

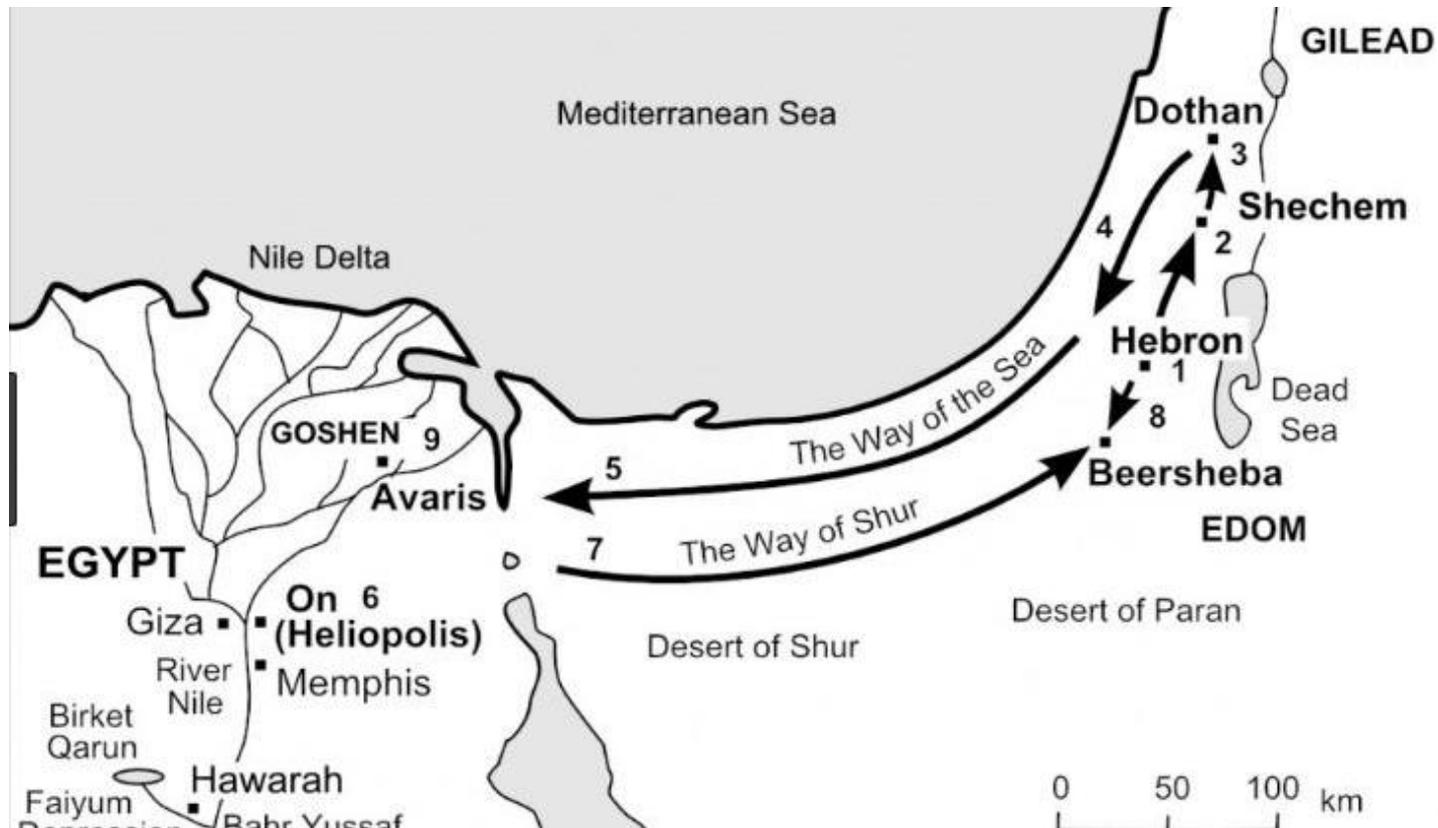
## Last time

Joseph nearly killed by his brothers.

