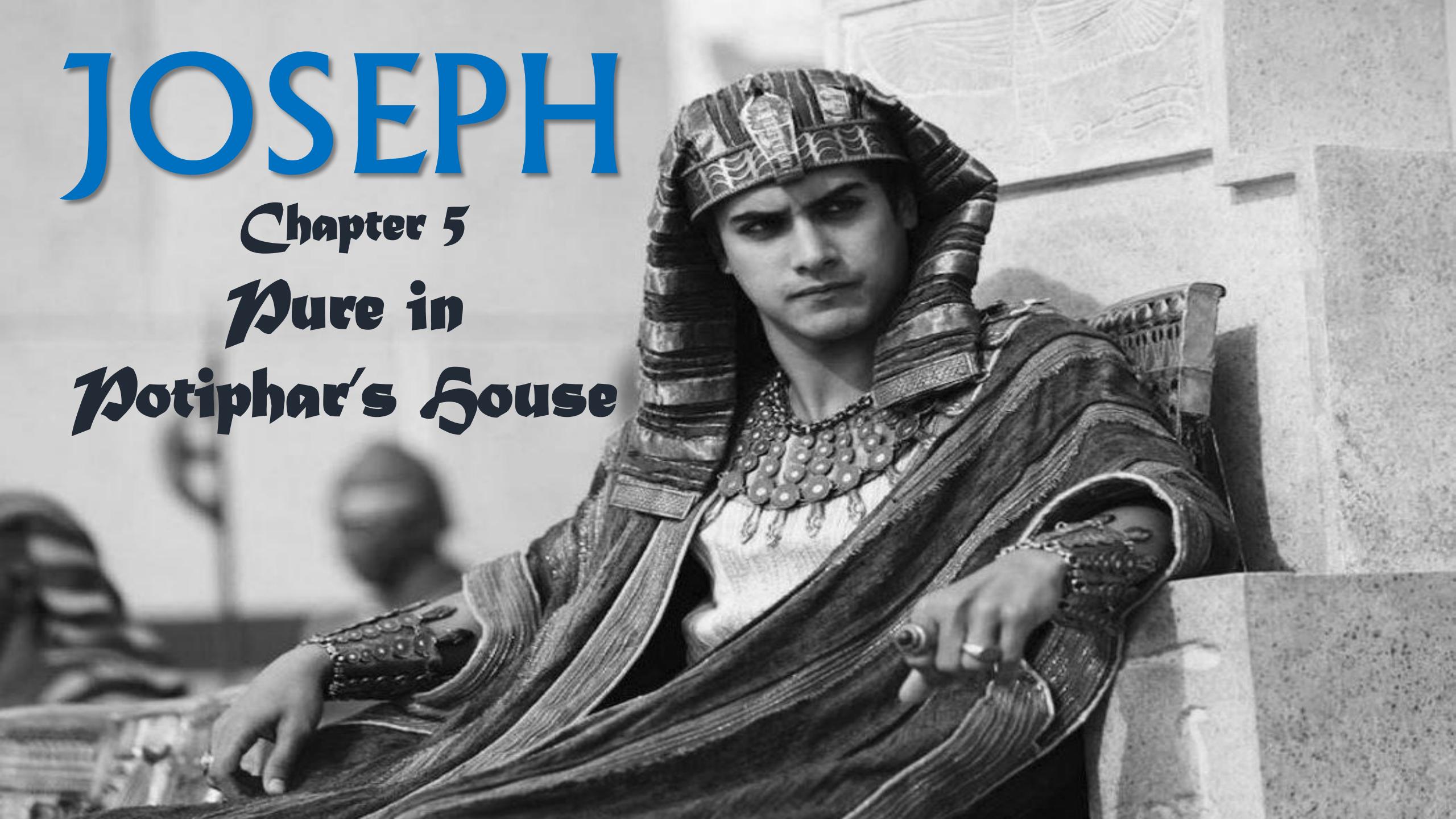


JOSEPH

Chapter 5
Pure in
Potiphar's House



Chapter Five

Pure in Potiphar's House

Before we begin,
let's read

Psalm 105:16-21

**The Lord called down famine on the land
and destroyed all their supplies of food;
and he sent a man before them—
Joseph, sold as a slave.**

**They bruised his feet with shackles,
his neck was put in irons...**

**until what he foretold came to pass,
the word of the LORD tested him...**

**They bruised his feet with shackles,
his neck was put in irons...
until what he foretold came to pass,
until the word of the LORD proved him true...**

**The king sent and released him,
the ruler of peoples set him free.**

**He made him master of his household,
ruler over all he possessed...**

The next 13 years of Joseph's life
would be a great refining test...he would be
buffeted by the Word of God, until he was
proven ready to be the Prince of Egypt.

