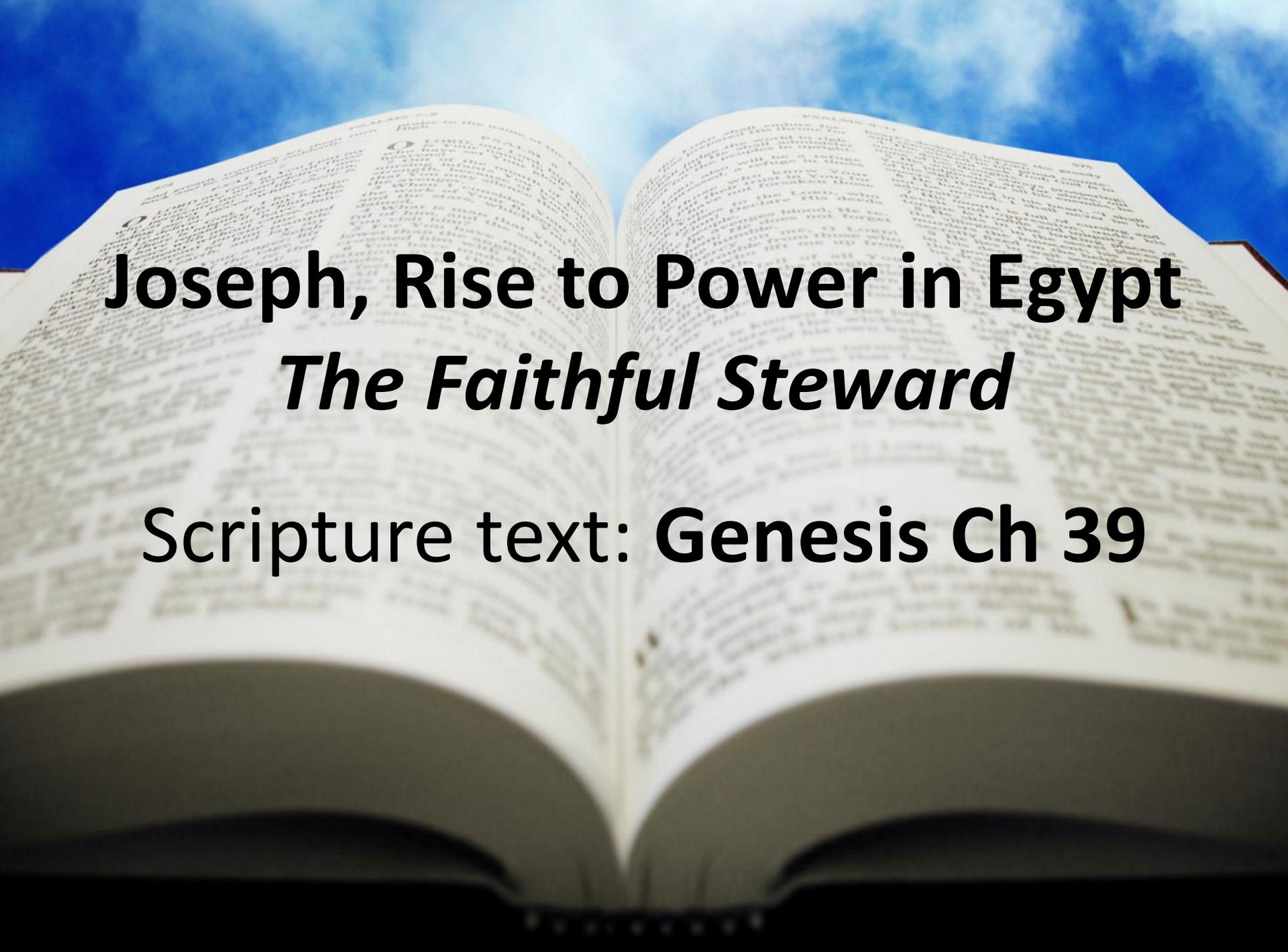


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid on the center of the open book.

Joseph, Rise to Power in Egypt
The Faithful Steward

Scripture text: **Genesis Ch 39**

Jacob had tried to shield Joseph from the responsibilities of work, but God knew that Joseph could never be a ruler until first he was a servant

God used three disciplines in Joseph's life to prepare him to be the second ruler of Egypt:

- A. *The discipline of service (39:1–6).*
- B. *The discipline of self-control (39:7–18).*
- C. *The discipline of suffering (39:19–23).*

Matthew 25:20-23 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, **'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'** And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, **'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'**

Mat 25:24-30 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, **and I went and hid your talent in the ground.** Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, '**You wicked and slothful servant!** You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and **at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.** So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. **But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**

A. The discipline of service (39:1–6).

Joseph exchanged his “tailored coat” for a servant’s garb, and God forced him to learn how to work. This way, he learned humility and the importance of obeying orders.

