

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Gen. 39-40

Review

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

## II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

C. The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—36:43

D. The Provider: Joseph, 37:1—47:26

1. Joseph's Background, 30:24-25

2. Joseph's Boyhood, 37:1-11

3. Joseph's Betrayal, 37:12-36

4. Joseph's Brother, 38:1-30

a. Judah and His Sons, 38:1-10

(1) His Wayward Behavior, 38:1

(2) His Worldly Bride, 38:2-5

(3) His Wicked Boys, 38:6-10

b. Judah and His Sins, 38:11-26

(1) His Perverted Values, 38:11-14

(2) His Personal Vileness, 38:15-23

(3) His Pretended Virtue, 38:24-26

c. Judah and His Seed, 38:27-30

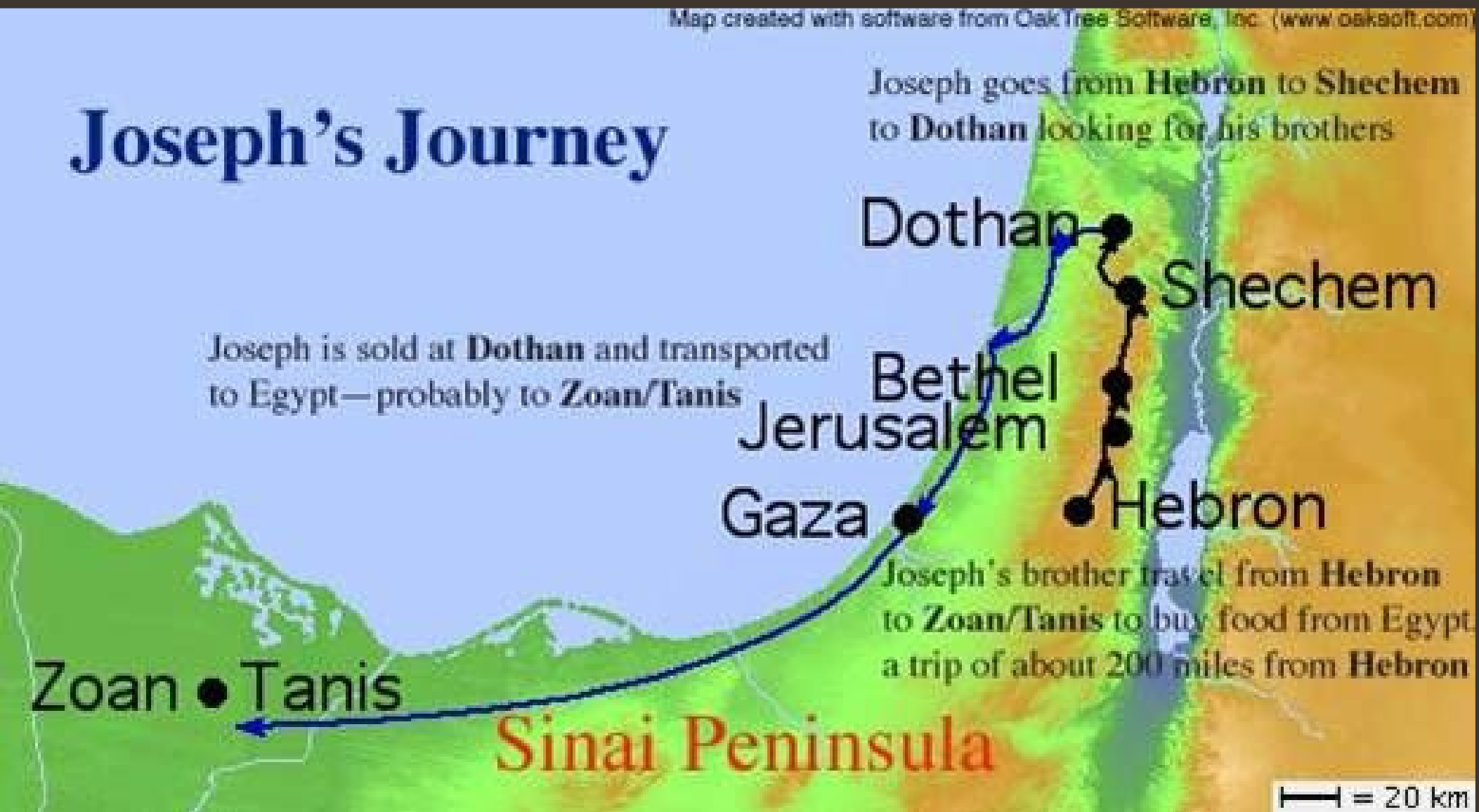
(1) The Redeemed Child, 38:27-28, 30

(2) The Royal Child, 38:29

5. Joseph's Bondage, 39:1—40:23

a. The Slave Man: Completely Trusted by a Prosperous Master, 39:1-6

This week, we return to studying Joseph while he was in Egypt.



