

**God was with Joseph**  
**Genesis 37-39**  
**Key verse is 39:2**

*"The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master."*

Jacob the son of Isaac who is the son of Abraham, had a favorite of his 12 sons, his name was Joseph. Joseph was the son of Jacob's wife Rachael, Rachael died after giving birth to Joseph's younger brother Benjamin. Jacob really loved Rachael more than the others. Jacob's other sons hated Joseph because they saw how their father loved him more and made a special robe for him. They really started to hate him a lot when he told them about his dream he had. The first dream Joseph told them was "we were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.", they complained and said, "YEAH RIGHT," he had another dream he told them about, where the sun moon and stars bowed down to him as well, even his father rebuked him for that dream, but he kept the matter in mind. Joseph's brothers were really jealous and filled with hate towards him. One day Jacob sent Joseph to check up on his brothers who had taken the flock to Shechem. Joseph did not give up when he couldn't find them, but looked around for them until someone asked him what are you looking for. Joseph said he was looking for his brothers and the flock, the stranger told them and so Joseph went to go look for them, when he found them they said, "look there's the dreamer!" this is when they started plotting to kill him. But Reuben, he tried to save his brother, Reuben was first born. He said, "Let's not kill him but put him into the cistern." He secretly wanted to save him later, but when Reuben was gone some Ishmaelites were passing in a caravan loaded with goodies. Judah had a smart idea. Saying, "What will we get if we kill him? So let's sell him to the Ishmaelites." they all agreed. When Reuben came to see Joseph was not there he grieved and tore his clothes. When they came home to their father they made it look like a wild animal had devoured him because they soaked his robe in blood.

Jacob was devastated and was never the same and he mourned. Judah had to leave, it was so depressing being around his father and he felt guilty, so he went to Canaan and married a Canaanite woman, he had 3 sons. Judah had the first one married to a girl named Tamar. The Lord took his son and then his second son because they were evil. Judah seeing that WHEN HIS SON'S MARRIED Tamar and then did, he didn't want his 3<sup>rd</sup> son to marry Tamar. So he sent her away back to her parents. Tamar found out that Judah was coming to her town, so she dressed up like a prostitute, and Judah went for the bait, he gave her things to her, for collateral until he could give her a goat. But he could never find her after that. Tamar became pregnant, when Judah found out Tamar was pregnant and guilty of prostitution he thought she should burn and die, but then he found out that he was the father. Judah recognized that he slept with her and he said, she is more righteous than I, since I wouldn't give her to my son Shelah. While that was happening Joseph was in Egypt living as a slave. He was sold to a pharaoh's official, his name is Potiphar. The Lord was with Joseph and made him prosper. When Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph and

blessed him, Potipher put him in charge of his household, and the Lord's blessing was on Potipher because of Joseph. Joseph was well built and handsome, so after a while Potipher's wife took notice of him and tried to get Joseph in bed with her. He didn't do it. Instead Joseph said. "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. 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?" But day after day she still tried to seduce him, until one day she would try one more time. She sent everyone away. When Joseph came into the room. She grabbed his cloak and said sleep with me. But Joseph ran off leaving the cloak with her. Potipher's wife couldn't take it anymore so she told her husband that Joseph tried to make sport of them by trying to sleep with her. So Potipher in anger sent him away to prison. Joseph never gave up, and continued a right relationship with God, he did not get depressed, frustrated, or give up. Joseph continued to fulfill his dream by growing in his leadership abilities as a servant and as a prisoner. Because Joseph did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. In prison they saw that God was with him and so once again Joseph was put in charge but this time it was in charge of the jail. The Lord gave him success in whatever he did.

