.
 - b) Joseph seems to have been brought directly to Egypt, so if that is so, he had been in the house of Potiphar for ten to eleven years.
- 2) She approached Joseph and said, “Lie with me.” Vs. 7b

* He is at a time in his life when his sexual drive is very strong.
- 3) She was refused by Joseph immediately. Vs. 8-9
 - a) The sharp contrast of her advances and his refusal is marked by the statement, “But”. Vs. 8a
 - b) He told her it would be a treacherous breach of trust, first of all. Vs. 8b-d
 - c) He secondly told her, adultery would be a crime against her husband. Vs. 9a-c

d) He thirdly told her that the primary person being betrayed by such an evil act, God, “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” Vs. 9d-e

- 1) David in his confession to God for his adultery with Bathsheba said, “Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight”. Ps. 51:4a-c
- 2) It is the only sin against your own body. 1Cor. 6:18
- 3) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Ja. 4:7
- 4) Christians give many warnings to young ladies regarding sexual seduction, yet exclude the seduction of the young or older man by the woman. Prov. 5:2-5, 6:23-29, 32

39:10-12 The wife of Potiphar became more aggressive towards Joseph. Vs. 10-12

- 1) She pursued Joseph attempting to wear him down day by day. Vs. 10a-b
- 2) He did not heed her.” Vs. 10b
- 3) Nor to lie with her or to be with her. Vs. 10c
- 4) She plotted to trap Joseph and throw herself at him, finding the opportune time

when none of the men were in the house.
Vs. 11

- 5) Due to her sexual aggressiveness, she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” Vs. 12a-c
- 6) Joseph resisted and ran naked, leaving his long loose robe or mantle with her Vs. 12d
 - a) Flee youthful lust. 2Tim. 2:22
 - b) There *has no* testing taken you... 1Cor. 10:13
 - c) Trials more precious than gold. 1Pet. 1:6-7
 - d) Beloved, think it not strange... 1Pet. 4:12
 - e) Testings develop: 1) dependency; 2) character; 3) maturity for God's good works in the future. Eph. 2:10

39:13-15 The wife of Potiphar consequently falsely accused Joseph of attempted rape to the servants. Vs. 13-15

- 1) She responded immediately when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside, Vs. 13
- 2) She blamed her husband and spoke derogatory about Joseph and slandered him. Vs. 14
 - a) She blamed her husband before the servants, for having brought Joseph in the house. Vs. 14a-d

- b) She used racial overtones, “a Hebrew to mock us.” Vs. 14d
- c) She accused Joseph of rape, “He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.” Vs. 14e-f
- 3) She covered herself of any fault and made herself the victim. Vs. 15
 - a) She resisted by yelling. Vs. 15a-b
 - b) She frightened him away, leaving his garment with her. Vs. 15c-d

39:16-20a-b The wife of Potiphar accused Joseph of attempting to rape her to her husband Potiphar. Vs. 16-20

- 1) She played the drama queen and kept the garment by her side until his master came home.” Vs. 16
 - a) She had to make herself credible.
 - b) She had to convince her husband.
- 2) She accused her husband to his face by speaking these words. Vs. 17
 - * She said to mock “us”. Vs. 14
- 3) She recounted how she lifted her voice and cried out and that he left his garment with me and fled outside.” Vs. 18
 - * Her lust turned to hate and bitterness with a desire for revenge, being a woman scorned.
- 4) She accomplished her goal, his anger was aroused.” Vs. 19

* We are not told who he was angry at, most likely her, he had just lost his most profitable slave.

- 5) She accomplished what she wanted, but Joseph was put him into the king's prisoners were confined. Vs. 20a-b
- a) It is apparent that Potiphar did not believe his wife or he would have had Joseph executed.
- b) The prison was a special prison for the servants of the king not the common population and Potiphar as the captain of the guard most likely was over the prison.

39:20c-23 The favor of Joseph in Egypt.

39:20c-21 The Lord influenced the ruler of the prison to favor Joseph.

