



Genesis Chapter 39

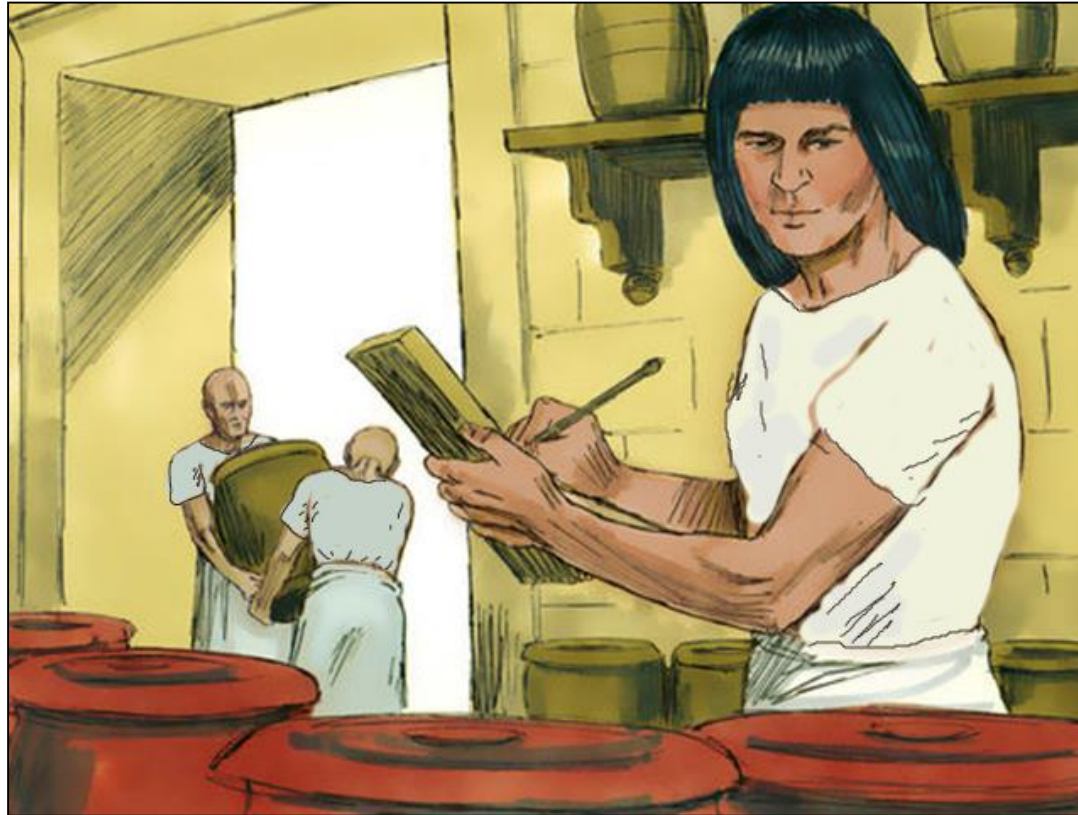
Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh`s officials, **the captain of the guard**, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. v1

Country boy goes to big city, new language and culture



The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. v2

A slave and blessed ?