We can see that Joseph was a great man, what made him great was the fact that he knew what was right and did what was right. He must have been taught a lot when he was a kid because he knew a lot about God and his ways. His trials and even our trials make us stronger, we learn that we can take advantage of every situation, no matter how bad or hard. The Lord was with Joseph because he remained good, he did not seek revenge for all the bad things his brother and the people did to him. He did not give into sexual desire, he did not despair or turn from God. He was with God through it all. God has blessed us like Joseph, he is with us because he gave us Jesus, he gave us the most successful country the most blessed city and town to me. We have so much like Joseph. Joseph feared God and not man. He wanted to please God more than man. Through this message I see that the Lord can have favor on me and can give me success in everything I do. God has made me like Joseph a decent looking guy and a little well built. Unlike Judah, Joseph did not flee from his problems, Judah went away to Canaan with the unbelievers. Joseph stayed with God, he did not give up when looking for his brothers but wandered around until someone found him, he did not give up as a servant slave or prisoner.

I can compare my life with Joseph or Judah, and even Reuben, I wish I could just compare my life with Josephs but I can't. I was not my father's favorite like Joseph, my older brother was the favorite, God blessed him in everything he did. I relate to Joseph's struggles a lot. Joseph went to Egypt as a slave, although I wasn't a slave, I went to school, my older brother, sister and all their friends would all pick on me, by this I mean torture, and all kinds of abuses. I heard it was really fun to pick on me so I didn't mind the abuse that much sometimes. But on the other hand I went to church and awana's every Sunday and Wednesday, I studied the Bible and learned a lot like Joseph, like the story of Joseph, but I

was also a trouble maker with too much energy. I would get in trouble at school and church a lot. I was like Judah smart but I made the wrong choices usually. I was like Judah because I wanted to leave and marry a Canaanite woman, haha thank God I didn't do that. Like Judah I knew of God but I didn't have a right relationship with God, Instead I forgot about God and sought after all kinds of pleasurable activities, I tried sports, hanging out and talking to friends rock n roll, sports, drinking and some drugs, after getting kicked out of church youth group when I was 14 years old I gave up on God and even became another religion, Bahia`. I still went to church because my mom basically made me, but I did not give up on God even though I wanted too. But like Joseph God blessed me with much, I wasn't good at school, but I excelled in having fun, social studies some, sports maps in my head and some science and so on but not school. I had many unique talents. I couldn't give up on God but I couldn't apply it. my fruit came later.

After high school I listened to Moody bible radio and the I began to germinate. When I started college at COD in 2003. In this college I met this church, I was on my rollerblades because I liked rollerblading 6.7 miles too COD, Since then my life has never been the same! Before then I would serve men and not God, I would serve my self. God really blessed y music abilities especially when I started practicing for praise and worship songs, at the bible house, Fridays and Sundays. Then my parents and even friends started to notice a change in me. Before I was like Rueben compromising, and secretly being Christian after coming to Friday and Sundays and bible study on another day. I had to shine Jesus to others and God has used me greatly. I am having a spiritual influence. And I help lead my friends spiritually, to have a right relationship with God, We have prayed for Andy and he has felt our prayers, I even brought my friend Benn-o spring bible conference. Now all my friends see I have discipline now, finally! When my uncle come to visit he enjoys coming her with me, I am a like a am a leader and servant for my friend Allen, who I bring to church Fridays and Sundays. I am really praying for my friend Jason and his two daughters. They want to come to church ever since I met them a couple of weeks ago. When I told him about my church he's been saying he wants to come ever since than. I repent that I secretly sin but to others I live a good and fruitful life. I live a fruitful life, because if we don't bear fruit we will go to hell. Yes we are all sinners but when we do what si right God is please, so I must continue living for God.

God has blessed me like Joseph, I am 24 and was able to buy a house all by myself, 5 months later I have 3 room mates living here, so God put me in charge of all this house hold. My friend Alex lives here, he is trying not swear. He's been my friend since freshmen year of high school we play the guitar. I have a rule of no swearing in my house, that he is trying to follow. My other room mate is Franko. We can now go to church together and encourage and sharpen each other. Keven is my other roommate. He is Franko's friend so I don't know much about him, I hope he can learn the God of Steve. Haha. So like Joseph may God help me to give s spiritual influence on them by leading them in a right

relationship with God. My God help me to find a spiritual, Godly woman, too establish a house church. One word to be a leader like Joseph