GENESIS

Who Is Your Real Father?

Genesis 39 English Standard Version (ESV)
Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The L ORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the L ORD was with him and that the L ORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the L ORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; the blessing of the L ORD was on all that he had, in house and field. So he left all that he had in Joseph’s charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time his master’s wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, “Lie with me.” But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, she called to the men of her household and said to them, “See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house.” Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, and she told him the same story, saying, “The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house.”

As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, “This is the way your servant treated me,” his anger was kindled. And Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. But the L ORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph’s charge, because the L ORD was with him. And whatever he did, the L ORD made it succeed.

Genesis 40:9–15 ESV
So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, “In my dream there was a vine before me, and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. 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.” Then Joseph said to him, “This is its interpretation: the three branches are
three days. In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pha-
raoh’s cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer. Only remember me, when it is well with you,
and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. For I was indeed
stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit.”

**Genesis 40:23 ESV**
Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

**Genesis 41:37–52 ESV**
This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like
this, in whom is the Spirit of God?” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is
none so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves
as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.” And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I
have set you over all the land of Egypt.” Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s
hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. And he made him ride in
his second chariot. And they called out before him, “Bow the knee!” Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt.
Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot
in all the land of Egypt.” And Pharaoh called Joseph’s name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage
Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from
the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. During the seven plentiful years the earth
produced abundantly, and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of
Egypt, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it. And Joseph stored
up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be mea-
sured.

Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On,
bore them to him. Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget
all my hardship and all my father’s house.” The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me
fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

**Implications**

- God is ever present and ever working in your life, no matter the circumstances. He invites us to endure
  in this truth.

- Everyone will experience their own cisterns. It is not our place to define and look down on them or to
  assume this is the limit of their story.

- Defiantly refuse to allow the circumstances of your life to imprison you.

- If you are at rock bottom, bless others by the work of your hands, and accept the help of others. If
  you’re out of your cistern, do the same, and provide opportunity for others to escape their prisons.