

## Genesis 39

Verse 1

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelite's, who had taken him down there. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian.

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt

See map 3905



Let's look at a few interesting facts about Egypt and the Nile River

1. Egypt's climate is very dry

There is some rainfall along the coast, but 100 miles south of the Mediterranean Sea, (from Cairo to the Sudan) there is no rainfall year round.

See map 3915



2. Practically everyone in Egypt lives along the Nile River.

The Nile River is approximately 3,470 miles long.

The width of the Nile Valley varies between 12 to 31 miles.

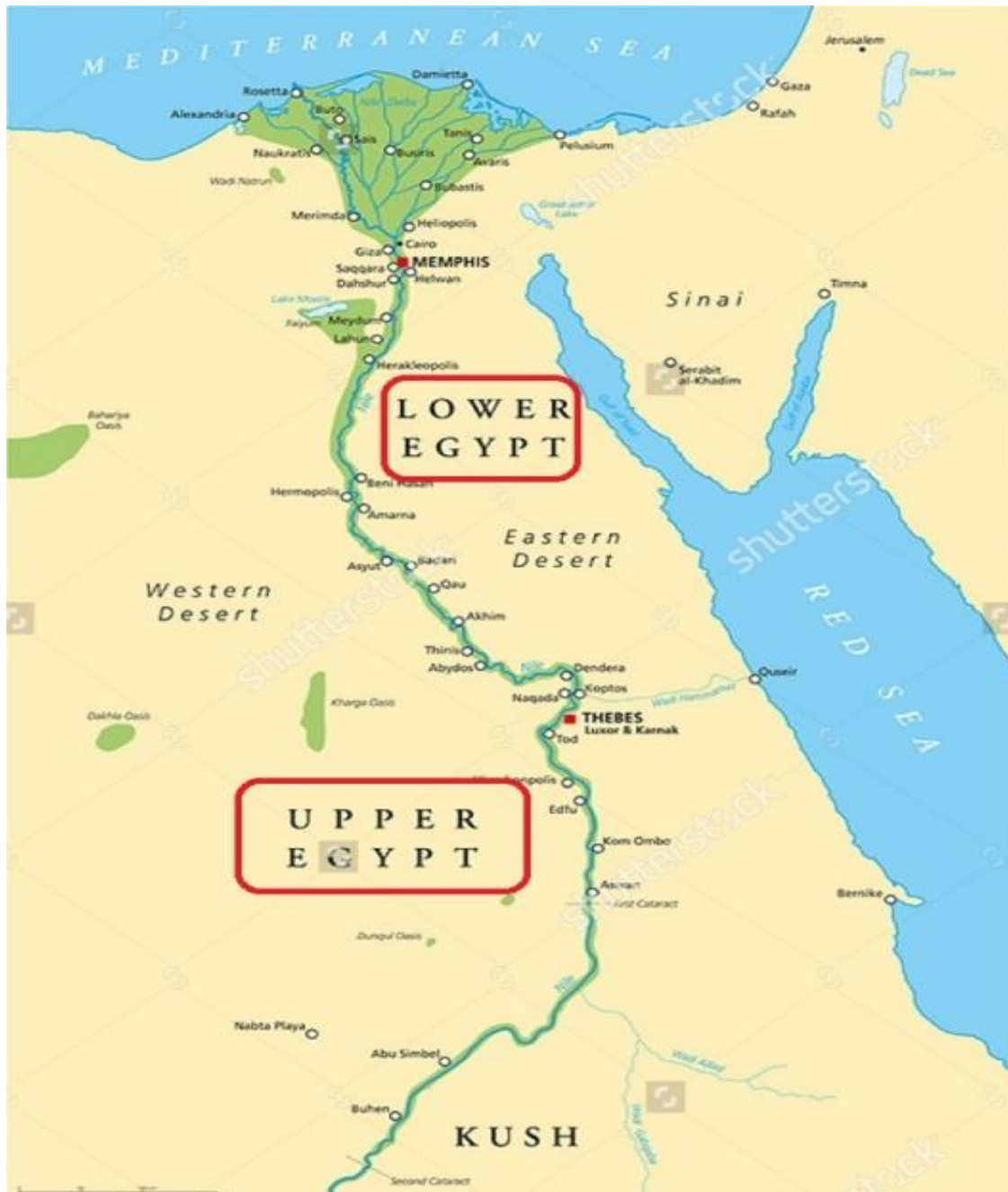
3. The Northern part of Egypt around the Delta is called Lower Egypt

The Delta is where the Nile River spreads out and drains into the Mediterranean Sea.

And the southern part of Egypt is called Upper Egypt.

This is because the Nile River runs south to north.

