

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

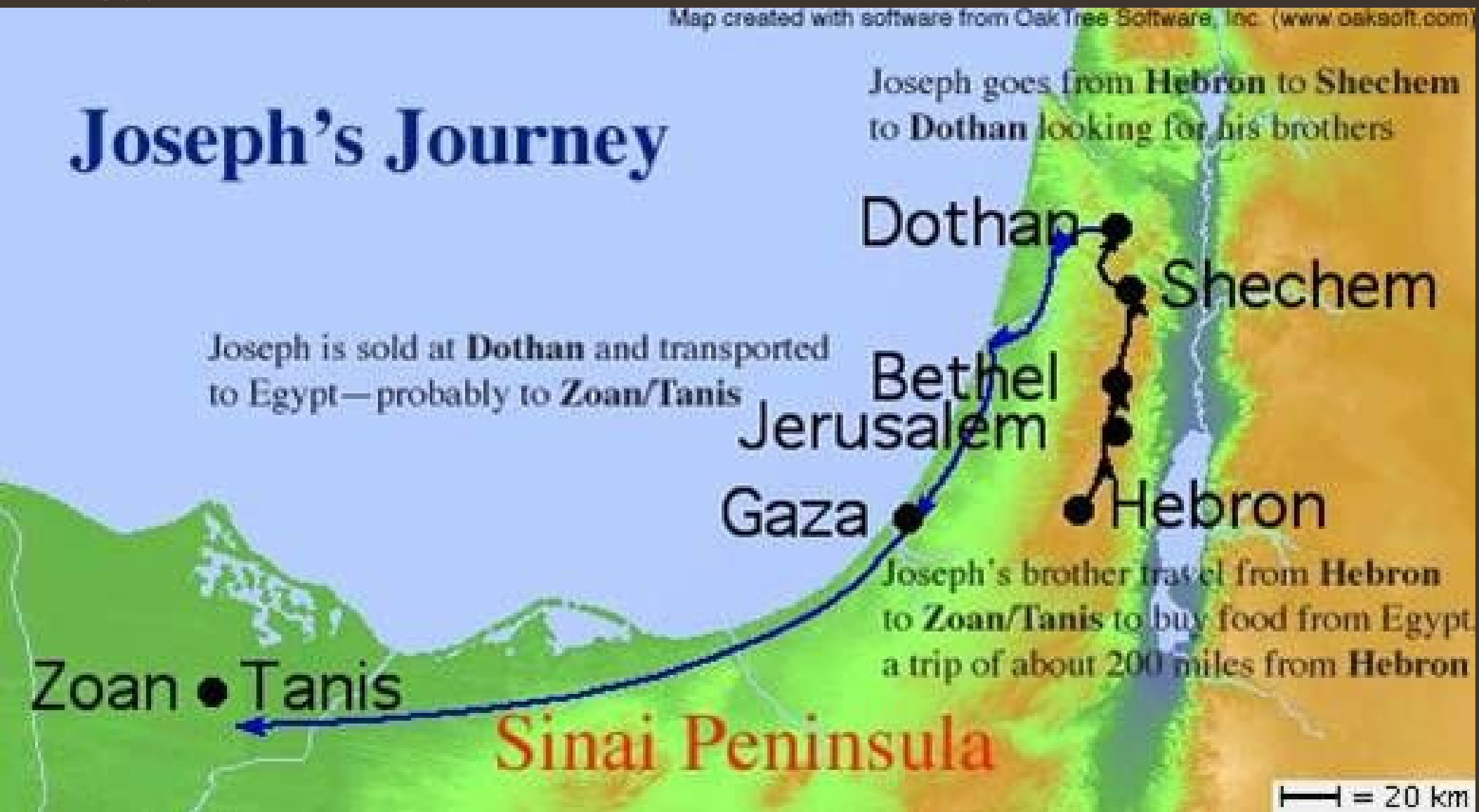
4. Joseph's Brother, 38:1-30

5. Joseph's Bondage, 39:1—40:23

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

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

This week, we return to studying Joseph while he was imprisoned 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. Potiphar's wife tried many times to seduce Joseph, who refused her advances in order to honor God and Potiphar. Nonetheless, she made a false accusation of assault against Joseph, and Potiphar had Joseph locked up in prison.

c. The Slandered Man: Carefully Tested by a Patient God, 30:21-40:23

(1) Faith Demanded of Joseph, 39:21-23

Gen. 39:21 But **the LORD was with Joseph**, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that *were* in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer *of it*.

23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing *that was* under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and *that* which he did, the LORD made *it* to prosper.

❖ The key to Joseph's life was his relationship with the LORD, v. 21.

Gen. 39:21 But **the LORD was with Joseph**, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

- God was merciful to Joseph:
- God gave Joseph favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

❖ The “keeper of the prison” was moved by the Lord to commit to Joseph more stewardship responsibilities:

- “...all the prisoners that *were* in the prison...”
- “...and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer *of it*.”