These verses tell us three important things...

- (1) God spoke to Joseph.
- (2) These events were a preparation/test.
- (3) The timing was in the balance
UNTIL Joseph was proven.

Part 1

Joseph: Friend of Heaven

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

Genesis 39:1

The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When Potiphar saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant.

Genesis 39:2-3

In the
opening lines
of this chapter we
are introduced
to a new
character...



Yes, Potiphar is a new character in the story...however, that is not the character I am referring to...

The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When Potiphar saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant.

Genesis 39:2-3

God is not mentioned once either directly or indirectly in Genesis 37...

In Genesis 37, it is never said that Joseph walked with God or spoke with God or that God was with Joseph.

But now in the opening lines of the following chapter, it is mentioned three times that God was with Joseph.

What brought about this change?

It is my belief that: (1) Joseph **met** God in the empty cistern and (2) that during the caravan ride to Egypt God revealed some portion of the **meaning** of his dreams.

We do not know that for sure,
but several arguments could be made
and one is this...

Hebrews 11:22 says that:
Joseph walked/lived “**by faith**”

Romans 10:17 says that:
**“faith comes by hearing,
and hearing by the word of God”.**

Putting the two together,
**to have faith, you must have faith in the
Word of God and to do so, you must have
heard the Word of God.**

Furthermore,
**Biblical faith not only involves believing what
God has said, it involves believing what
God has said about THE FUTURE!**

To Noah:

“I am **going to** bring floodwaters on the earth”

“Everything on earth **will perish**.

But **I will establish** my covenant with you,

and you **will enter** the ark...”

To Abraham:

“I **will make** you into a great nation,
and I **will bless** you;
I **will make** your name great,
and you **will be** a blessing.”

**If faith is believing the Word of God,
that is; the spoken promises of God
concerning the future...**

How could Joseph walk/live “**by faith**”
if God never understandably spoke anything
to Joseph or promised anything to Joseph
concerning his future?

Not once in the Joseph narrative
is it said that God ‘spoke’ to Joseph...

There is no record of God giving a
direct promise to Joseph in spoken form,
as he did to Abraham, Isaac & Jacob.

We must come to the conclusion that
God must have been communicating something
to Joseph, if Joseph was to live “**by faith**”

But there is more....

The only instance recorded when
God ‘spoke’ to Joseph was when
God gave Joseph the dreams.

Oddly enough,
the dreams were about his future...
and in his future he was
'safe' 'secure' 'raised up' 'exalted'.

It could be argued that Joseph walked by faith,
like Noah Abraham because;
Joseph believed the Word of God concerning his
future, as was revealed to him in his dreams...

It could be argued that the dreams must have been made intelligible to him, if he was to place his faith in their *meaning*.

It is my belief that Joseph met God in the empty cistern, and that during the caravan ride to Egypt God revealed some portion of the meaning of his dreams.

We do not know that for sure,
but what we do know is that...

- Joseph knows the Lord now.
 - The Lord is with Joseph.
 - Joseph is walking with the Lord.
- Potiphar knows that God is with Joseph.
- God is blessing the labor of Joseph.

Somehow, Potiphar saw/attributed
Joseph's success to the Lord as well.

**How did Potiphar ‘see’ that God
was with Joseph?**

In many ways, it was through Joseph's
WORK that Potiphar saw God in Joseph.

Are we **WORKING** in such a way that
the world around us would be able to
'see' that God **WORKS** within us?

**Are we LIVING in such a way that
the world around us would be able to
‘see’ that God LIVES within us?**

It is my belief that God comforted Joseph on the caravan ride, **reassuring** him that he had not been abandoned and that he had a plan for him...

It is my belief that this profound
relationship with God was the basis for...

Joseph's ability to remain *positive*.

There's not a hint of anger or bitterness.

Joseph's ability to work *productively*.
After loosing his cushy managerial job.

Joseph's ability to remain sexually *pure*.
He calls it 'sin against God'.

