

Messiah Son of Joseph Part 6: Joseph's Tunic and God's Sorrow; Potiphar's Wife; Imprisonment. (Presented on 9/16/2017)

The following text is based on a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8H8fBsl6Wc&feature=youtu.be>

***Portions of the video message have been edited to present a written document. All the Scripture verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted and are in the red text. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We are in our sixth week of our series Messiah son of Yosef. Over the last couple weeks, we've been looking at Isaiah 52 and 53 which are two profound chapters about the suffering servant. Today we are going to get back to our story of Joseph, and we're going to continue to see how his life, time after time and event after event, all declares that Joseph is a typology of the Messiah Yeshua. And this story does it in a really powerful way. This is one of my favorite characters in all of Scripture because of how profound his life is regarding being a prophetic template for the Messiah Yeshua. You see Yeshua throughout the pages.

With that said, we're going to break right into this in Genesis 37:30-31—**And he [Reuben] returned to his brothers and said, "The lad is no more; and I, where shall I go?"**³¹ **So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood.** What you want to take away from this passage is the fact that the blood of the goat that is saturated on Joseph's coat is directly associated with Joseph death. As I mentioned before, that's extremely significant when you consider what the Torah states regarding the goats, the blood, and what that accomplished for Israel. It accomplished a lot. This was for the forgiveness of sins. Here we see that being tied directly to Yosef's death.

What does all that indicate? It is a foreshadow. It tells us that the LORD's ultimate redemption plan would have to do with the death of His servant who is one who would be sent on behalf of his brothers. Because of what he would go through, and what he would do, now we find redemption is brought to Israel.

Moving on to Genesis 37:32—**Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?"** Of course, they knew the tunic was Yosef's. These are the brothers that stripped him of the tunic, and they're the ones who put the blood on it. So they knew exactly whose tunic this was, but they didn't want to be responsible for how their father was going to react. So they approached it in this manner.

Continuing in Genesis 37:33—**And he (Jacob) recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him.** Here's the interesting thing about the words "wild beast." What you would expect if you're doing your word studies and you are familiar with the Hebrew is when you look up these words "wild beast" in the Hebrew, something peculiar happens. The expectation of what you're going to find is not there. What you would typically expect is **חַיָּה**, khä-yä' or **חַיָּה**, khä-yä' **הַדָּבָר**, sâdeh which means wild beast. This is how it's translated elsewhere; this is the expectation. But when you go to the Hebrew,

and you actually look at it, you discover something. It doesn't read that way. It's really peculiar. What we read is רַעַה רָאֵה = evil beast (ḥayyāh rā'āh). This is very different. What is rā-'āh in Hebrew? It means pure evil or vile wickedness. This is what the verse says. It translated into the English as wild beast, but what it really means is an absolute, vile, wicked evil beast. That's what this term is.

That's very significant when we're reading this passage. But it's not done. Then it continues in Genesis 37:33—**Without doubt, Joseph is torn to pieces.**" in the Hebrew that word "torn" is פָּרַט *ṭōraṗ*. It means just what it says. But it's important you make this identification as a whole with this *ḥay-yāh rā-'āh* (evil beast). What they are doing is *ṭōraṗ*. They are tearing to pieces.

Why is all of this important? What I'm going to show you is there is more going on here than meets the eye because this passage is prophetic of the Messiah Yeshua. I want to show you this by taking you to another heavy hitter when it comes to declaring Yeshua as the Messiah and all he suffered. That is Psalms 22:12. This Psalm is so powerful! You are literally covering all the details you find in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke regarding what happened to Yeshua at His trial and crucifixion. If you read Psalms 22, you will find everything from the time where they're casting lots for His garments to Yeshua hanging on the cross, and He said—**My God, My God. Why have You forsaken Me?** When Yeshua said this, He was quoting Psalms 22:1. He is trying to turn everybody who was witnessing this to Psalms 22 to show them this Psalm was a prophecy of Him. This is what was happening.

