

REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF

# JOSEPH

Genesis 37,39-50





# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Genesis 37-50

RELEVANCE OF SCRIPTURE

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

THE WISDOM OF GOD

PROVIDENTIAL CARE OF GOD

A TYPE / FORESHADOW OF  
REDEMPTION IN CHRIST





# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Genesis 37-50

## JOSEPH EXPERIENCED

Favor / Blessedness





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Envy & Hatred

Mistreatment

Betrayal





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Temptation

False Accusations





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False Accusations

Suffered For Doing Right

Ingratitude



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Genesis 37-50

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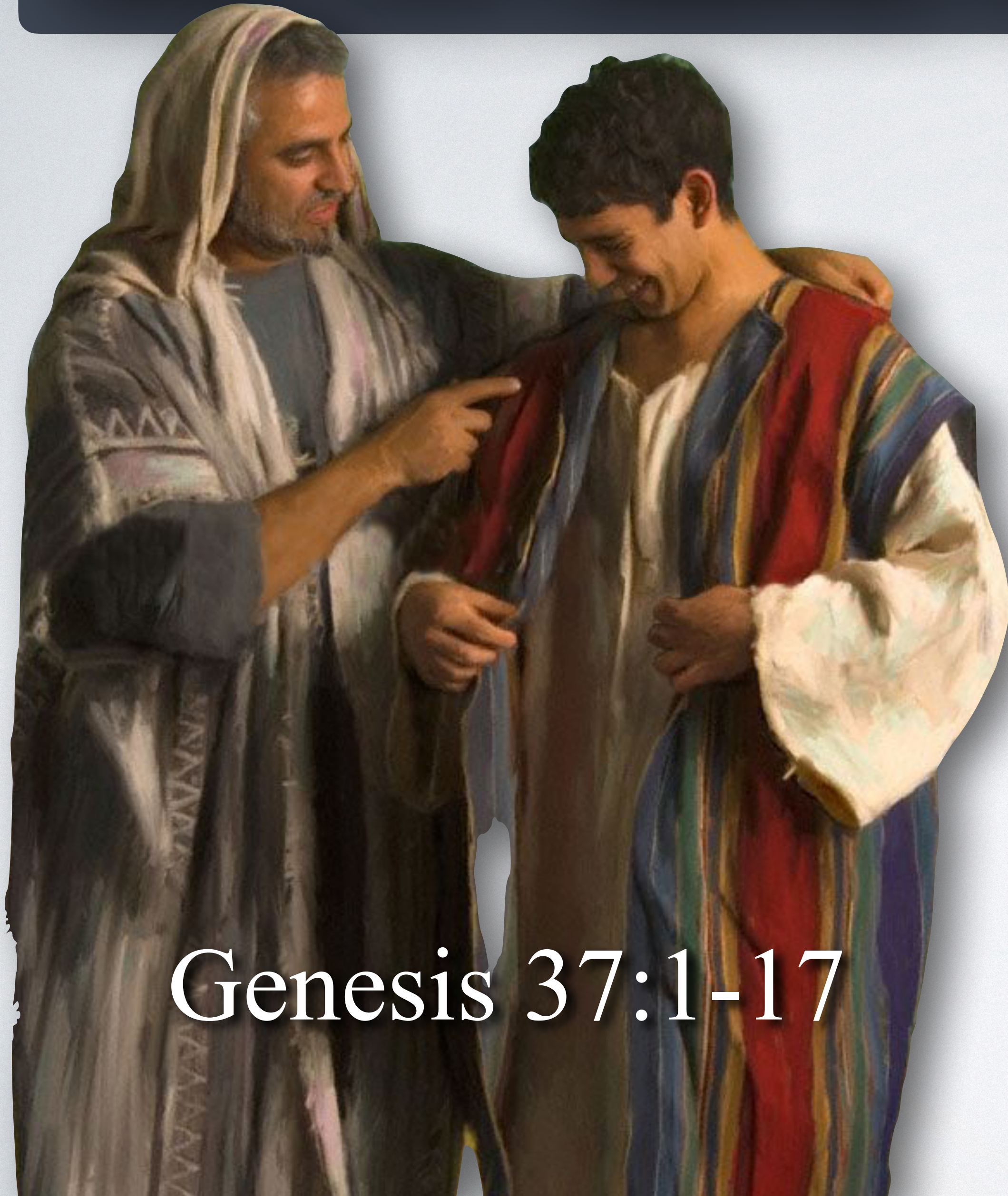
Ingratitude