Reuben has other ideas & Judah proposes selling him as a slave

Jacob thinks his son is dead

Joseph sold to Midianites, taken to Egypt, unlikely to see his father again



## Genesis 39 Imprisoned innocent

- 1) God's presence & blessing in Potiphar's house v1-6a**
- 2) Dealing with sexual temptation v 6b-12**
- 3) Wrongly accused & put in prison v13-20a**
- 4) God's presence & blessing in Prison v20b -23**
- 5) Lessons for us**

# 1) God's presence & blessing in Potiphar's house v1-6a

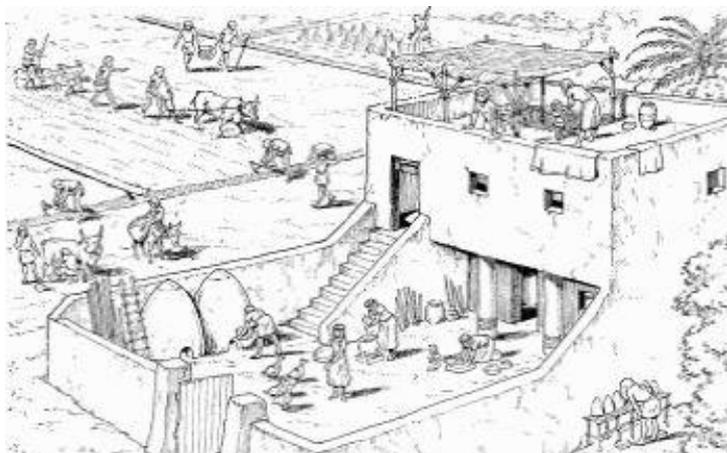
Bought by Potiphar (Captain of Pharaoh's guard)

The LORD was with him v2

Potiphar saw that the LORD was with him & gave him success v3

Put in charge of Potiphar's household

Unusual Joseph did not live in the slaves quarters



Typical Egyptian farmhouse ^

Typical Egyptian nobility house >



The LORD blessed everything he did

v5-6a - Potiphar's household prospered

## 2) Dealing with sexual temptation v6b-12

“Now Joseph was well built & handsome . . . after a while his master’s wife took notice of him & said ‘Come to bed with me!’ ” v6-7

How did Joseph respond?

He remembered his Egyptian master v8

He remembered his dignity v9

He remembered God v9b “How could I sin against God”

He refused & avoided her (day after day) v10

“One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, & none of the household servants were inside. She caught him by the cloak & said ‘Come to bed with me!’. He left his cloak & ran . . .” v 11



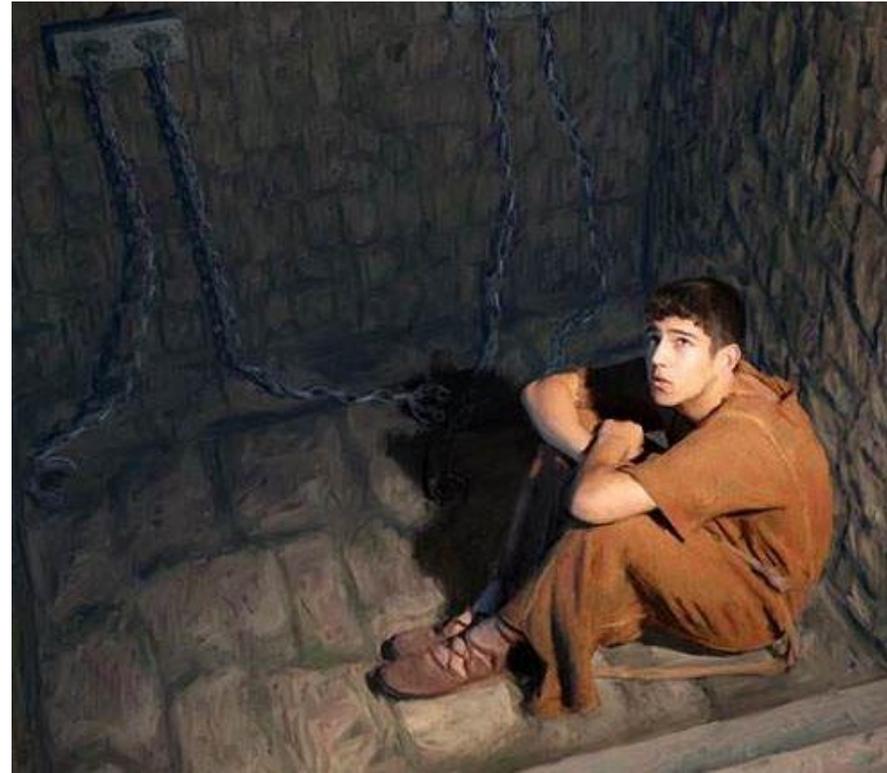
### 3) Wrongly accused & put in prison v13-20

She gathered the household servants & lied to them v13-15

When her husband came home she lied to him v16-18

Potiphar 'burned with anger' & put him in prison  
(probably for 10 yrs)

Joseph did not try to defend himself.