I want to take you to this Psalm and show you there is a lot more going on here than meets the eye. So in Psalms 22:12 & 16 we read the following—¹² **Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan....**¹⁶ **For dogs have surrounded Me.**

Do you remember a couple of weeks ago we went into the book of Enoch and saw that Enoch was using this imagery to describe particular men with a particular beast. We found clean beast and unclean beasts. The Egyptians were described as wolves. The Ishmaelites were described as donkeys, and the patriarchs were described as bulls. So in this verse, we find the people of God being described as bulls and strong bulls of Bashan who had circled Him.

What is this passage from Psalms 22 talking about? His people have surrounded Him. The leaders have surrounded Him. His own flesh and blood from His own descendants. But we also have the dogs who are the Romans. Remember that throughout Scripture you find that the word dog is an image or terminology that is used to describe Gentiles.

Do you remember the Phoenician woman who came to Yeshua pleading for His mercy? How does Yeshua respond? **It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs (Matthew 15:26).** He was telling the woman that the children are Israel, and she was a Gentile; therefore, it is not good to do that. But because of what she said after her initial statement, He agreed, and the demon left her daughter. All throughout Scripture, even as you get into Revelation 22, it talks about how the dogs are thrown outside the Kingdom of God. They're thrown into hell. So the point here is that we have imagery of people.

That is very significant. Again, in Genesis 37:33 we have a particular kind of beast mentioned. They are evil beasts (*rā'āh*). These are the same beasts that are described in Psalms 22. They are the ones who rejected Yeshua. Remember that Yeshua came to an evil and wicked generation. Had He not, He would never have been crucified. So now you have that information.

Let's continue in Psalms 22:13—¹³ **They gape at Me with their mouths, like a raging and roaring lion.** Well, that's interesting because the word here for raging is *ἄραφ*, *taraph*. What I'm showing you is what is being communicated here in Psalms 22, which is absolutely and fundamentally a prophetic passage about Yeshua. It is the exact same thing that we see being described in Genesis 37. That is why I told you that there's more going on here prophetically than what we typically come away with when we simply read the verse. It's very powerful!

What does this matter? It matters a lot because what you find is throughout Scripture all the different players, different prophets, and different stories are all declaring one thing, Yeshua is King. He is Messiah. This is consistent in Scripture.

Continuing on in Genesis 37:34—**Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.** So get this; the first thing the father of Joseph does upon recognizing the death of his son, he is looking at the evidence and realizing that his son is dead, is to tear his clothes. That's fascinating because as we come to Matthew 27:50-51 we find this—**And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit.** ⁵¹ **Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two.**

This is amazing because we talked about the veil being the garment of the Living God. When the priest went into the holy place, not the holy of holies, into the holy place it was that garments that concealed the glory of the Living God. They were only allowed to see it once a year when they went behind that garment. And remember in Numbers that the veil was the very garment that covered the throne of God when they move the tabernacle. It was that garment that clothed the mercy seat (Numbers 4:5)

So it is an interesting coincidence that all of the sudden Jacob, upon seeing the death of his son, the first thing he does is mourn. Then we get to the New Testament where we have Yeshua dying, and the garment of God is ripped from the top to the bottom. Think about how a man would tear his clothing. Back in the day, he would tear them from top to bottom. It is pretty amazing what we see happening here.

Genesis 37:35—**And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning."** Think about that statement—**For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning.** The first thing you need to recognize is this; don't think for a moment, as the Father was witnessing His Son Yeshua paying our price for sin, that that somehow did not move Him. Don't think He didn't have feelings about this. Don't believe that He was completely indifferent to all this having the attitude this is just what needs to be done. If you believe that, you have no idea what a father is.

There's no question the father was gripped with all sorts of emotion. Yes, it was His will. He knew it had to be done this way or we couldn't be saved. But you better believe He was moved. And it is just fascinating to me that Jacob could speak these words—**For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning.** What did the Father do? He went down into the grave, and He resurrected His son. As we get closer to the end of this series, we're going to circle back to this because this is powerful.

Genesis 37:36—³⁶ **Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.** Jumping to Genesis 39:1-3—¹ **Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.** ² **The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man, and he was in the**

house of his master the Egyptian. ³ And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.

Where have we heard that verse before—all that he did to prosper in his hand? You heard that last week. What was the prophecy about regarding the suffering servant in Isaiah 53:10? What did it say? This is what it said—Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand (emphasis added). The identical thing said in Genesis 39:3 about Yosef is said right here in Isaiah 53:10 regarding this suffering servant. This is a messianic passage of the Messiah that was to come. Very fascinating!

I could take it a step further. For example, when we look at the Gospel of Luke 2:40 we read about the fulfillment of this passage—And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. The statement—the grace of God was upon Him—actually talks about the favor of God that was with Him. Everything Yeshua did prospered. Everything He put His hand to; everything that He spoke prospered.

Think about Nicodemus in John 3. Nicodemus has this discourse with Yeshua at night because the Pharisees were not buying into Yeshua. So Nicodemus had to do this secretly because he was a Pharisee. So he goes to Yeshua. And what's interesting is what Nicodemus testified of. He told Yeshua—we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him (John 3:2). Nicodemus confessed that nobody could do the things Yeshua was doing unless God was with Him. This is the very thing that we see Joseph experiencing in a very powerful way.

Moving to Genesis 39:4-6—⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had, he put under his authority. ⁵ So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. ⁶ Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.

Think about the context of this. Joseph is a foreigner to Potiphar; he is not of his people. Potiphar bought Joseph as a slave; he doesn't know him from Adam. But now the situation is that Potiphar trusts Joseph so much that he can turn his back on his entire livelihood entrusting it to a foreigner, a slave.

That whole concept is completely foreign to reality. It doesn't make any sense whatsoever. And as we continue in the story, you'll see elements supporting that. This just doesn't make sense that Potiphar would do such a thing, and yet he did.

What does that tell you about Joseph? What does it say about his character, his integrity, and his honor? Potiphar saw it. He saw who Joseph was. That's powerful!

Continuing in Genesis 39:6—Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷ And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."

I will give you a little bit of context here. She is Potiphar's wife, and he is in a very high position in the Egyptian army. He is very important, and he is wealthy. There is no question here about these facts because there are other aspects of the story that support this.

She is absolutely beautiful. She is breathtaking. She would be breathtaking considering how well off Potiphar is. She would have had all the beautifying materials her heart desired at her disposal. And I'm sure she smelled real pretty too. Everything you can imagine she had. This is the backdrop.

Then she, this beautiful woman, comes on the scene; and talk about dispensing with formalities. I mean, what happened to flirting or whatever? She just goes in for the kill—**lie with me**. Talk about being straightforward. There's no ambiguity here. She's laying everything out on the line, "This is what I want."

Think about this. No sooner do we read about his integrity, the exemplary character that he possesses, how the LORD is with him, and how he is prospering, when, surprise, the devil moves in for the kill.

What a surprise! This is when the devil moves in for the kill. He is coming after Joseph's integrity, and he's coming after his character. And think about this, he's out to destroy the mission that God is sending Joseph on despite Joseph not being aware of this mission. There is nothing in the entire story that alludes to the idea that Joseph knew the beginning from the end. No! Absolutely not! He has to go through all this in faith. HaSatan knows the mission. We forget this.

Let's break this down into a practical realm for us. If you confess Yeshua as LORD, you become part of the Body of Christ. Understand something. You are now enlisted in the war. It is not an option. And make no mistake. Every single one of you has a mission. The LORD has particular missions for you to accomplish for the Kingdom of God. And if you think for a moment the devil is not going to try to thwart that mission, you're absolutely deceived.

There are going to be trials and suffering. There are going to be pains in the process. All these things that we see Joseph going through, we need to be of the same mind as he. We need to have the same expectation. Yeshua didn't promise us anything else. What did He say in John 16:33? **In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**

We were not promised rainbows and butterflies. Your walk with Yeshua is going to be war. The enemy is going to come after you with the most unbelievable trials and temptations.

Think about this; the devil could have chosen anything with which to come against Joseph. He has this massive arsenal of weapons that are available to him. Much of it is deceitful. He doesn't use just any weapon against Joseph. HaSatan chooses one particular weapon; sexual immorality. He uses the weapon of lust that has to do with a beautiful woman.