Power & Wealth





# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



Genesis 37:1-17

## EXPERIENCED ENVY & HATRED

- Those who are blessed are often envied by those who are not (37:4,5,8,11; Gen 4:3-8; Ac. 7:9; 13:45)
- We should not be surprised when the world hates us for saying and doing what is right (1 Sam. 17:28; 1 Ki. 18:17, 18; John 15:18–20; 1 John 3:13; Gal. 4:16)
- If someone expresses hatred & envy towards us - Let us make sure it is not our fault! (Rom. 12:18; Mat. 5:38-42; Heb. 12:14; Gal. 4:16; Mat. 5:3-16; Lk 6:27–30)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



Genesis 37:18-36

## EXPERIENCED BETRAYAL

- Betrayal does not justify hatred, bitterness or revenge (Mat. 5:43-48; Romans 12:17-21; 1 Peter 3:8-12)
- Godliness is NOT determined by circumstances (We can be godly, content & blessed whatever our circumstances) (Ps 37; Philippians 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:5-6)



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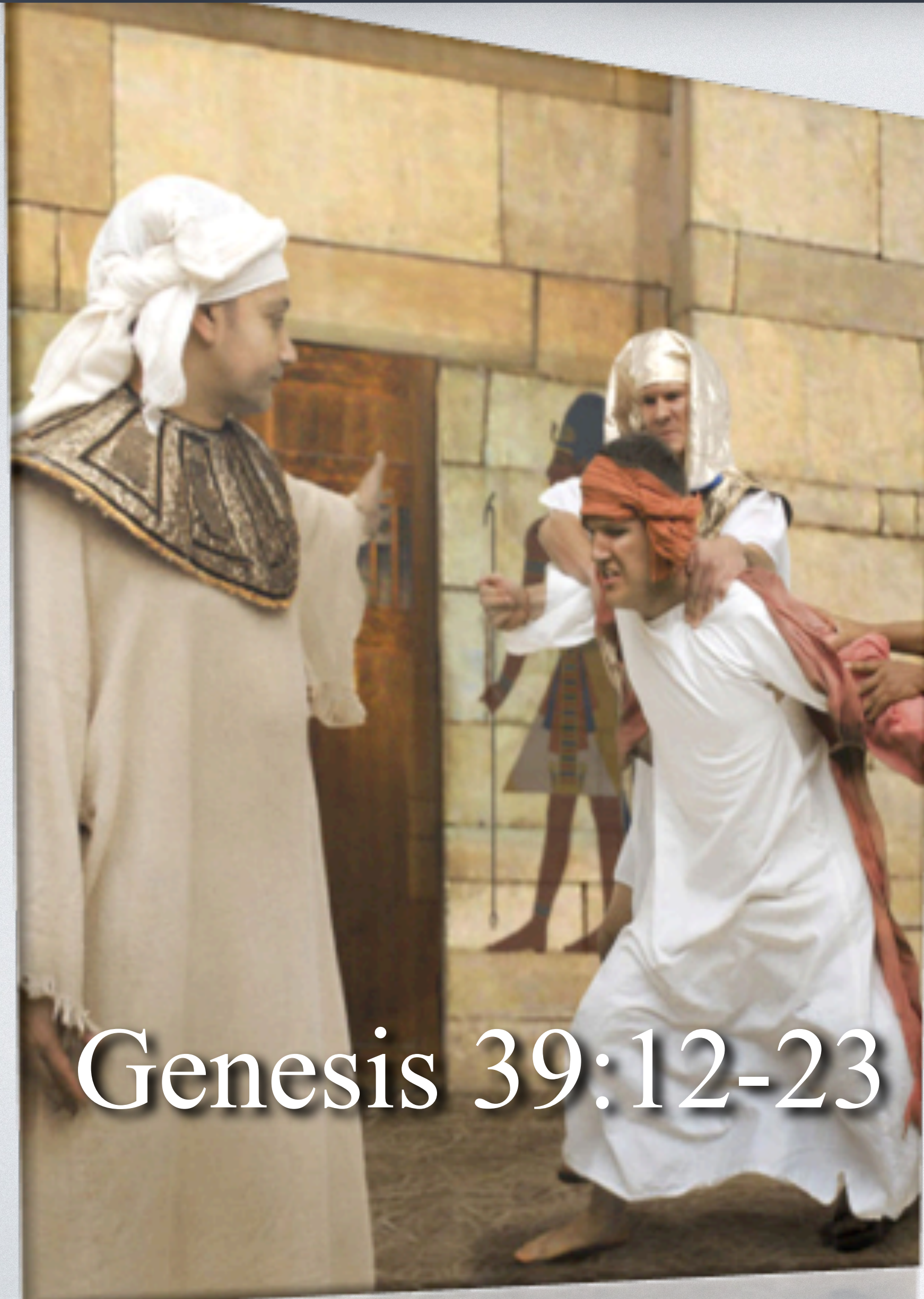
Genesis 39:1-12

