

The One Year Bible Reading For January 19:

Genesis 39:1-41:16:

Genesis 39:1-41:16 is the Old Testament reading for the **One Year Bible** today. In Chapter thirty-nine we find out what happens to Joseph once he is in Potiphar's house in Egypt. Potiphar's wife pursues Joseph sexually, but the teen, a man of integrity, will not sin against God or Potiphar by giving in to her (39:9). One day when Joseph and the wife were alone at the house it all came to a head as she propositioned him. Upon his refusal she falsely accused him of being the one pursuing her. Because of this, Joseph ends up being unjustly thrown into prison (39:20).

So, now, Joseph not only has been sold into slavery by his own brothers, lost his freedom, lost his homeland, lost his family, and lost many of the dreams of his youth, he has been falsely accused and placed in prison. Oh, and this calamity lasts 13 years (compare Genesis 37:2 with Genesis 41:46)!

Yet, notice what Moses, the narrator of Joseph's life, says about what is going on: "The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man" (39:2); "His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands" (39:3); "but the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison" (39:21); "The LORD was with him" (39:23). Notice that the narrator makes this point four times in the course of 23 verses of one chapter. Do you think Joseph believed God was with him and blessing him? The text doesn't tell us. We do know that later in life Joseph understood God had a plan in all this. No doubt there were very hard days in these thirteen years for Joseph as he had no idea whether or not the LORD would ever set him free.

In spite of what happened to Joseph that made it appear all was lost and everything was bad, the view of the inspired narrator (Moses), was the same as God's view: God was in control, God was blessing Joseph—positioning him right where He wanted him that he could grow, learn, and eventually be used in God's plan of salvation to save his family and the young nation of Israel from famine. Why is this important? It would be through this family that Messiah would come and, thus, blessing to the world! (Cf. Gen. 22:18; Gal. 3:16).

Genesis 39 provides a strong lesson for us. When we are facing one set-back after another, when we feel like the rug has been pulled out from underneath us, when we are convinced nothing is going right for us, God is still in control, orchestrating things together for our good (Rom. 8:28), and He may be working out blessings for us that we would have never seen had we not gone through the present trials.

So, in His grace, hang on to the perspective of the narrator (the perspective of God) in your life!