If God was not communicating with Joseph
...then Joseph's character was a result of his
own ***piety*** and not faith in God's Word.

Part 2

Joseph: Diligent in Vocation

Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

Genesis 39:4

From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.

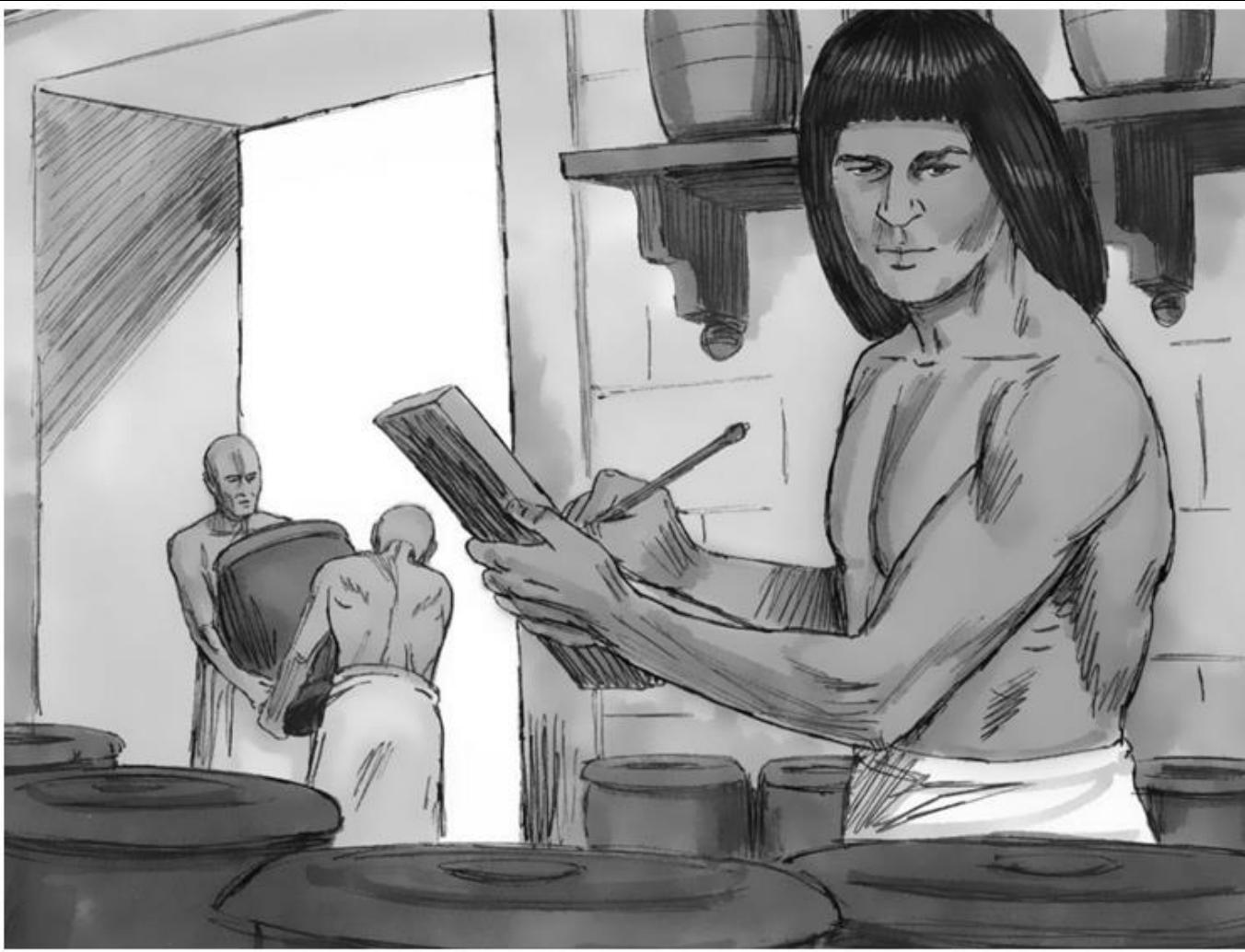
Genesis 39:5

So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Genesis 39:6

Joseph's **success** in Potiphar's house
was not primarily owing to Joseph,
but rather to the Lord.

However, I do believe that Joseph's positive response to his **situation** and his trust in the Lord was also a **source** of this blessing.



Had Joseph been angry, bitter
and a lazy employee would the Lord
have blessed his labor?

