

Introduction

- We return to Joseph's story to see how things are going in Egypt.
- This section is not a mere moral tale about avoiding sexual sin.
- It continues the motif of the Abrahamic blessing extending to the nations.
- It reminds us, God's blessing can continue even in unfortunate circumstances.

Down to Egypt (v. 1-6)

- Joseph is taken far away from promised land into Egypt, the land of bondage.
- Joseph providential is purchased by an influential member of Pharaoh's court.
- Even though Joseph is a slave in a foreign land, God has not left Him.
- Joseph's success is not limited by his circumstances.
- The text intentionally bounces between "adonai" and "YWH."
- God's blessing is so obvious even pagans notice.
- Joseph finds favor and is now the overseer.
- Joseph new role leads to the blessing extending to Potiphar.
- Joseph is so righteous and trustworthy he is left in charge of everything.
- Joseph is the prototype for how followers of God should live in exile.
- We are to be obedient and faithful, even in foreign lands.
- God's blessings can continue even in exile.

Temptation (v. 7-10)

- Will Joseph be tempted to take what is not his, or will he be content?
- Joseph is beautiful in appearance, like his mother Rachel was.
- Potiphar's wife attempts to seduce Joseph, but he refuses.
- She is not named, but repeatedly called "master's wife."
- Joseph refuses to take what is not his, even if no one would know.
- Joseph views this as a sin against God, similar to King David's words.
- He resists this temptation every single day.
- Joseph continues to model integrity and faithfulness.
- He is unwilling to compromise or take advantage of his position.

Accusation (v. 11-18)

- One day, Potiphar's wife catches Joseph alone when no one is around.
- She grabs him and he flees rather than stay.
- This passage is often used as an example of how to flee sexual temptation, but I think this misses the larger point of the passage.
- This is not a story meant to teach men to never be alone with women.
- She is not just trying to seduce him, she is trying to force herself on him.
- This word is used to describe sexual assault in Num 5:13 and Deut 22:28.
- It is most often used to describe taking people by force against their will.

- We have no textual reason to believe Joseph is even tempted.
- Joseph flees, having left his garment and clothes behind.
- Potiphar's wife claims that Joseph was trying to assault her.
- Joseph has his garment taken and then it is used in a lie that results in him being imprisoned against his will despite his innocence.

Consequences (v. 19-23)

- The master hears the report and is understandably angry.
- It is unclear whether or not Potiphar believes the report or not.
- Joseph should have been executed as a foreigner attempting to assault powerful women, but is only imprisoned instead.
- Joseph's "master" puts him in prison, while Joseph's "LORD" puts him closer to Pharaoh.
- God is with Joseph even though he is stuck in prison.
- God's blessing have not disappeared or diminished.
- God is still showing Joseph steadfast and faithful love.
- God continues to give Joseph favor.
- Joseph is again promoted, even though he is a prisoner slave.
- Joseph continues to be faithful and live with integrity despite his circumstances.
- God blesses the people around Joseph.

Application

- God's blessing does not mean that everything will go your way.
- We are to live lives of integrity even in exile.
- The nations should experience the blessing of God through us.