

Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh

Joseph's Ups and Downs

When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. (Gen 37:4)

The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. (Gen 39:2; see p. 24 in The Story)

Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. (Gen 39:20-21; see p. 25 in The Story)

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. (Gen 39:20-21)

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires." (Gen 41:14-16; see p. 26 in The Story)

Joseph's Rise to Power

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." (Gen 41:39-41; see pp. 26-7 in The Story)

Joseph Sees the Upper Story

"But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. (Gen 45:7-8a)

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Gen 50:18-20; see pp. 33-34 in The Story)

The Upper Story Principle

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:28)

Notes: