

# SET FREE!

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## Genesis 39

**Verse 1** *Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.*

This captain of the guard, was the “chief executioner”. So he wasn’t some wimpy bureaucrat. He would be a pretty tough character.

### Verses 2-6

*2 The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. 4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. 5 So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field. 6 Thus he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was*

*handsome in form and appearance.*

There was something on Joseph; it was that blessing of the first-born.

The word “blessing” can mean empowerment to prosper. To be empowered means: enabled; authorized. To be blessed is an empowerment to prosper.

That blessing had come down from Abraham, his great grandfather.

### Joseph was living in the blessing.

When you are living in the blessing, you are living in the favour of God.

### Joseph lived in the favour of God.

Everything he did prospered in his hands. Everything he did produced a good harvest.

He was successful. The favour of God came on him so that he would be successful.

That favour didn’t go unnoticed. Potiphar saw this in Joseph.

**Verse 4** *So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority*

Potiphar was no fool, he could see that everything in his house was going right, and he knew it was because of Joseph.

**Verse 5** *So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field.*

The financial management was in order, the crops around the house were flourishing, the other slaves or employees were happy and productive.

The blessing of the Lord was on Potiphar’s house and fields because Joseph was there.

### Things will prosper around a person who has the favour of God on them.

Potiphar became so convinced that Joseph knew what he was doing that he left everything in his charge.

**Verse 6** *Thus he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.*

The only thing Potiphar had to pay attention to was what he was eating for dinner. Everything else was being managed and it was all prospering.

### Why? Because of the favour on Joseph.

**The reason that it prospered under Joseph, was because he was living in the FOG, the Favour Of God.**

Now just because he was walking in the favour of God, it didn't mean that the devil wasn't going to try to make it rough for him.

What we need to remember here is this. The devil was the ruler of the world at this time. Adam had given it over to him and Jesus hadn't come to take it back yet.

Joseph was under the covenant blessing of Abraham and that was all that he had to protect him.

Now that's a lot, but he couldn't cast out the devil or take authority over him like we can today. He didn't have the Name and the Blood of Jesus to speak into the situation.

### **But what he did have was the favour, the blessing.**

Most of us know what happened next to Joseph. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him. He wouldn't go along with it, and said this about Potiphar:

**Verse 9** *There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"*

He knew it would be a sin against God, the God that he was living in favour with. He wasn't about to dishonour that by sinning.

**We have the same choice today too. We can sin if we want to, but why would we want to? Why would we want to dishonour God?**

*Romans 6:1 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? 2 Of course not!*

Potiphar's wife was mad, and a woman scorned is a bad enemy to have. She grabbed Joseph's robe and he ran out the door. She then cried rape and the men in the yard came in and saw her with Joseph's robe, assumed the worse and grabbed Joseph.

When Potiphar came home his wife said:  
**Verses 17-18** *"The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside."*

Notice the racial prejudice coming out here. *"The Hebrew whom you brought to us"*.

The account says that Potiphar was mad and threw Joseph into prison.

Now think about this for a moment. This Potiphar is the "chief executioner". Wouldn't you think that he would drag Joseph straight over to the chopping block and finish him off instead of just throwing him into prison?

Quite possibly Potiphar believed Joseph's account of things more than his wife's. He was no dummy. He knew his wife and her moral values and he also saw in Joseph something he'd never seen in a man, and that was the favour of God.

Potiphar was in a tight spot. He couldn't embarrass his wife by not defending her honour, but at the same time he likely figured that Joseph was innocent.

**You can't keep a person who lives in the FOG, (the favour of God,) down for long.**

**Verses 21-23** *21 But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. 23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and **whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.***

Here's Joseph, he had been hated by his brothers, thrown in a pit to die, then taken out and sold into slavery. He gets a great job working as chief steward in Potiphar's house. Then gets accused of rape and is thrown into prison - likely to be forever.

But in no time at all, he's running the prison. He's going to prosper no matter where you put him.

We don't know exactly how long Joseph was in prison, maybe 3 or 4 years. That would make him about 22 - 23 years old when he finally got out.

I'm not going to go into all the details of the butler and the baker and how Joseph interpreted their dreams.