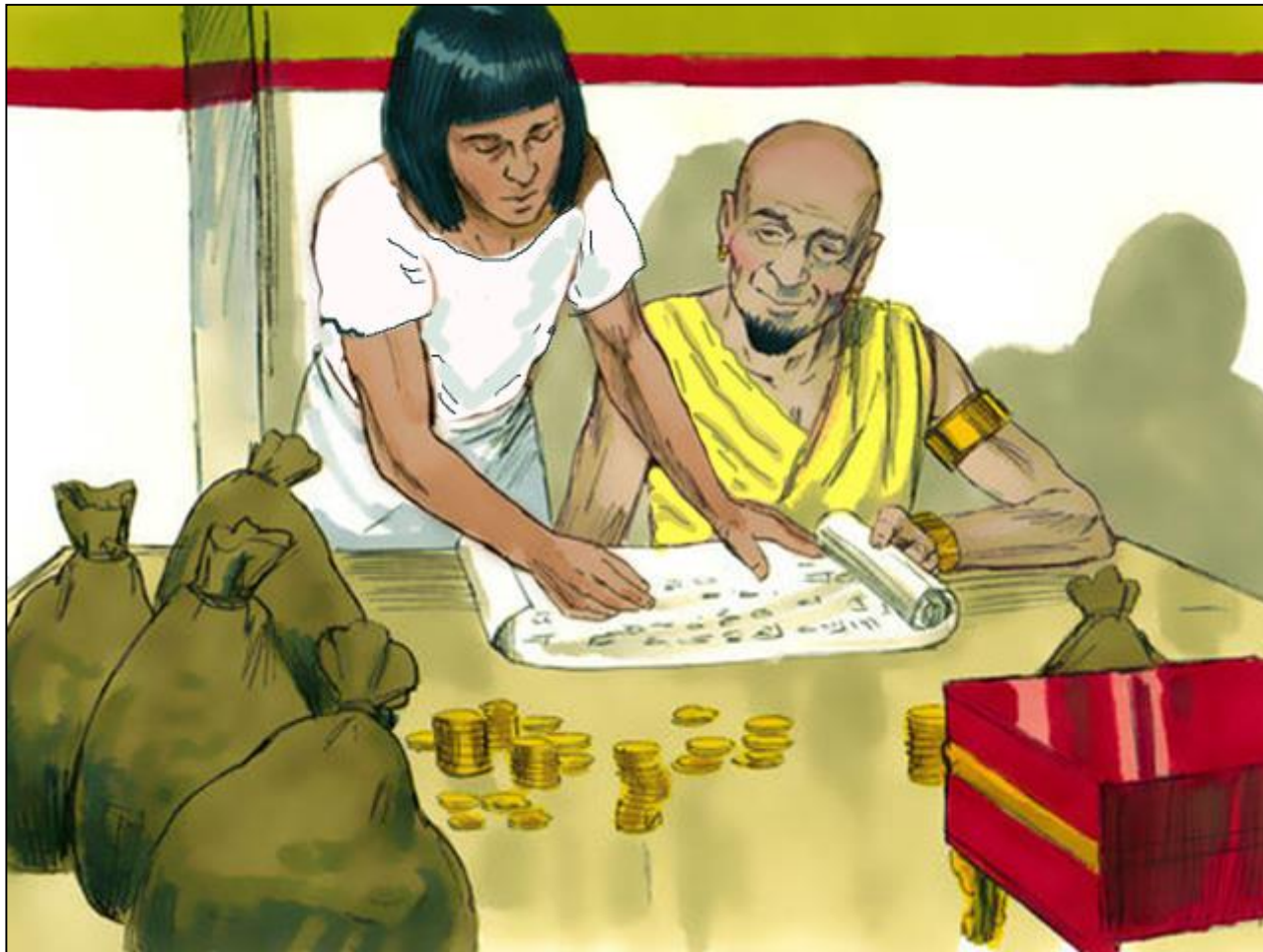


What could be observed in his prospering ?

When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favour in his eyes and became his attendant.

v3-4

Promotion for a useful man to have around



Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. v4

Trustworthy and very capable



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. v5

Be a blessing !



Does Potiphar take the benefits without Joseph's God ?

The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So he left in Joseph`s care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. v5-6

Estate manager !