- 1) The contrast is obvious by the word "but" marking the great contrast of power between Potiphar and Yahweh. Vs. 20c-21a
- a) Though Potiphar put Joseph in prison, the LORD Yahweh was with Joseph.
- b) Protection is implied throughout the entire chapter!
- 2) Potiphar had been merciful to Joseph by giving to Joseph less than he should of got, but Yahweh showed Joseph steadfast love. Vs. 21a

- a) The word mercy is "heced", it is a covenant word of God's faithfulness. Gen. 24:12; Ex. 20:6; Deut. 5:10
- b) The words steadfast love and loving-kindness would be a good translation.
- 3) The Lord Yahweh gave Joseph favor in the sigh of the keeper of the prison. Vs. 21b
- * The word favor "chen" means grace, acceptance, the same as with Potiphar. Vs. 2

39:22 The ruler of the prison delegated the prison to Joseph. Vs. 22

- 1) The keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison. Vs. 22a
- * Like in the house of Potiphar all was handed over to Joseph and promoted to be the head-steward.
- 2) Whatever they did there, it was his doing. Vs. 22b
- a) Joseph administrated and managed all things.
- b) "For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another." Ps. 75:6-7

39:23 The ruler of the prison knew God was with Joseph. Vs. 23

1) The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority. Vs. 23a

* In other words he did not check on Joseph's stewardship.

2) The reason were two. Vs. 23b

a) "Because the LORD was with him." Vs. 23b

b) And whatever he did The LORD made it prosper." Vs. 23c

1)) He knew Yahweh was behind all the success.

2)) The chapter began with such a statement. Vs. 2, 3

3) The same word appears in all three verses, "tsalach", which means to advance, make progress or be profitable, translated "successful" and "prosper".

* Paul said, "I am a prisoner of Jesus Christ".

40:1-4 The butler and the baker were imprisoned.

40:1-2 The reason for their imprisonment.

1) The duration of time is uncertain, but it does not seem to indicate a long time.

2) Both offended their lord, the King of Egypt.

a) The butler was a cup-bearer, a confidant of the king and one to task all things to insure the king would not be poisoned. Neh. 1:11-2:8

b) The baker was the head of the bakers.

3) Their actions caused Pharaoh to be angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker.

* We do not know why, but perhaps there had been a poisoning attempt on the Pharaoh's life?

40:3-4 The custody of the butler and the baker.

1) The king placed them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, which was Potiphar. Vs. 3a-b

2) The place where Joseph was confined. Vs. 3c

3) The captain of the guard, Potiphar charged Joseph with them. Vs. 4a

4) Joseph served them. Vs. 4b

5) They were in custody for a while. Vs. 4c

40:5-19 The butler and baker had a dream.

40:5-6 The result of the dream on the two men.

- 1) Both being confined in the prison, had a dream, each man's dream in one night and each man's dream with its own interpretation. Vs. 5
- 2) Joseph came in to them in the morning and noticed that they were sad. Vs. 6
* The word sad "za' aph" means sick looking, emaciated and it has the root to be furious and angry as the result of frustration. Dan.1:10; 1Kings. 20:43; 21:4

40:7-8 The inquiry of Joseph about their condition.

- 1) Joseph inquired of them, "Why do you look so sad today?" Vs. 7
- 2) They responded by saying, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." Vs. 8a-c
- 3) Joseph responded, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please." Vs. 8d-f
 - a) There is warnings about dreams. Deut. 13:1-5; Jer. 23:16-17
 - b) God spoke to Pharaoh, Solomon, Nebuchadnezzar, Joseph, the husband of Mary the mother of Jesus. through dreams.
 - c) Joseph is humble, as Daniel before Nebuchadnezzar, giving God the credit, Dan. 2:28, 30

40:9-11 The baker shared his dream first.

- 9 Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "Behold, in my dream a vine was before me,
- 10 "and in the vine were three branches; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes.
- 11 "Then Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

40:12-15 The interpretation was given by Joseph.

- 12 And Joseph said to him, "This [is] the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days.
- 13 "Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler.
- 14 "But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.
- 15 "For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."

40:16-17 The baker shared his dream next.

16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also was in my dream, and there were three white baskets on my head.

17 "In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."

40:18-19 The interpretation is again given by Joseph.

18 So Joseph answered and said, "This is the interpretation of it: The three baskets are three days.

19 "Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you."

40:20-23 **The fulfillment of the interpretation of the dreams.**

40:20-22 The accuracy of Joseph's interpretation.

- 1) The third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants. Vs. 20

- 2) Then he restored the chief butler to his butlership again, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. Vs. 21

- 3) But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. Vs. 22

40:23 The disappointment of Joseph.

- 1) Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph.
- 2) But forgot him.
 - a) God did remember Joseph that is why the butler didn't.
 - b) God had a more important purpose than the urgent need to release Joseph.
 - c) God had the entire nation of Israel in mind.
 - d) Esther is another example. Esther 4:14
 - e) Jesus spent 30 years preparing for 3 years of ministry.
 - f) All in God's timing, even as Abraham had to wait for a son, Moses eighty years, David till the death of Saul, Daniel till the executive command to kill all the wise men came.
* Lam. 3:25-36; Rom. 8:18