## EXPERIENCED TEMPTATION

- All of us will face temptation (James 1:12-16; 1 Cor 10:13)
- We can and should say “no” – (Gen 4:7; Pro 1:10)
- Refuse to listen, and avoid temptation – (Pro 5:8; Mat 5:29,30; 6:13; 1 Thes 5:22)
- RUN!! (1 Co 6:18; 10:14; 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 2:22)



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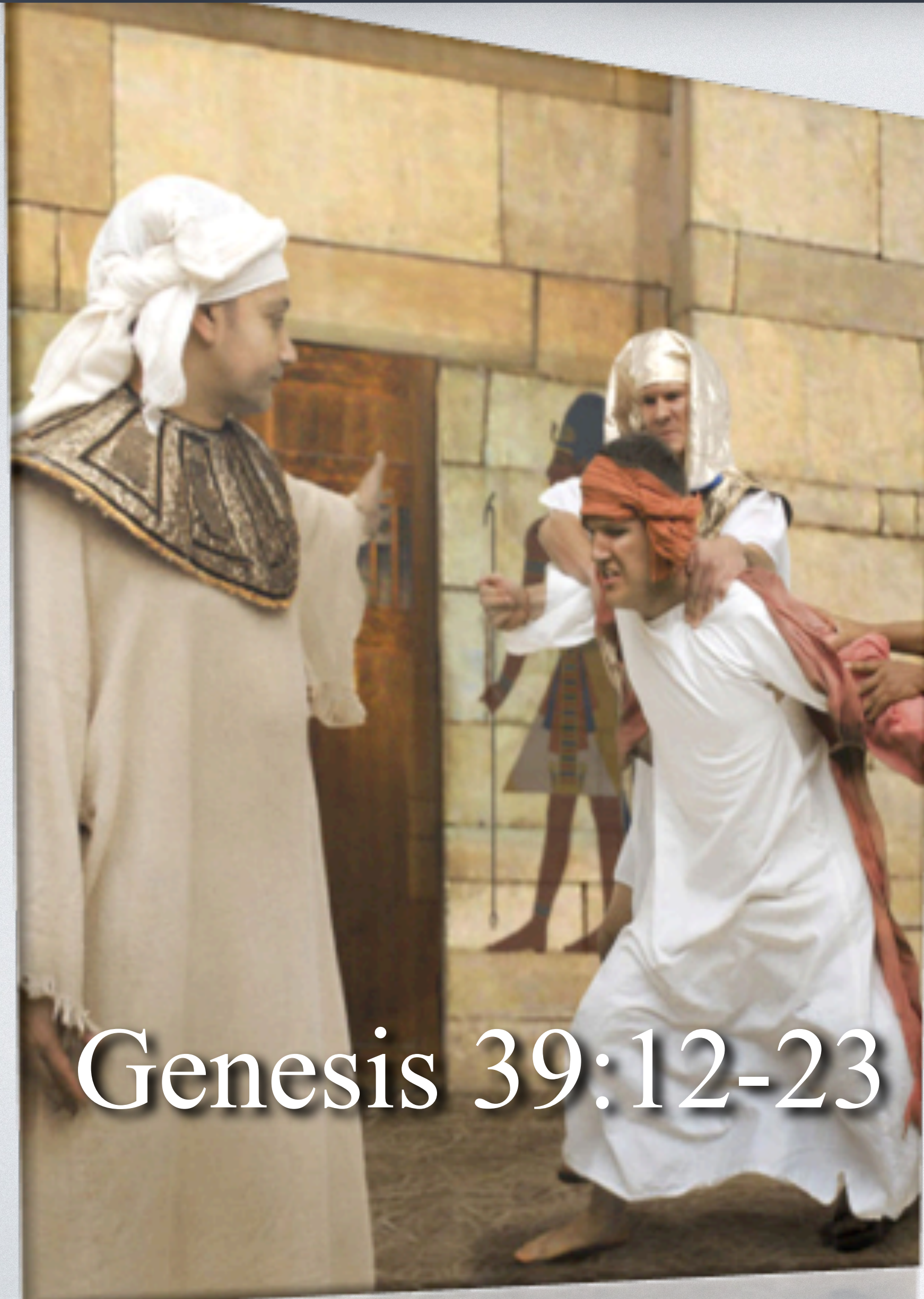
Genesis 39:12-23

## EXPERIENCED FALSE ACCUSATIONS

- We must keep our lives above reproach – but that will not guarantee our enemies will not falsely accuse us (1 Pet 3:16; Luke 6:22)
- Enemies will constantly watch us to discredit and accuse us (Lk 6:7; 11:53,54).