Isn't that interesting? As you look at the history of the various churches in this nation, the one sin that has brought pastor after pastor and teacher after teacher down is sex scandals. You can't go a week without reading about it. You think the devil knows what he's doing? Think about how righteous and holy Joseph is. HaSatan has to pull out the big guns.

There is a reason all these pastors, preachers, and evangelists are falling like flies and their character is being dragged through the mud. The devil blasphemes the name of the LORD. Here you have these men on a mission of the LORD to declare the holiness of God and to declare the name of Yeshua. And the Devil is mocking them and destroying that mission. And the church is losing credibility because of these types of acts because these men are being taken out. This is what Joseph is up against.

I'm going to tell you that you would be hard-pressed to find another sin mentioned more in scripture than sexual immorality. We are warned about this time after time whether through a story or direct command. Think about the first thing the Gentiles are warned about (Acts 15:20). What is the first thing they were commanded to get rid of? Sexual immorality. Get rid of it; run from it!

It is an unreal temptation. It had completely swept this country. And it is not just the world, but the church divorce rates are high. There is a reason they are so high; sexual immorality. It is people's lust. It's the deception. It is the trap Satan is using to destroy families. This is the F5 of tornadoes where you look and all you see after an F5 rolls through is debris. There is nothing but destruction. And when you get involved with sexual immorality, it's not one person that gets hurt. It is a slew of pain from spouses to family members to children.

If you're going to walk with the LORD, at some point, you're going to have to deal with this very thing. The only question is how you're going to deal with it? Are you going to deal with it the way Joseph is going to deal with it? This is how he deals with it as recorded in Genesis 39:8-9—⁸ But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. ⁹ There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Joseph's response fascinates me. It is so powerful. It is so deep and revealing. You will notice that he doesn't come and respond with the answer, "My concern is that someone will find out." Did you see that kind of response anywhere in Scripture?

We are going to get a profound revelation of truth here. How many times do you get involved or want to get involved with something you shouldn't only because "Somebody might find out. They might talk bad about me. I don't want to do that because of what people would think about me."

I want to be very clear, Joseph doesn't care what people think about him. This is where we need to start doing self checks and self tests. I want to tell you right now that if you continue with that reasoning, you will fall. Guaranteed! I promise you that! You may go for a while because you really do care what people think about you, and you don't want things to happen. But I will tell you that at the end of the day the devil will have his way with you. You can take that to the bank.

How does Joseph respond? He responds in the most profound way you could imagine. Let me set the stage in Matthew 22:36-40. A lawyer comes to Yeshua and asks Him—Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Did you catch what Joseph just said and how he responded? Or should I say how he responded to the devil who is coming through Potiphar's wife and tempted him? The first concern on his plate is, "How can I do this to Potiphar? He has entrusted me with everything. He has kept nothing back. You are his wife. How could I do that to him?" Joseph is "Loving his neighbor," and then he ends it with, "How can I sin against God?"

So he loves the LORD his God with all his heart, and he loves his neighbor as himself. This is his motivation. It is not that he is worried about getting caught. His motivation is the spirit of Torah. The LORD is in his heart. And the LORD is coming out of his mouth. Think about that!

I'm going to tell you this is the only way you're going to survive temptation. You will not survive it any other way unless the Spirit of God is inside you, and unless your motivation is, no, I love the LORD too much. I cannot sin against Him; I can't go there. Unless that's your motivation, it's not a matter of if. It is only a matter of when you're going down.

You want the context of this story. Look at the situation and circumstances that Joseph is involved in and what has happened. Joseph wakes up one day just to go and check on his brothers because he loves them. He finds himself getting stripped of his garments, which his father gave him because he was a beloved son, and he was thrown into a pit.

His life is not going well. Only here is the good news, "You can come out of the pit now because we are going to sell you as a slave to foreigners. You are going to be carried away and taken from your family." One hellish event is happening after another.

The mind of the flesh that gets defeated and discouraged would say, "Wait for a second! Let's just look at my life for a second. It has been, for the most part, absolutely miserable. But now I have an unbelievably beautiful woman who is throwing herself at me. This is the first good thing that has ever happened to me." That is the mind of the flesh.

