

A. Providence (1-2)

"The LORD (YHWH) was with Joseph" (2) - This phrase occurs 4 times in chapter 39, and represents the theme of the story of Joseph

1. The Warden - "Captain of the Guard"

-Anyone working for Potiphar would be in a location where he would readily become aware of the ins and outs of Egyptian government.

2. The Work

-Joseph was humbled as a slave (**Prov 15:33**) but was in the house of Potiphar, which increased his opportunity to learn from him.

C. Proposition (7-12)

1. The Ways of Temptation

This is like a game film of Satan. It shows his favorite and most successful plays.

The temptation was...

Visual "Cast her eyes" (7)
-Eve (**Gen 3:6**)
-David (**2Sam 11:2**)

Versatile - Satan switches his temptation of Joseph from despair to delight.
-Schemes (**Eph 6:11**)

Dignified or Disguised
-Coming from the master's wife made it sound more permissible and safer.

Timely "after a time"
-This temptation came after Joseph was enjoying success (**2Chr 26:15-16**)

Persistent "day after day"

Deceitful "lie beside her"

Aggressive "caught him by his garment." (**Acts 26:11**)

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Joseph's position has changed significantly from the start of Chapter 37 to 39:

¹ 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*. ² **The LORD was with Joseph**, and he became a successful man, and *he was in the house of his Egyptian master*. ³ His master saw that *the LORD was with him* and that *the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands*. ⁴ 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*. ⁵ From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, *the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house* for **Joseph's** sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶ So *he left all that he had in Joseph's charge*, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now **Joseph** was *handsome in form and appearance*. ⁷ And after a time his *master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph* and said, "*Lie with me*." ⁸ 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*." ⁹ He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do *this great wickedness and sin against God?*" ¹⁰ And as she *spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her*.

¹¹ But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, ¹² she *caught him by his garment*, saying, "*Lie with me*." But *he left his garment in her hand and fled* and got out of the house.

2. The War Against Temptation

1Cor 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation **he will also provide the way of escape**, that you may be able to endure it.

B. Performance (2-6)

1. The Wisdom of Joseph

-It is obvious from this section that Joseph worked hard completing his new responsibilities as a slave (**Eph 6:5-9**)

-How many of us would choose to act foolishly in the same situation as Job's wife suggested (**Job 2:9**)

2. The Welfare of Joseph

The presence of God

"The LORD was with him" (3)

-Joseph lost everything that man holds dear, but he did not lose the presence of God (**Ex 33:15**)

The prosperity of God

"became...successful man" (2)

"all...to succeed" (3)

-How do we define "prosperity?"

***Ps 73:3; Rev 2:9, 3:17**

3. The Witness of Joseph

"His master saw that the LORD was with him..." (3)

-How did he see this?

4. The Worth of Joseph

"the LORD blessed the...house for Joseph's sake..." (5)

Joseph was...

Decisive and Steadfast

"he refused" (8)
"he would not" (10)
"he...fled" (12)

Honest "master...in my charge" (8)

Discerning "great wickedness" (9) - Joseph recognized this as Sin

God-honoring "sin against God" (9; **1Co 6:19-20**)

Separated "...or be with her" (10; **1Co 15:22**)

*Outline for Life of Joseph: Butler, J. G. (1993). *Joseph: The Patriarch of Character*: Clinton, IA: LBC Publications.

Providence

3378 יהוה (*yhwh*): n.pr.; ≡ Str 3068, 3069, 3070, 3071, 3072, 3073, 3074; TWOT 484a—LN 12.9 (true God) (njb) **Yahweh**: Jehovah, the Lord as an euphemism for *Adonai*, most versions the name of the one true God, with a focus on sure existence and His relationship to his covenant persons and peoples (Ex 3:15), see also 3363¹

3068. יהוה **Yhvh** (i.e. יהוה **Yehovah** or יהוה **Yahveh**) (217d); from 1933b; the proper name of the God of Israel:—God(314), Lord(6399), LordS(111).²

The Work

Proverbs 15:33 (ESV)

³³ The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom,
and humility comes before honor.

Performance

The Wisdom of Joseph

Ephesians 6:5–9 (ESV)

⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

Job 2:9 (ESV)

⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.”

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew \(Old Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Thomas, R. L. (1998). [New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition](#). Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

The Welfare of Joseph

Exodus 33:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.

The prosperity of God

Psalm 73:3 (ESV)

³ For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Smyrna - Revelation 2:9 (ESV)

⁹ “ I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Laodicea - Revelation 3:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

Proposition

Visual

Genesis 3:6 (ESV)

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

2 Samuel 11:2 (ESV)

² It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king’s house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

Versatile

Ephesians 6:11 (ESV)

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Timely

King Uzziah - 2 Chronicles 26:15–16 (ESV)

¹⁵ In Jerusalem he made machines, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and great stones. And his fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.

¹⁶ But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

Aggressive

Acts 26:11 (ESV)

¹¹ And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.