

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 39

Chapter thirty-nine is a resumption of the story of Joseph after a digression in the historical narrative to tell the sordid story of Judah, the fourth son of Jacob. Judah was destined to be the tribe of the Messiah, the coming deliverer for the people of Israel and for gentiles as well. The digression is necessary because Tamar, the daughter-in-law of Judah, who sold herself as a prostitute to her father-in-law, would ultimately become a part of the lineage of the Messiah.

Back to the narrative of Joseph. The Midianites sell Joseph to the captain of the royal guard of Pharaoh, King of Egypt. After God granted Joseph favor as a slave and he became the head of Potiphar's household, disaster happened again. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph, but he was a godly young man and would not allow himself to be defiled and have his integrity destroyed. Cunningly, the wife of Potiphar arranged for she and Joseph to be alone together in her bedroom, and she sought to seduce him again. When he rejected her, she claimed he had tried to rape her. Potiphar believed his wife, and had Joseph thrown into prison with the royal prisoners.

While in prison, the LORD was again with Joseph, and gave him favor with the warden of the prison. He served and rose to a place of supervision even while in chains. While this chapter of Genesis does not give us the details of his confinement, the Psalmist does. "He sent a man before them – Joseph – who

was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, he was laid in irons" (Psalm 105:17-18). The emphasis of this chapter is that God supernaturally overruled the most wicked intentions of the evil one, the devil and those wicked men who mistreated Joseph. Amid all that was going on in Joseph's life – his mistreatment, misjudgment, and false accusations – he remained true to His God and God protected him and gave Joseph divine favor with everyone he encountered, even in prison.

Prayer and Action Steps

*The story of Joseph is a book in itself. Many have been written about him. God shows in Joseph that He can be trusted and even when things look the worst, God is still guiding history, **His-story**, along His intended path. God rules and God overrules. Even in the most trying circumstances Joseph stayed true to God. He didn't play the victim, but understood and later stated, "what men meant for evil, God meant for good." God wins. Pause and thank God for his providential care for you and your family. Thank God that He will never abandon His own, even though it might look like it for a time. **"Let your conduct be without covetousness (wanting something someone has that you don't, including name, fame, riches) be content with such things as you have. For He, Himself has said, "I will never leave nor forsake you. So that we may boldly say: The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"** (Hebrews 13:5-6, parenthesis mine) Pray for strength to face this day boldly.*

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