I want you to think about it because when we get discouraged because we go through the trials and tribulation, understand this; the devil is going to come with temptations to get you to justify your actions. And boy he is crafty. When we're reading the story, it's easy to identify this stuff. But when it's happening to you, well, no, no. Now it is different.

The reality of Joseph is this; despite his circumstances, despite these trial and tribulation, despite everything that is going wrong, and he's completely mistreated, what good did it do for him? He walked in righteousness, and then he ended up in the pit and was sold as a slave. What good is righteousness? This is what the devil will tell you, "What good does it do you? You might as well enjoy a little bit of the lust of the flesh." He will come at that very moment when you're at the very bottom thinking to yourself, "I'm just getting beat down. I've got nothing left. I've got nothing to show for all this obedience that I'm apparently doing." What blessing did Joseph get? The Torah says, "You'll be blessed if you obey me, and you'll be cursed if you don't."

This is the mind of the flesh. This is how the mind of the flesh starts working through these things. I'm going to tell you something that should be on a bumper sticker; your circumstances should never define your character. Your character should be defining your circumstances. In other words, my character should dictate how I respond to the life of events that I experience. Integrity and honor carry the day, and I am not moved by negative trials and temptations because I'm rooted in the Holy One.

Moving on to Genesis 39:10—**So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day that he did not heed her (emphasis added).** I want you to think about that for a second. If you think because you reject the temptation of the evil for a single day, and you're proud of that, don't be. He is coming back, and he's going to come back day, after day, after day.

All of this is what is amazing about the life of Joseph regarding what he experienced and the actual temptations he went through. We need to draw this out of the text because we pass over this so fast. She is an unbelievably beautiful woman who is in proximity to Joseph. He would have seen her every day. And now day after day she is speaking to his heart. She is saying words and getting into his head creating the fantasy that they could embrace if he would just give in.

You don't know how powerful it is to have that kind of influence and that kind of impact. And Joseph had to be around her day by day as she spoke these things. It says in Proverbs 5:3—**For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil.** We have no idea the things that she was saying to Joseph. Perhaps they didn't make it into the Scriptures because of the sinful nature of the comments.

Can you imagine having a beautiful woman telling you all the things you want to hear? How many husbands have been taken out because a beautiful woman came and started telling him how great he was? He wasn't getting that type of affection at home; he wasn't being put on a pedestal. So he listened, and he got taken out. It happens every day.

Or we find that the devil brings that woman in at just the right time, or vice versa. The devil brings her in at just the right time when he's not feeling loved, and her lip drip honey. Everything she says is so good, and she's beautiful.

This is a real temptation. But look at Joseph—**he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.** ¹¹ **But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside (Genesis 39:10-11).** How convenient!

So here you have this beautiful woman who is day by day speaking honey into him. This is what the devil is, he is an opportunist waiting for the perfect moment so that he can capitalize on it. No one will ever know.

Joseph now has this scenario, there are no men to be seen anywhere. No one will ever find out. No one's going to see.

Moving on to Genesis 39:12—¹² **that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand.** Now get this because you need to dig in here, and you need to start reading between the lines so that you can see what Yosef is really up against. This just went from speaking to Joseph to pressing herself upon him. She is clinging to him.

Now the fact that nobody is in the house and we know what kind of woman Potiphar's wife is, do not think for a moment that she came in with a snowmobile suit on. When women are looking to do what Potiphar's wife is doing, they disrobe their usual attire. This is what they do.

So the reality of this situation is that she probably walked in with next to nothing on. You have this beautiful woman pressing herself upon him and embracing him so tightly that he had to wrestle himself away from her, but she still had his garment in his hand.

You want to talk about temptation! You want to talk about honor and integrity! This man has incredible strength in the LORD. But look at what it says—**But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside (Genesis 39:12).** Noticed the wisdom of Joseph. He did not say, "Well, wait a minute there

Potiphar's wife. We should talk about this. Clearly, you are a woman that needs help. Yes, I know I'm handsome, but we have got to exhibit some self-control. Maybe we should pray about this.”

That's delusion! Instead, he ran for his life. What did Paul say? **Flee sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18)**. The Greek word for “flee” is *φεύγω, pheugō*. It means to flee. Run for your life. Get out because you are saving your life by doing so.