I believe the Lord blessed Joseph's labor
because Joseph was passing the 'first test'.

That is; in spite of all that happened to him,
Joseph was choosing to believe the Lord
& work diligently unto the Lord.

In many ways,
as a ruling-servant in Potiphar's house,
Joseph may have had it better
than his brothers.

When his brothers come to town,
they are viewed so lowly as foreigners
& shepherds that they could not even
sit at the same table as an Egyptian.

Why I say this is, the responsibility, the discipline
and the integrity of faithfully managing
during 7 years PLENTY is needed.

The years at
Potiphar's house
reflect the
7 years of plenty
which are to come.



At Potiphar's house,
Joseph will *develop* the responsibility,
the discipline and the integrity of
faithfully managing *during* a time of
MUCH luxury, plenty and ease.

In prison, he will learn the disciplines
needed to work **diligently** during years of little,
years of famine and years of despair.

Joseph will need to manage
a little-bit of MUCH well,
under Potiphar's **care**...

if he is to manage
a whole-lot of MUCH well,
under Pharaoh's **charge!**

Before God will hand over the keys
to all the silver and all the food in the
kingdom of Egypt to Joseph....

He wants to know that Joseph can be trusted
with the most valuable property
or possession in the house...

The ultimate test
of his character
and preparedness
will come
in the form
of seduction.



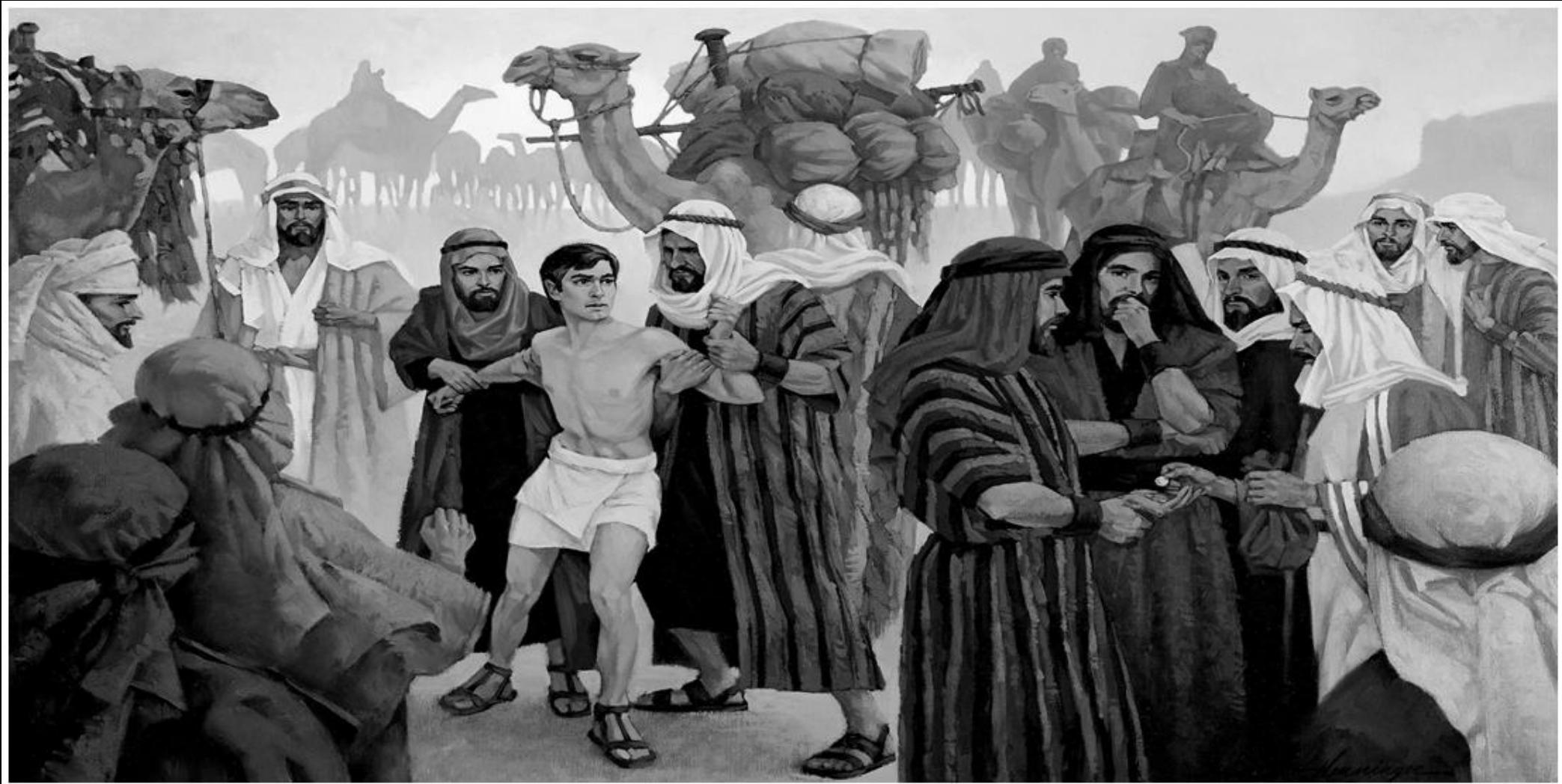
Part 3

Joseph: Pure in Temptation

Remember: we said that the scene for great sin is set when a painful past, meets **power** and **privacy**.

We saw what his brothers did with this trifecta of influences! What will Joseph do?

Joseph has a very painful past.



As Potiphar's top employee,
and as good looking, well-built man...

Joseph has power!

With all the other servants
outside of the house...

Joseph has privacy!

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

Genesis 39:6-7

But he refused. “With me in charge,” he told her, “my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.”

Genesis 39:8

“No one is greater in this house than I am.
My master has withheld nothing from me except
you, because you are his wife. How then could I
do such a wicked thing and sin against God?”

Genesis 39:9

And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

Genesis 39:10

One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

Genesis 39:11-12

When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. “Look,” she said to them, “this Hebrew has been brought to us to make fools of us!

Genesis 39:13-15

“He came in here to sleep with me,
but I screamed. When he heard me scream
for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran
out of the house.”

Genesis 39:13-15

She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. Then she told him this story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to take advantage of me. But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

Genesis 39:16-17

When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger. Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined.

Genesis 39:19-20

Imagine the ‘justifications’ which Joseph could have come up with for agreeing to commit this act..

-My brothers sold me into slavery.

-I am lonely. I deserve to be happy.

-I have no other means of fulfillment.

-God has abandoned me.

-No one knows me in Egypt.

-I have nothing to lose, I've already lost it all.

Joseph states three reasons for refusing
to commit adultery in this way...

First, her husband, Potiphar, has been very
gracious to Joseph and giving him much.

Sin always affects other people.

Second, he would be putting at risk the high position that he had been placed in.

Sin always threatens our serving capacity.

Third, it would be committing
a ‘sin against God’.

**Sin always is an offense to
our Lord and Maker!**

Joseph was telling Potiphar's wife these things, but it is as though he was 'preaching to himself' and **reminding** himself of all the **reasons** not to give in.

Potiphar's wife did not take no for an answer
and she pursued Joseph day after day.

Rather than knocking once and running off,
sinful temptation leans on the doorbell.

Joseph **recognized** his ‘Shechem’
and **refused** to even be with her.