1 Cor. 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Psa. 1:1 **Blessed is the man** that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But **his delight is in the law of the LORD**; and in his law **doth he meditate day and night**.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and **whatsoever he doeth shall prosper**.

Jer. 17:7 **Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.**

8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and *that* spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Gen. 39:8 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;**

23 The keeper of the prison **looked not to any thing *that* was under his hand;** because **the LORD was with him, and *that* which he did, the LORD made *it* to prosper.**

- ❖ As all things were placed under Joseph's supervision, so has the Father placed all things into the hand of the Lord Jesus – Jn. 3:35.

Jn. 3:35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

- ❖ A faithful steward will prosper as God's blessings honor spiritual character.

1 Pet. 2:18 Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

19 For **this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.**

20 For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? **but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.**

(2) Love Displayed by Joseph, 40:1-22

Gen. 40:1 And it came to pass after these things, *that* the butler of the king of Egypt and *his* baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt.

2 And Pharaoh was wroth against two *of* his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers.

3 And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, **into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound.**

4 And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and **he served them**: and they continued a season in ward.

5 And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which *were* bound in the prison.

6 And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they *were* sad.

7 And he asked Pharaoh's officers that *were* with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly to day?

8 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and *there is* no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, *Do* not interpretations *belong* to God? tell me *them*, I pray you.

9 And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine *was* before me;

10 And in the vine *were* three branches: and it *was* as though it budded, *and* her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes:

11 And Pharaoh's cup *was* in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand.

12 And Joseph said unto him, This *is* the interpretation of it: The three branches *are* three days:

13 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.

14 But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:

15 For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.

16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also *was* in my dream, and, behold, *I had* three white baskets on my head:

17 And in the uppermost basket *there was* of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head.

18 And Joseph answered and said, This *is* the interpretation thereof: The three baskets *are* three days:

19 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.

20 And it came to pass the third day, *which was* Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.

21 And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand:

22 But he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them.

- ❖ The narrative now fast forwards over 10 years.
- ❖ Joseph had been in prison long enough to earn the keeper's confidence.
- ❖ As Jesus was condemned with two criminals, Joseph was condemned with two criminals (see Gen. 40:1-3) – Luke 23:32.

Luke 23:32 And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death.

- ❖ Joseph was “into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound.” (40:3)

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.**

- ❖ Two of Pharaoh’s officers, the butler and the baker, become Joseph’s responsibility: “...the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and **he served them...**” (40:4)
- ❖ Both Joseph and Jesus were servants:

Jn. 21:12 Jesus saith unto them, Come *and* dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

13 **Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.**

Mt. 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, **but to minister**, and to give his life a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

Jn. 13:5 After that **he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel** wherewith he was girded.

- ❖ As Joseph was in charge of caring for “the butler and the baker,” the two of them each had a dream:

Gen. 40:5 And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which *were* bound in the prison.

- ❖ The next morning, Joseph noted that the two of them are “sad.” (40:6)
- ❖ As Joseph enquired of their sadness, they revealed their concern; Joseph answered:

Gen. 40:8 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and *there is* no interpreter of it. And **Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations *belong* to God? tell me *them*, I pray you.**

❖ Joseph did not express his experiences regarding his dreams but went straight to the most important principle – GOD!

Deut. 29:29 **The secret *things* belong unto the LORD our God:** but those *things which* are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Psa. 25:14 **The secret of the LORD *is* with them that fear him;** and he will shew them his covenant.

Luke 10:21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that **thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes**: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

❖ Joseph interpreted the dreams:

Gen. 41:16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, ***It is not in me: God shall give*** Pharaoh an answer of peace.

Gen. 40:13 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.

14 But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:

15 For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.

(3) Hope Deferred for Joseph, 40:23

Gen. 40:23 Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.

- ❖ The timing for Joseph was under God's control and His is ALWAYS on time, every time.
- ❖ An apparent "open door" of deliverance would be delayed for two more years.

Gen. 41:1 And it came to pass **at the end of two full years**, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.

- ❖ A great testing of faith is revealed by the saints who faithfully wait for God's timing according to His perfect will.

Summary

- ❖ As all things were placed under Joseph's supervision, so has the Father placed all things into the hand of the Lord Jesus – Jn. 3:35.
- ❖ As Jesus was condemned with two criminals, Joseph was condemned with two criminals (see Gen. 40:1-3) – Luke 23:32.
- ❖ Both Joseph and Jesus were servants.

Conclusion

Psa. 27:14 **Wait on the LORD**: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psa. 37:7 **Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him**: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. ...
34 **Wait on the LORD, and keep his way**, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see *it*.

Psa. 39:7 And now, **Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee.**

Psa. 62:5 **My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.**