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## **Genesis 41**

Here we see Joseph interpreting the dreams of the Pharaoh.

This Pharaoh wasn't an Egyptian. He was a Hyksos King, sometimes known as the Shepherd Kings. The Hyksos were West Semitic tribes from the area we now call Palestine and Syria.

They had conquered the Egyptians in about 1700 B.C. and were the ruling people at the time of this account.

They were very favourable toward the Hebrews because they were from a similar culture. This is one of the reasons that Joseph found favour with this Pharaoh.

Later, around 1550 B.C. the Egyptians rose up and drove the Hyksos rulers out. That's why by the time Moses came along they had no knowledge of Joseph.

Meanwhile back to the Pharaoh's dreams. The dreams were about the 7 years of plenty and the 7 years of famine that were about to occur. Joseph as we know interpreted the dreams. The Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph that he put Joseph in charge of the whole food supply.

**Genesis 41:39-44** *39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. 40 You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." 41 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."*

*42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt. 44 Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."*

**The Pharaoh saw that the favour of God was on Joseph.**

**When you live in the favour of God, things are good.**

Joseph was so good at managing things that he was able to get every thing for his boss. By everything I mean this.

**Genesis 47:13-26** *13 Now there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. 14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.*

*15 So when the money failed in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence? For the money has failed."*

*16 Then Joseph said, "Give your livestock, and I will give you bread for your livestock, if the money is gone." 17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the cattle of the herds, and for the donkeys. Thus he fed them with bread in exchange for all their livestock that year.*

I'll stop here for a moment. The question could be asked: "If they had all that cattle, why didn't they just eat them?"

Because, just like the people of India today, they considered the cattle to be sacred and therefore wouldn't eat them.

Four hundred years later the Hebrews had become like that. They had cattle and yet they told Moses that they were starving. That is also why they built a golden calf when Moses was up on the mountain so long.

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Back to this passage. We see that the Egyptians had sold all their cattle to Joseph for food. Now what?

**Verse 18** *When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands. 19 Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give us seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate."*

*20 Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh's. 21 And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other end. 22 Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations allotted to them by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands.*

Joseph, this former kid from the pit, has the people at the mercy of the Pharaoh. He's got them living in the city where he can control them. He didn't quit there. He brought in the first recorded feudal system and that wonderful thing we now call "income tax."

**Verse 23** Then Joseph said to the people, "Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh. Look, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. 24 And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh. Four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and for your food, for those of your households and as food for your little ones."

25 So they said, "You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants." 26 And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, which did not become Pharaoh's.

Meanwhile Joseph had set up his family in an area called Goshen. There the land had water. The crops and cattle were in abundance. They had a place of favour in a land of want. The whole tribe was enjoying the favour of God. They were heirs of the covenant that Abraham had been given with God.

**You might say: Wouldn't it be great to live in this favour, to be a part of that Abrahamic blessing?**

**Galatians 3:13-14**

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 **that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

Today, you and I have the same blessing on our lives. Jesus got it for us. We are joint heir, firstborn heirs of the favour and grace of God.

David recognized that kind of favour.

**Psalm 5:12** For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.

We are like David and Joseph; we are surrounded with the favour of God.

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**The word grace and the word favour are basically the same word.**

**Grace is unmerited favour.**

**Every time you see the word GRACE in the Bible think FAVOUR!**

**Every time you see the word FAVOUR think GRACE!**

**Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His **grace**.

**We have salvation because of the favour of God on us.**

**Ephesians 2:8** For by **grace** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

**2 Timothy 1:9** Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and **grace**, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

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We've learned today from the life of Joseph that we can live, walk daily in the favour of God.

Maybe it doesn't look like it to you at the moment, but remember Joseph. In the desert he was thrown in a pit. Later Potiphar had him thrown into the pit of prison. It looked like his life was going to be "THE PITS", but he knew he had favour.

**You have favour, you have grace.**

God our loving Father has poured out His unconditional love, favour and grace on you!

Start looking for the grace, the favour of God in your life.



**Every day, expect to live SET FREE in the FOG!**

**SET FREE**

Is a complimentary ministry, prepared for you, by Rev. Ray Sargent