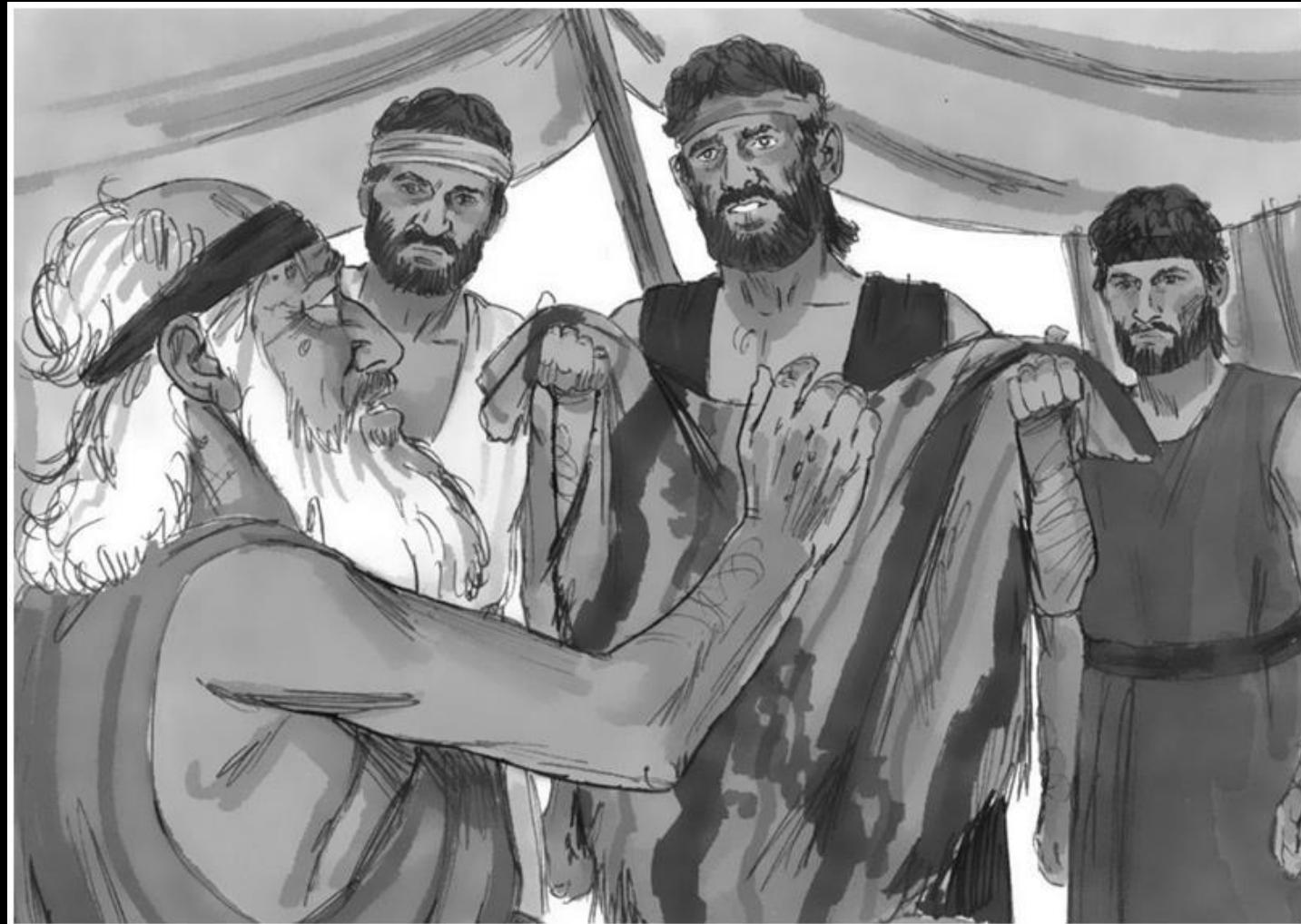
He realized the dangers of being near her
and avoided her as much as possible.

Joseph **realized** that with many temptations, you cannot rely on will-power time and time again.

He knew that he had to **remove** himself from the situation all together.

Potiphar's wife proves that not all who claim to be sexually abused are telling the truth...but their story can be so convincing that the damage will be done.

In a similar manner
that the 10 brothers
took Joseph's robe
and used it as
evidence to convince
their father that
Joseph was dead...



Potiphar's wife took Joseph's robe and used it as evidence to convince her husband that Joseph was a criminal.



The stripping of the second robe is significant for many reasons...

First, it represented that the affluent life
of 'esteemed-servant' had been stripped.

Second, it represented Joseph passing the first stage of his training. He had been a faithful steward of MUCH.

Third, it represented the beginning
of the second stage of training...
being treated as a criminal and being a
faithful steward during times of trouble.

Joseph would need these skills if he was to manage well during the years of famine, and if he was to treat his criminal brothers with compassion.

Lessons from the life of **JOSEPH**

Bad Brothers



Lesson 1

We must **remember** that the
same God who was with Joseph
is with you and I...
and He is **ready** to empower us &
guide us in the same way!

Lesson 2

We must consider the people who
we can/will hurt with our sin.

We must consider all the things we have to
lose if/when we commit a great sin.

Lesson 3

We must avoid the **people**, places or products which consistently **present** opportunities for sinful behavior.

Lesson 4

We must realize that the future of families,
peoples and nations may hang in the
balance of our temptations.

Lesson 5

Difficulties, trials and temptations may befall us...but they are not to **discourage** or destroy us, they are to **develop** us into the kind of person we need to be for a certain place, position or time.

Chapter Six

Promoted in Prison