Because Joseph was faithful in the small things, God promoted him to greater things.

How are you doing in your discipline of Service?

Genesis 39:1-4 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 LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD 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.**

1 Peter 5:5-7 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "**God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.**" Humble yourselves, therefore, **under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you**, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Proverb 12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

Proverb 22:29 Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

B. The discipline of self-control (39:7–18).

Joseph's mother was a beautiful woman, and no doubt the son inherited her features.

Genesis 29:17 Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance.

Egyptian women were known for their unfaithfulness, but **Joseph did not yield. God was testing Joseph**, for if Joseph could not control himself as a servant, he could never control others as a ruler. He could have argued, “Nobody will know!” or “Everybody else is doing it!” But, **instead, he lived to please God and made it a point to make no provision for the flesh.**

Genesis 39:7-10 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 yourself, 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.

Yet God tested Joseph with Potiphar's wife to see if he was obedient. When she tempted handsome Joseph, he refused to go to bed with her for that would be a sin against both God and his master. **He then deliberately and wisely sought to avoid her daily advances by refusing even to be around her.** His refusal was strengthened because **he was convinced that God had called him to a special task**—he had seen evidence of that in his rise from slavery. **If one is to fulfill God's plan, he cannot sin against the God who will bring it about.**

Romans 13:13-14 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.**

“Flee youthful lusts!” Paul admonished—and that is just what Joseph did. As the Puritan preacher said, **Joseph lost his coat, but he kept his character.**

Too many people have failed in this discipline, and God has had to put them on the shelf.

Galatians 5:16-21 But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and **the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other,** to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But **if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.** Now **the works of the flesh are evident:** sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. **I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

2 Timothy 2:22-26 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord **from a pure heart.** Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, **able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness.** God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a **knowledge of the truth,** and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? **So run that you may obtain it.** Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but **we an imperishable.** So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But **I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.**

Proverbs 16:32 Whoever is **slow to anger is better than the mighty**, and **he who rules his spirit** than he who takes a city.

Proverbs 25:28 A man without **self-control** is like a city broken into and left without walls.

What would your family say about your self control?

How is your discipline of self control?

Are you better today then last year?

C. *The discipline of suffering (39:19–23).*

Not only was Joseph able to control his appetites, but **he was also able to control his tongue**; for he did not argue with the officers or expose the lie Potiphar's wife was spreading about him. **Control of the tongue is a mark of spiritual maturity** (James 3).

It is likely that Potiphar was the captain of the guards in charge of prisoners; he may even have been the chief executioner. At any rate, he saw to it that Joseph was put in the king's prison (v. 20), and **Joseph's faithfulness and devotion again brought him favor with the officers.**

James 3:5-8 So also **the tongue is a small member**, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And **the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness**. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and **set on fire by hell**. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but **no human being can tame the tongue**. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

“The Lord was with Joseph” is the key to his success (39:2, 5, 21). Joseph **had to suffer** as a prisoner for at least two years, and probably longer. Psalm 105:17–20 explains that this suffering put “iron” in his soul. It helped to make a man out of him. **People who avoid suffering have a hard time developing character.**

Certainly Joseph **learned patience** from his suffering (James 1:1–5) as well as a **deeper faith in God’s Word** (Heb. 6:12). This suffering was not enjoyable, **but it was necessary, and one day it turned into glory.**

Psalm 105:17-22 he had sent a man ahead of them, **Joseph**, who was sold as a slave. **His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.** The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free; he made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions, to bind his princes at his pleasure and **to teach his elders wisdom.**

James 1:1-5 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. **Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

1 Peter 4:12-17 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings**, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. **If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.** But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, **let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.** For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Philippians 1:27-30 Only let your manner of life **be worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, **I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit**, with one mind **striving side by side for the faith** of the gospel, and **not frightened in anything by your opponents**. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. **For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.**

Matthew 5:10-14 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Hebrews 6:11-12 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness **to have the full assurance of hope until the end**, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those **who through faith and patience inherit the promises**.

Galatians 6:8-10 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And **let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up**. So then, **as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone**, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

God used three disciplines in Joseph's life to prepare him to be the second ruler of Egypt:

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Has God used these in your life?

Have you passed the test, or are you getting ready for a retest?

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

May Almighty God grant us mercy and strength, as we focus to do His will, to Glorify His Holy Name!

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.