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



Genesis 39:12-23

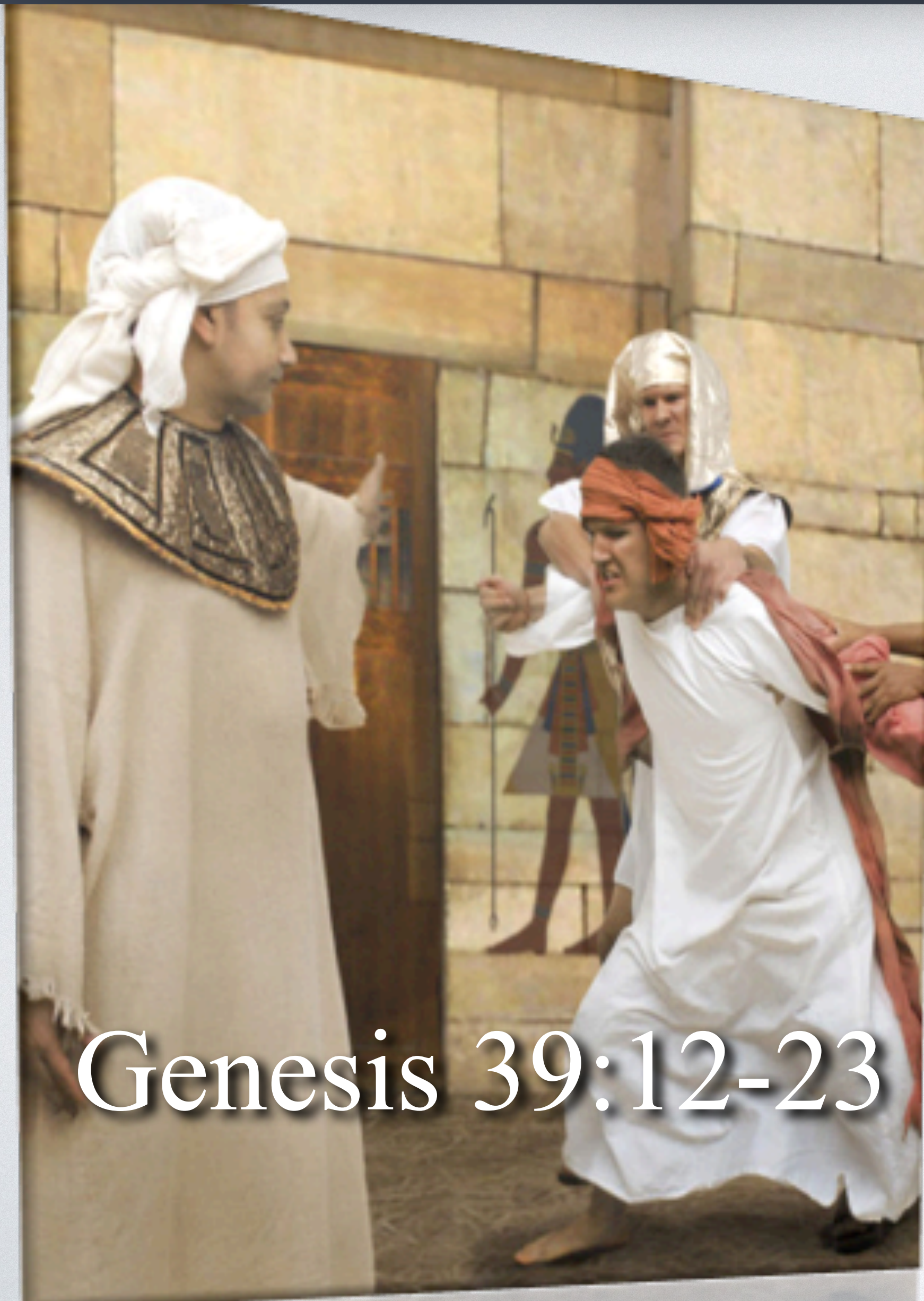
## SUFFERED FOR DOING RIGHT

- Hated by his brothers for speaking truth (37:2,5-10)
- They cast him into a pit (most of them wanting him dead) (37:21-25; 29,30)
- They sold him into slavery (37:26-28)
- Resisted master's wife, falsely accused, and imprisoned (Genesis 39:1-23)
- Accurately interpreted dreams of the butler and baker but forgotten for 2 years (40:14,23; 41:1,9-13)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## SUFFERED FOR DOING RIGHT