Joseph had to run. And where I am going with this is that this shows how great this temptation was even upon Joseph. The fact is he had to run out because he couldn't handle it speaks volumes. He is a smart man with true wisdom.

Moving to Genesis 39:13-14—**And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside,¹⁴ that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, "See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.** Oh, isn't that convenient?

Joseph says, “No. I don't want to be a part of this,” and now her story changes. Isn't this interesting? When you tell the devil no, he's going to come at you another way.

I am going to show you a pattern in Scripture you will pick up on and start seeing everywhere in Scripture. The pattern is this; the crowning achievement of the devil is to get you to willingly walk away from the LORD and His commandments. Satan is holding out his hand saying, “Come and I will give you the blessing of pleasure. I will give you the blessing of fame. I will give you the blessing of success. I'll give you the blessing of a new job. It's going to cost you your family, but it's going to be fine.” He will bless you. But if you refuse it, he will move to force. That is exactly what we're seeing; he moved to force.

Remember from last week the story of Hezekiah and the Rabshakeh? In Isaiah 36:8, the Rabshakeh tells Hezekiah—**I will give you two thousand horses—if you are able on your part to put riders on them!** What he was saying is this, “Just submit and this will be done. Surrender and this will be all over. I will bless you and will give you what you need.”

What about Antiochus IV Epiphanes who is recorded in the book of Daniel (Daniel 11:21-35)? That whole scenario is also recorded in the book of Maccabees. Antiochus, although he certainly wasn't a friend of the Jews, offered them more than peace. He offered them wealth, “All you Jews need to do is come on to our side, be Greek, and start embracing the Greek customs. Abandon the Torah and Sabbath; we'll even pay you to do this. You'll be fine. You will be blessed.” When they refused, he moved to force and started killing. Read the book of Revelation. All the people that receive the mark of the beast are blessed. No harm is going to come to them from the beast. But those who don't accept the mark of the beast, he moves against them in force.

You see this pattern over and over again, if you reject his temptations, he will come by force. People, you need to be prepared because the force is coming. In this country, there are believers who don't cater, cave in, or get seduced by all this insanity that is literally swirling around us. But the time will come when we are going to start to see the force. We already see it because the legislation has already been passed. We're making it a law that you can have abortions and live in alternative lifestyle marriages. The force is coming. And I don't mean that in the Star Wars sense. OK?

We're going to move on. We are in this discourse about Potiphar's wife falsely accusing Joseph of attempted rape. This is what she's doing, and the devil is the false accuser. OK? So she's going to go on and spin this sophisticated web of lies to these people who are her audience. It is so wonderful for her. This is what we read in Genesis 39:15-16—¹⁵ **And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me** (conveniently leaving out the fact that she had the garment in her clutches) **and fled and went outside.** ¹⁶ **So she kept his garment with her until his master came home.**

Here are two things about this. The first thing is she's keeping this garment to manipulate her husband in order to get into his head and his heart so that he actually reacts exactly how she wants him to react. This is very clever. The other thing is the fact that she has Joseph's garment. She stripped him of his garment.

I don't need to know the rest of the story. I already know what's going to happen. Why do I know? Because the last time Joseph was stripped of his garment by his brothers, what happened after that was not good. And here again, we have Joseph being stripped of his garment. It is not going to go well for him.

Moving on to Genesis 39:17-20—¹⁷ **Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me;** ¹⁸ **so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside."** ¹⁹ **So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused.** ²⁰ **Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.**

Of course Potiphar did this. It makes perfect sense why he would do this. But his wife was the culprit behind all of this. Potiphar he is being manipulated. His wife is an utterly perverse woman.

So let's look at this. Joseph gets betrayed by his brothers and thrown into a pit. He is brought out of the pit and sold into slavery. He finally gets a breather in Potiphar's house only to be falsely accused of rape. And now he is in prison. Think about this man's life. This is one horrific tribulation after another. Joseph is being tested.

That's exactly what Psalms 105:17-19 says—¹⁷ **He sent a man before them Joseph--who was sold as a slave.** ¹⁸ **They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.** ¹⁹ **Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.**

When we read this story on a practical level, we need to let it sink into our hearts because every one of our lives is a test. All the things that we go through are a test. We are continually being tested. The LORD says in Deuteronomy 30:19—**I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.** We have choices every single day. We are being tested every single day at different levels.