See map 3920



**And Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard**

An office that included the overseeing of the prisons

**<sup>2</sup> And the Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man.**

This was also true with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

No doubt these men all had some natural ability and worked hard but the success they experienced can only come from the Lord

**And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian.**

This shows that Potiphar had a high level of trust and respect for Joseph

Verses 3-6

**<sup>3</sup> Now his master saw that the Lord was with him and *that* the Lord made all that he did prosper in his hand. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and put him in charge of all that he owned. <sup>5</sup> It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; so the Lord's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field. <sup>6</sup> So he left Joseph in charge of everything that he owned; and with him *there* he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate.**

**Now his master saw that the Lord was with him**

Potiphar understood that these blessings were not just the result of hard work and effort

**The Lord made all that he did prosper in his hand**

God was doing this for a reason

He wanted Joseph to be in charge so all of the nations of the world could be saved from the disaster to come

Verses 7-10

**Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. <sup>7</sup> And it came about after these events that his master's wife had her eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Sleep with me." <sup>8</sup> But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, with me *here*, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put me in charge of all that he owns. <sup>9</sup> There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?" <sup>10</sup> Though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her *or* be with her.**

**Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance**

Some of the same words were used of his mother Rachel

See Genesis 29:17

**His master's wife had her eyes on Joseph, and she said, Sleep with me.**

Ladies, aren't you glad that men don't act this way ☺

**<sup>8</sup> But he refused and said to his master's wife, how then could I do this great evil, and sin against God**

This would have been wrong for 2 reasons

1. It would have been an act of disloyalty to his master
2. It would have been a sin against God

**<sup>10</sup> Though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her *or* be with her.**

Joseph knew that giving in to her wishes would result in disaster

But he probably understood that his refusal could also bring about some negative consequences

But Joseph held to his convictions and did what was right

Verses 11-18

**<sup>11</sup> Now it happened one day that he went into the house to do his work, and none of the people of the household was there inside. <sup>12</sup> So she grabbed him by his garment, saying, “Sleep with me!” But he left his garment in her hand and fled, and went outside. <sup>13</sup> When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, <sup>14</sup> she called to the men of her household and said to them, “See, he has brought in a Hebrew to us to make fun of us; he came in to me to sleep with me, and I screamed. <sup>15</sup> When he heard that I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled and went outside.” <sup>16</sup> So she left his garment beside her until his master came home. <sup>17</sup> Then she spoke to him with these words: “The Hebrew slave, whom you brought to us, came in to me to make fun of me; <sup>18</sup> but when I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled outside.”**

**So she grabbed him by his garment, saying, sleep with me!**

No means no, right ladies

**But he left his garment in her hand and fled, and went outside**

It's always good to flee temptation, but preferably with your cloths on

Joseph's seems to have bad luck with cloths

His coat of many colors angered his brothers

This time his garment was used to “prove” he was guilty of sexual assault

**See, he has brought in a Hebrew to us to make fun of us**

Potiphar's wife used words that cast her husband in a poor light

Alleging that Potiphar was to blame for the situation

It was also a way to stir up racial animus

If anyone was passed over in favor of Joseph, this would be their moment

## **But when I raised my voice and screamed**

That entitled her to a claim of innocence

Many years later this was incorporated into the law

See Deuteronomy 22:24

Verses 19-21

**<sup>19</sup> Now when his master heard the words of his wife which she spoke to him, saying, “This is what your slave did to me,” his anger burned. <sup>20</sup> So 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 the prison. <sup>21</sup> But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the warden of the prison. <sup>22</sup> And the warden of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible *for it*. <sup>23</sup> The warden of the prison did not supervise anything under Joseph’s authority, because the Lord was with him; and, the Lord made whatever he did prosper.**

## **His anger burned**

Do you think Potiphar believed his wife?

It seems like his anger was real enough, but an accusation from the king's wife that it was an attempted rape should lead to a quick death for Joseph not imprisonment

It seems clear that the King doubted her claim and decided to put him in prison instead of having him put to death

It is unfair that the wife of the king got away with a false accusation and Joseph had to spend time in jail for something he didn't do

But by doing it this way, his wife would know that he didn't believe her claim of rape, and it also prevented a scandal that would have harmed the honor of the king.

**<sup>21</sup> But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the warden of the prison**

A very similar statement was made in verse 2 of this chapter

God showed kindness to the Patriarchs and Joseph that he might bless Israel and all of mankind thru his chosen people

**And the warden of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible *for it*.**

Joseph was in charge over his brothers, then he was in charge of Potiphar's house and now he is in charge of the prisoners

He still has one more promotion coming but we will leave that for later

**The warden of the prison did not supervise anything under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and, the Lord made whatever he did prosper.**

This is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> time we are told how the Lord blessed whatever Joseph did

This did not happen by chance, it was the will of the Lord

God wanted Joseph to be in charge for a very specific purpose

All of the known world would be saved from starvation because of God's intervention