Joseph, as a young man, faced the challenge of being a slave in a foreign land. After being purchased by Potiphar, Joseph earned the respect of his master by being an excellent steward in carrying out his responsibilities. Consider the following:

Gen. 39:3 And **his master saw that the LORD was with him**, and that **the LORD** made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all *that* he had he put into his hand.

5 And it came to pass from the time *that* he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that **the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake**; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was *a* goodly *person*, and well favoured.

Tonight, we see Joseph facing a new challenge, how he handled it, and the lessons he learned. As we see the Lord Jesus reflected in Joseph's life, may we learn how to glorify Christ in our life.

b.The Successful Man: Continually Tested by a Persistent Woman, 39:7-20

Gen. 39:7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what *is* with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;



9 *There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou *art* his wife: **how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?***

10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, *or* to be with her.

11 And it came to pass about this time, that *Joseph* went into the house to do his business; and *there was* none of the men of the house there within.

12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,



14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, **he** hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:

15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.

17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which **thou** hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:

18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.

19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did **thy** servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

20 And **Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison**, a place where the king's prisoners *were* bound: and he was there in the prison.

- ❖ Joseph was evidently following his daily routine, faithfully engaging the role of responsibility he was given by Potiphar. Then came Amalek!
- ❖ It is not uncommon for a faithful believer to encounter problems that was not personally created.

❖ Believers are constantly in a battle against the world, flesh, and devil.

1 Jn. 2:15 **Love not the world**, neither the things *that are* in the world. **If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

Jas. 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that **the friendship of the world is enmity with God?** whosoever therefore will be **a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

Rom. 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**

1 Pet. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;**

2 Cor. 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for **we are not ignorant of his devices.**

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that **ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

- ❖ Joseph did not instigate the problem that he was encountering.
- ❖ The temptation propagated by Potiphar's wife was perpetual: "...she spake to Joseph day by day..."

- ❖ Joseph was a young man with typical hormonal challenges.
- ❖ Joseph's impetus for refusal was his desire to honor God:

Gen. 39:9 *There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: **how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?***

- ❖ Clothing seems to be an important facet in Joseph's life: He had a coat of many colors which caused jealousy among his siblings, and now, he leaves behind "his garment" which was used by Potiphar's wife to bring a false accusation against him.

- ❖ Circumstantial guilt often causes distortion of judicial reasoning. (The principle of “innocent until proven guilty” should be a consideration practiced by all.)
- ❖ Potiphar’s wife, rejected by Joseph, falsely accuses Joseph of assault.
- ❖ Potiphar’s wife actually accused her husband of instigating the problem: (See vs. 14, 17, 19)

“Heaven has no rage like love to hatred turned, nor hell a fury like a woman scorned.”

William Congreve. From *The Mourning Bride* is a tragic play, first performed in 1697.  
<https://nosweatshakespeare.com/quotes/famous/hell-hath-no-fury-like-a-woman-scorned/>

- ❖ Potiphar was more focused upon appeasing his wife than finding justice for Joseph.
- ❖ Joseph would spend the next 12-13 years in prison for something he did not do.

Psa. 105:17 **He sent a man before them, even Joseph,**  
*who* was sold for a servant:  
18 **Whose feet they hurt with fetters:** he was laid in iron:  
19 Until the time that his word came: **the word of the**  
**LORD tried him.**

- ❖ Let's consider the typology between Joseph and Jesus.



## Summary

❖ Just as Joseph was tempted by Potiphar's wife, so was Jesus tempted by the devil:

Gen. 39:7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

Mt. 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness **to be tempted of the devil.**

❖ Neither Joseph nor Jesus sinned against God when tempted:

Gen. 39:9 *There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: **how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?***

10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, *or* to be with her.

Heb. 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but **was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

2 Tim. 2:22 **Flee also youthful lusts:** but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that **call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

1 Cor. 6:18 **Flee fornication.** Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

❖ Both Joseph and Jesus were falsely accused:

Gen. 39:14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, **he** hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:

15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

Mt. 26:59 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, **sought false witness against Jesus**, to put him to death;

60 But found none: **yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none**. At the last came two false witnesses,

❖ Both Joseph and Jesus were incarcerated in a prison:

Gen. 39: 20 And **Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison**, a place where the king's prisoners *were* bound: and he was there in the prison.

Isa 53:8 **He was taken from prison and from judgment**: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

❖ Both Joseph and Jesus were incarcerated where “the king’s prisoners *were* bound.”

Gen. 39: 20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, **a place where the king's prisoners *were* bound**: and he was there in the prison.

Eph. 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, **to preach deliverance to the captives**, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

## Conclusion

❖ Joseph had the dreams, suffered for the sake of Israel, and eventually was the source for greater blessings in the future.

1 Chron. 5:1 Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he *was* the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, **his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.**

2 For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him *came* the chief ruler; but **the birthright was Joseph's:)**



❖ Believers today also have the potential for being a blessing for generations to come.

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are **the sons of God**.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that **we are the children of God**:

17 And **if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ**; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.