

**Potentially Crushing Circumstances, God's Prevailing Grace**  
**Genesis 39**  
**April 26, 2023**

**Romans 8:28**

We will see God's grace prevailing over the potentially crushing circumstances of:

**I. Forced Servitude (1-6a)**

The beginning of our passage quickly draws a contrast between Joseph and what we studied of Judah in chapter 38.

*What are the details that describe Joseph's time in Potiphar's house in verses 2-6? What is significant about these details?*

As we consider Joseph's service in Potiphar's house, we should be reminded of the following NT verses - Eph. 6:5-8, Col. 3:22-24.

**II. Powerful Temptation and False Accusation (6b-20)**

The indication that Joseph was handsome in form and appearance is unusual since such a description is typically utilized to describe women, but this description sets the context for what transpires in this section of the passage.

*In verses 8-12, how does Joseph deliberately respond to the temptations of Potiphar's wife? (Kim: Genesis: A 12-Week Study, 78) What can we learn from Joseph's example and apply to our fights against temptation? Prov. 5:7-14, 1 Cor. 10:13, 2 Tim. 2:22.*

This temptation from Potiphar's wife was a powerful one not only because of who the person was who was tempting Joseph, but the persistence of the temptation. The slave was free and the mistress of the house, the one the world saw as free, was bound by her lust!

Joseph did not give in and he was not crushed by this powerful temptation because of the grace of God and his desire to not sin against God.

Verse 13 begins "and as soon as" which indicates that her response to Joseph's action, her analysis of the situation, and her execution of her plan were immediate.

Once again, a garment is used as a tool of deception in Joseph's life.

As Potiphar hears his wife's story, we're told that his anger was kindled. But his anger was kindled against whom?

Joseph landed in prison because he did the right thing. If he had acquiesced to Potiphar's wife's demand things may have seemingly gone well for him, but at what cost? He would have committed a great wickedness against God and against his master. 2 Tim. 3:12-13.

As we are faced with temptations and are sometimes faced with the prospect of suffering for doing what will honor God we must look at the example of not only Joseph who went to prison for obeying God but even more to look to Christ, Phil. 2:8.

### **III. Wrongful Imprisonment (21-23)**

Despite the humiliation of wrongful imprisonment once again we see Joseph elevated, this time in the prison which was meant by Potiphar's wife to crush him.

*What are the similar phrases that describe both Joseph's time in Potiphar's house and in the prison? How should these phrases have affected the first hearers of this narrative and how should these phrases affect us? Ex. 6:2-9, Rom. 8:31-32, Phil. 1:6, Heb. 13:5, Eph. 6:10-13.*