Jesus was falsely accused:

“When they hurled insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered he made no threats. Instead he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”

1 Pet 2 v23

“He was oppressed & afflicted , yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth” Is 53 v7

At Pentecost when the spirit came & people supernaturally declared the wonders of God in other tongues.

“Some made fun of them & said ‘they have had too much wine’. Then Peter stood up . . . Fellow Jews & all who live in Jerusalem . . . let me explain . . . These people are not drunk . . . This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.” Acts 2 v13-15

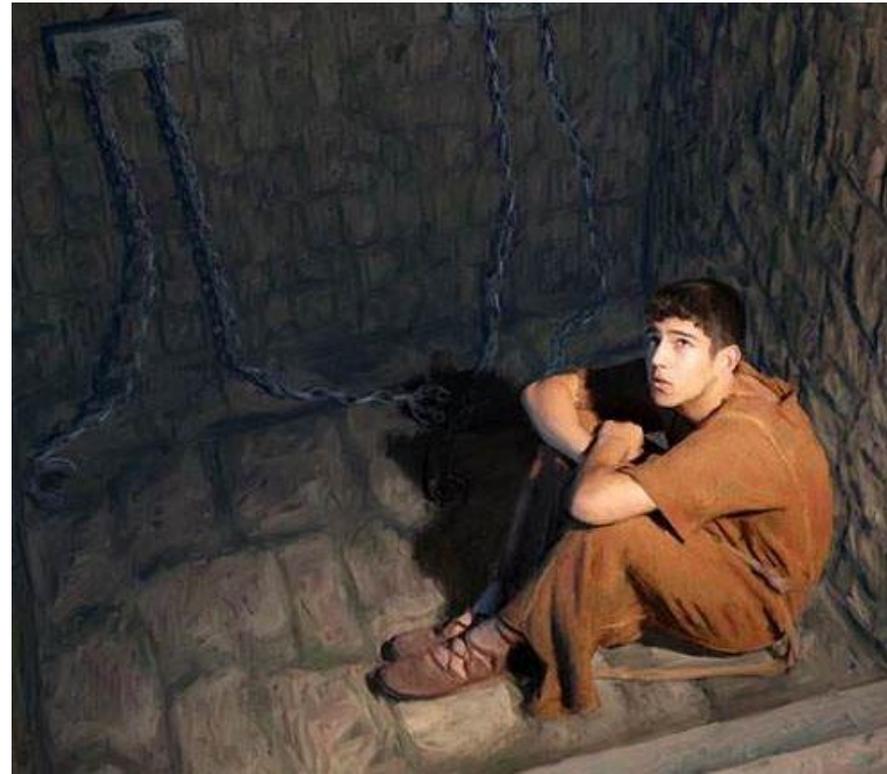
#### 4) God's presence & blessing in prison v20b-23

Again the LORD was with him

Granting him favour in the eyes of the prison warden.

Joseph put in charge of the other prisoners.

The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care because the LORD was with him & gave him success in whatever he did.



## Lessons for us

1) Don't allow bitterness to linger.

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God . . . Get rid of all bitterness, rage & anger . . .” Eph 4 v30-31

2) Forgive those who have wronged you.

Not dealing with unforgiveness spoils a close walk with God

“I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt . . . Do not be distressed & angry with yourselves . . . because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you” Gen 45 v 4-5

3) How to react to sexual temptation.

Consider the consequences of sexual sin for relationship with God.

Remember David “Against you, you only, have I sinned . . .” Ps 51 v4

Consider the consequences of sexual sin for relationships with others:

- Private fantasies, Casual sex before marriage, Adultery

Don't go where you know you will be tempted & know when to run!

4) When someone wrongs you don't be quick to defend yourself.

“Whoever defends himself will have himself for defence & he will have no other. But let him come defenceless before the Lord & he will have for his defender no less than God himself” AW Tozer The Pursuit of God

5) When God's hand appears heavy against you.

You think “God has forgotten me & does not care! There is no justice.”

Listen to Asaph in Ps 73 v12 & on:

“ This is what the wicked are like – always free of care & amassing wealth. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure . . . All day long I have been afflicted, & every morning brings new punishments. . . When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply . . .

till I entered the sanctuary of God;

then I understood their final destiny. . .

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.” v12-17 & 25

In severely trying circumstances “the LORD was with Joseph”

Whatever we are going through can the same be said of us?