
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Gen. 37:1-11	Yoseph the Dreamer
Tuesday:	Gen. 37:12-36	Yoseph's brothers sell him into slavery
Wednesday:	Gen. 38	Yehudah and Tamar
Thursday:	Gen. 39	The story of Yoseph and Potiphar and his wife
Friday:	Gen. 40	Yoseph the Interpreter and the 2 prisoners

In parsha Vayezrei 9.1 we covered the story of Yoseph and the 2 dreams that he had, which made his brothers jealous enough to finally sell him into slavery. Today we are going to look at Yoseph's life in the house of Potiphar, how he ended up in prison, and how he got the opportunity to interpret the dreams of 2 influential men. Let's read Gen. 39 & 40.

PARSHA POINTS

- Yoseph was taken to Mitsrayim by Yishma'elite slave traders and bought by Potiphar the Mitsrite, captain of Pharaoh's palace guard - 39:1
- Yahweh was with Yoseph and caused him to succeed in all that he did - 39:2
- His master Potiphar saw that everything he placed in Yoseph's hand prospered, and recognized that Yahweh was with Yoseph - 39:3
- Because of this, Potiphar appointed Yoseph over all his house, where Yoseph continued to make Potiphar prosper - both in the home and in the field - 39:4
- Potiphar was so impressed that he left everything to Yoseph's care - 39:6
- Yoseph was a handsome man, and Potiphar's wife took great interest in him - 39:6-7
- She pressured Yoseph to agree with her decision to be unfaithful to her husband - 39:7
- Yoseph resisted her, pointing out that his master entrusted him to be honest and faithful in all he did, and that her plan would be not only evil to his master, but would cause him to sin against Elohim - 39:8-9
- Potiphar's wife would not give up; every day she persisted in pleading with him and tempting him, but he would not listen to her - 39:10
- One day, when she was alone with Yoseph in the house, Potiphar's wife tried yet again to convince him to change his mind. But when Yoseph again resisted her words, she became very angry and grabbed his outer garment as he fled, leaving her standing alone with his garment in her hand - 39:11-13



- Because she couldn't get what she wanted, Potiphar's wife lied by telling everyone in the household that Yoseph had made advances toward her - 39:14-15
- She held onto Yoseph's garment until her husband came home, so she could exhibit it as material evidence of Yoseph's guilt - 39:16
- She complained to her husband that Yoseph had approached her, and that she was the innocent party in all this - 39:17-18
- When Potiphar heard his wife's accusation against Yoseph, he became quite angry, and put Yoseph in the prison where Pharaoh's prisoners were locked up - 39:19-20
- Even in that dismal prison Yahweh was with Yoseph, just as He had been with him in Potiphar's house, and gave him favor in the eyes of the warden - 39:21
- The warden gave Yoseph authority to run and manage the prison, just as Potiphar had done - 39:22
- The prison warden trusted Yoseph completely in all his responsibilities, and because of Yahweh's kindness, everything Yoseph had charge over prospered under his hand - 39:23
- During Yoseph's prison time, the palace cupbearer (**mashkeh**) and Pharaoh's baker (**ofeh**) were thrown together into the same prison - 40:1
- They were placed there because the sovereign was angry with them - 40:2
- The cupbearer and the baker were there for some time, and Yoseph was placed in charge of caring for them - 40:3-4
- One night, each of the men dreamed a dream (**chalom**), and the next morning Yoseph noticed how sad they were - 40:5-6
- Yoseph asked them why they were so sad; and they replied that they had each dreamed a dream, but there was no one to interpret their dreams for them - 40:7-8
- Yoseph reminded them that interpretations belong to Elohim, and asked them to relate their dreams to him - 40:8
- The cupbearer told Yoseph (40:9-11):
 - In my dream there was a vine (**gefen**) with 3 (**shalosh**) branches that shot forth buds
 - Its clusters brought forth grapes (**anavim**)
 - I took those ripe grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup (**kos**)
 - Then I put the cup in Pharaoh's hand
- Yoseph then related the dream's interpretation (40:12-13):
 - The 3 branches represent 3 days
 - In 3 days, Pharaoh is going to restore you back to your position
- Yoseph took this opportunity to request that the cupbearer remember him when he was brought back to the king's palace, so that he might also be released from prison - 40:14



- Yoseph explained to him that he had been stolen from his homeland and that he was innocent of the accusation that had landed him in prison - 40:15
- Upon hearing the favorable interpretation of the cupbearer's dream, the baker then described to Yoseph his dream as well - 40:16
- The baker told Yoseph (40:16-17):
 - 3 baskets were on my head
 - All kinds of baked goods were in the basket (**sal**) for Pharaoh
 - Birds (**oph**) ate them out of the basket on my head
- Yoseph then related the dream's interpretation (40:18-19):
 - The 3 baskets are 3 days
 - In 3 days Pharaoh will lift your head off you and hang you on a tree
 - Birds will then eat your flesh from you
- The 3rd day arrived, and because it was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants - 40:20
- He restored the chief cupbearer to his post, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand once again - just as Yoseph told him he would - 40:21
- Pharaoh hung the chief baker, just as Yoseph told him would happen - 40:22
- However, the cupbearer did not remember Yoseph, but forgot him - 40:23



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- In Chapter 39:1 we are told that Potiphar was a Mitsrite (Egyptian). Research the rulership that existed in Mitsrayim during this time. Was Pharaoh an Egyptian, or was he a Hyksos (Shepherd Kings) - a Semite ruler from Shem who controlled Mitsrayim?
- Notice that although Yoseph was in a foreign land it says that Yahweh was with him and took care of him. We see that Yoseph was elevated in Potiphar's house as well as in the prison. Discuss how you may end up in a bad situation, but that doesn't mean that Yahweh has turned His back on you.
- The fact that Yoseph chose to have integrity rather than allow himself to be lured by Potiphar's wife speaks loudly of his commitment to do the right thing. Discuss what you would do if you were found in a situation where someone pressures you to do something which is wrong and would cause you to sin.
- Although Yoseph had been in Mitsrayim for quite a long time, he declared to the baker and cupbearer that interpretation of dreams come from Elohim. If you were going through a similar situation, do you think your faith would be strengthened or diminished?
- How do you think Yoseph felt when time had passed, and he realized the cupbearer had forgotten about him?