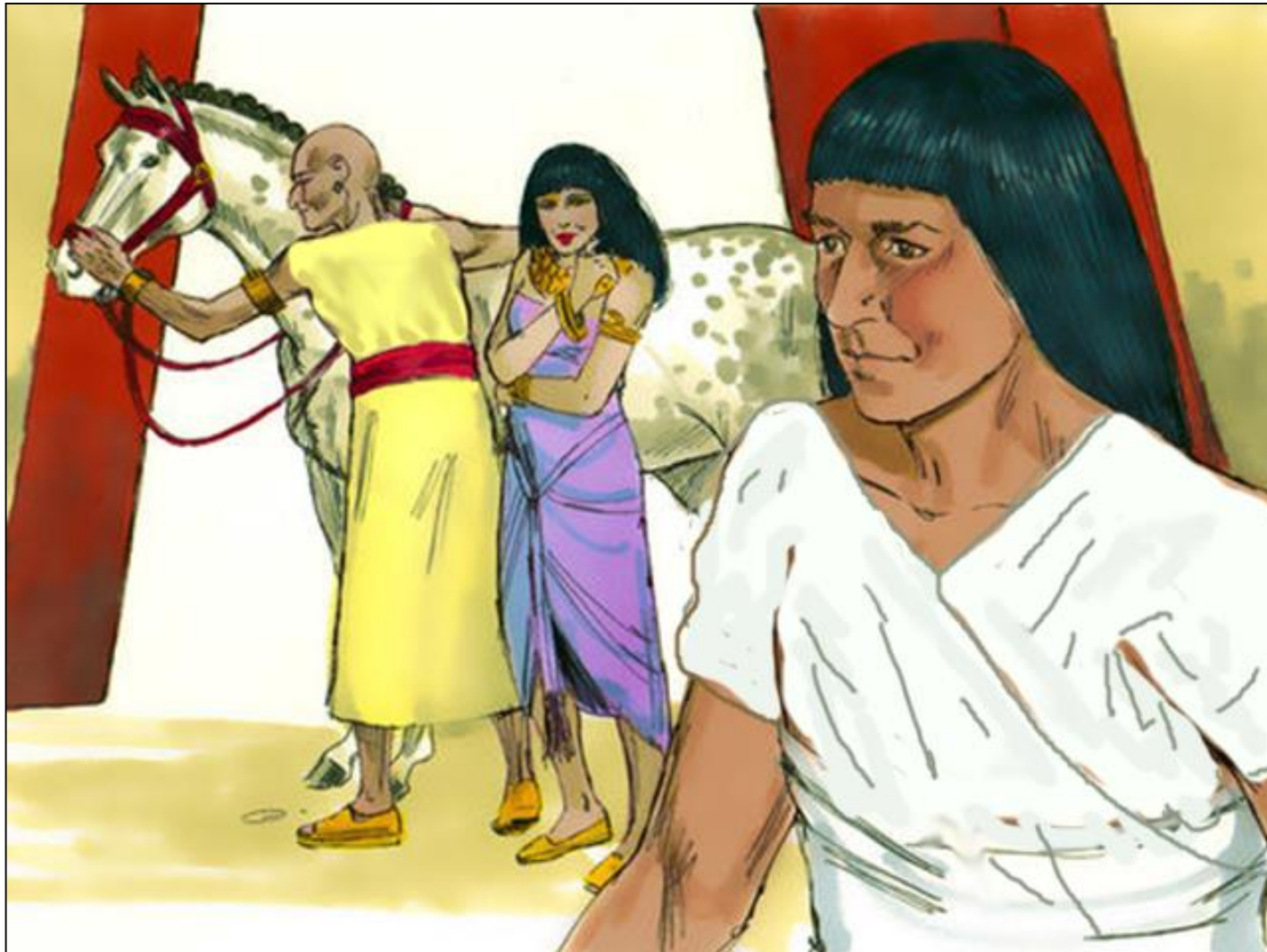
Potiphar



Gifts can cause problems
Is he like his mum in looks ?



Her eyesight changed for the worse



and after a while his master`s wife took notice of Joseph and said,
"Come to bed with me!" v7

Joseph faced temptation to sin- she wasn't ugly !



A slave should obey the mistress!

The Choice
Integrity v. Sin ?

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. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. v8-9

Joseph's attempt to persuade her to change her mind

- 1, It would be a betrayal of trust
- 2, You are his wife



How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" v9

3, It was even seen
as wrong in Egypt

4, But especially
it was against God



The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10

It protects

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

v10



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Persistent temptation and trial

So he tries to avoid situations

cf. **The Proverbs Foolish Man**

I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who had no sense. He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. Chapter 7:7-9

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

v11

Set up a trap ?



Why were the rest of the servants out ?

She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" v12

Crazy with desire – how things can take over



Flee temptation !



When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. v13-14

“Hell has no fury like a woman scorned”

William Congreve (1670-1729)



Revenge –
It's the second time his cloak gets him into trouble

"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. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." v14-15



Abused - a despised people

Accused - attempted rape

Did you hear any scream ?





**WHEN YOU NURSE A
GRUDGE IT IS NOT GOOD
FOR YOUR HEALTH**

DESMOND TUTU

Then she told him this story.. "That Hebrew slave **you** brought us came to me to make sport of me. But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." v17-18



Stitched up Joseph

When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. v19

What is he angry about ?

- 1, He believes her – Joseph has betrayed his trust
- 2, He will have to get rid of his 'good luck' charm
- 3, He doesn't believe her but he's got to for appearance sake



Joseph`s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king`s prisoners were confined. v20

He has no opportunity to defend himself



Just prison – for a wicked slave ?
It's prison(but the right one!)

