

Lesson Notes:

## **Joseph, Potiphar and Difficult Times**

We all go through times of trouble and despair. When Joseph was sold by his brothers to a caravan he probably felt as low as a person could feel. He could never envision that someday he would rise to the Prime Minister ship of Egypt. We can learn a lesson from Joseph that difficult times may appear to last for the rest of our lives. But if we trust in God he will bring us through the most difficult situations.

### **Scriptural Principles**

- 1) **Genesis 37:1-11** – Joseph experienced dreams indicating that he would reign over his brothers and his parents. By sharing these dreams Joseph created ill feelings between his brothers and himself.
- 2) **Genesis 37:12-36**- At first his brothers plot to kill him but than sell him to Ismaelites who eventually sell him to Potiphar.
- 3) **Genesis 39:19-23** – Joseph was imprisoned due to false accusations made by Potiphar’s wife. Joseph eventually found favor with the prison keeper and was appointed over all of the prisoners.
- 4) **Genesis 40:12-15**– Joseph found favor with the butler of Pharaoh when he was able to interpret his dream. God had given Joseph this gift of dream interpretation as he had been a faithful servant.
- 5) **Genesis 41:8-16** – Pharaoh learns of Joseph’s gift of dream interpretation. Joseph tells Pharaoh that his abilities are a gift from God.
- 6) **Genesis 41:25-35** – Joseph interprets the dream to mean 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine.
- 7) **Genesis 41:37-39** – Joseph becomes Prime Minister of Egypt due to the blessings of God. So over a 12 – 15 year period Joseph went from a prisoner in a dungeon to the Prime Minister of Egypt. There is no way Joseph could have ever envisioned what God had in store for him. But through his obedience and faithfulness to God he was promoted to one of the highest positions on earth at his time.
- 8) **Genesis 42** – His brothers come to Egypt and bow down to him just as he had dreamed so many years ago.

What hardships do you have in your life that you feel you may never overcome? I would imagine that they pale in comparison to the situation Joseph was in. But

through his faithfulness and obedience he was blessed by God and able to overcome his situation. God will do the same for you.