I want to take you to the writer of Hebrews, and I want to bring Yeshua into this mix because of where we're at in the story right now. We can look at what Joseph is going through regarding these trials and tribulations and see that is exactly what Yeshua experience. But there's a reason, and I want to show this reason because it is so important. Hebrews 2:17-18—**Therefore, in all things He had to be made like**

His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. Yeshua faced temptation. Moving on to Hebrews 4:15—For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Here's the thing that you need to lock down. Everything that you have faced in regard to temptations and how strong they are, and what Joseph experienced in the temptation of passion and lust that was bouncing off of the walls at that moment, Yeshua has experience all of it. He even experienced anxiety. There is no question about that. When you read the story of Him praying in Gethsemane. He was begging for the Father to take the cup from Him (Luke 22:42).

Don't think that He went into the garden with absolutely no emotion, and that he's not having to fight the fear and anxiety in regard to the horrific suffering He was about to endure. He did! But he fought it—**not My will, but Yours, be done (Luke 22:42).**

So where I am going with this is that there are going to be times in your life when you think that the devil is going to start manipulating you and speaking lies into your head by saying, “No one else knows what you're going through. There's no one here with you. No one's going to help. No one can understand you.” Yet Yeshua understands. He is the ultimate counselor. He is the ultimate person to run to that you can trust in without having to worry that He will hurt or betray you. He is the one person that literally knows the trouble you are going through.

This concept of him being the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) and being manifest in the flesh was all for the purpose of Him coming down to our level and understanding us. This happened so that He could be the faithful High Priest. So when you start praying, He knows what you're going through on a real level, and you'll never lose that.

Moving on to Genesis 39:21-22—²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²² And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. So when you look at this you see that things are rough for Joseph. That's an understatement! Tribulation befalls him over and over again. I, however, want you to focus on the first thing that this verse says—**But the LORD was with Joseph.**

If there is anything that you are going to take away from this, that is it. It is so critical for you to overcome tribulation, overcome temptation, and overcome discouragement. Knowing this is what is going to give you the joy of the LORD. Knowing this is what's going to give you the strength to endure. Remember—**he who endures to the end shall be saved (Matthew 10:22).** If you don't have this component, you're not going to make it.

The LORD was with Joseph—**If God is for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31)?** I would rather be in prison with the LORD than living lavishly in the world with every item I could possibly desire in my heart being given to me without the LORD.

Start thinking about what it is you want. If you want the LORD, He is waiting—**Behold, I stand at the door and knock (Revelation 3:20).** No matter what situation you're in and all the trials and tribulations you're going through you don't have to do it alone. You can have the confidence that the LORD is with

you. Psalms 16:8—I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

This is the confidence we can have as believers in Yeshua. When we stand with Him and allow Him to come into our heart, no matter what we go through, it will not move us. People will be baffled. You'll be like Paul in prison and singing songs. That made no sense to the prison keeper. They thought Paul was delusional, or something was wrong with him. Paul knew the LORD was at his right hand, and therefore Paul would not be moved. That's the confidence that is supposed to be inside of us.

You think about Proverbs 24:16—For a righteous man may fall seven times, and rise again. Why? There is only one reason why, the LORD is with him. Micah 7:8—Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me. This is the promise.

So no matter what is coming in your future, the only thing I care about is that you get right with Yeshua because then I know He will be your rock; you will not be moved no matter what circumstances you face.

I love what Paul says in Romans 8:37-39—³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our LORD.

It's a fundamental promise that we as believers need to cling on to. Stay the course, hold the line, and have perspective when you're going through these trials, tribulations, and temptations. You need to have these tools to make it through so that you're not just another statistic in the Church. Amen?

I will close with this verse—The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper (Genesis 39:23).

That's the beautiful thing I want you to think about. No matter what happens to you, I don't care if you lose your job, you're worried about your pension, and all of this stuff is starting to happen, if the LORD is with you, it doesn't matter. Let the joy of the LORD be your strength! Amen!