What would Joseph think ?



How would you feel ?

It didn't start easy

“and (God) sent a man before them-- Joseph, sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the LORD proved him true.”

Psalm 105:17-19



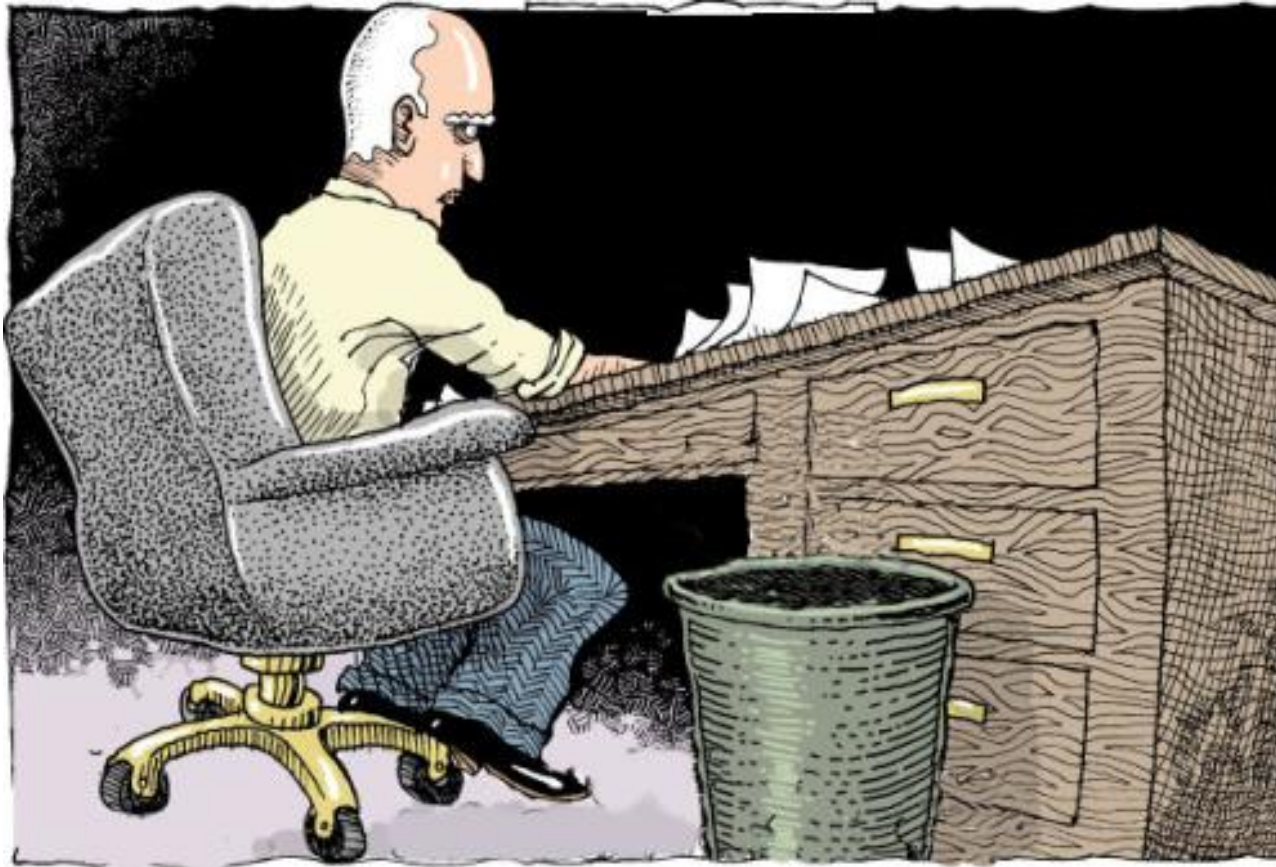
But gradually God's blessing shows again

the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favour in the eyes of the prison warden.

v20-21

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. v22

No. 3 Governor



A Civil Service training program

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.

v23

No.1 Governor



No.2 Governor



What did Potiphar think ?

How “in the world”
did Joseph cope
and maintain his integrity



**The LORD was
with Joseph
Genesis 39:2**

**The LORD was with him;
he showed him kindness
and granted him favour
Genesis 39:21**

**Draw near to God
and He will draw
near to you.
James 4:8 (NKJV)**