Genesis 39:12-23

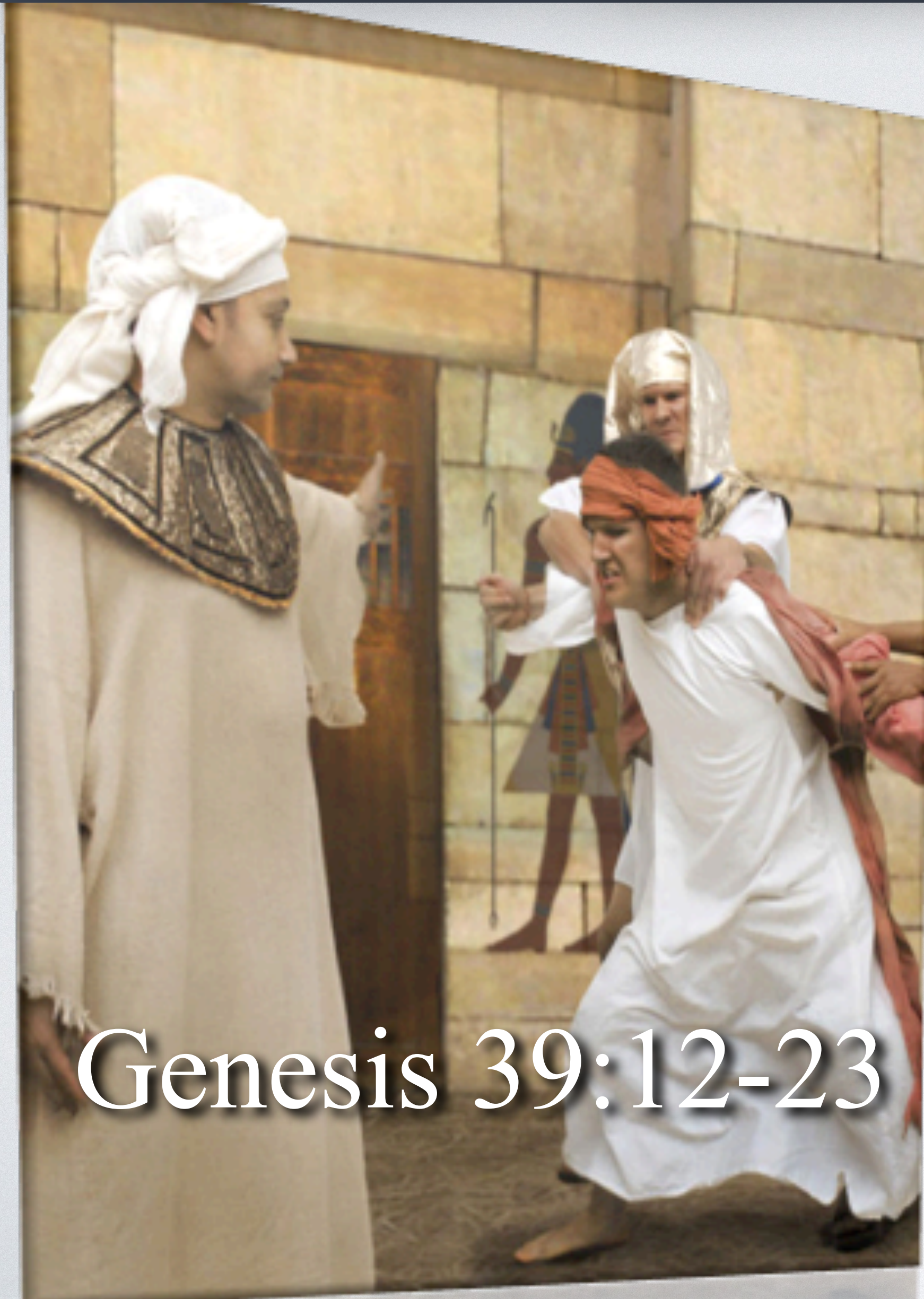
- “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.” (Ps. 34:19)
- <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. (Matthew 5:10–11)
- <sup>22</sup> ... “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22)
- <sup>12</sup> Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## SUFFERED FOR DOING RIGHT

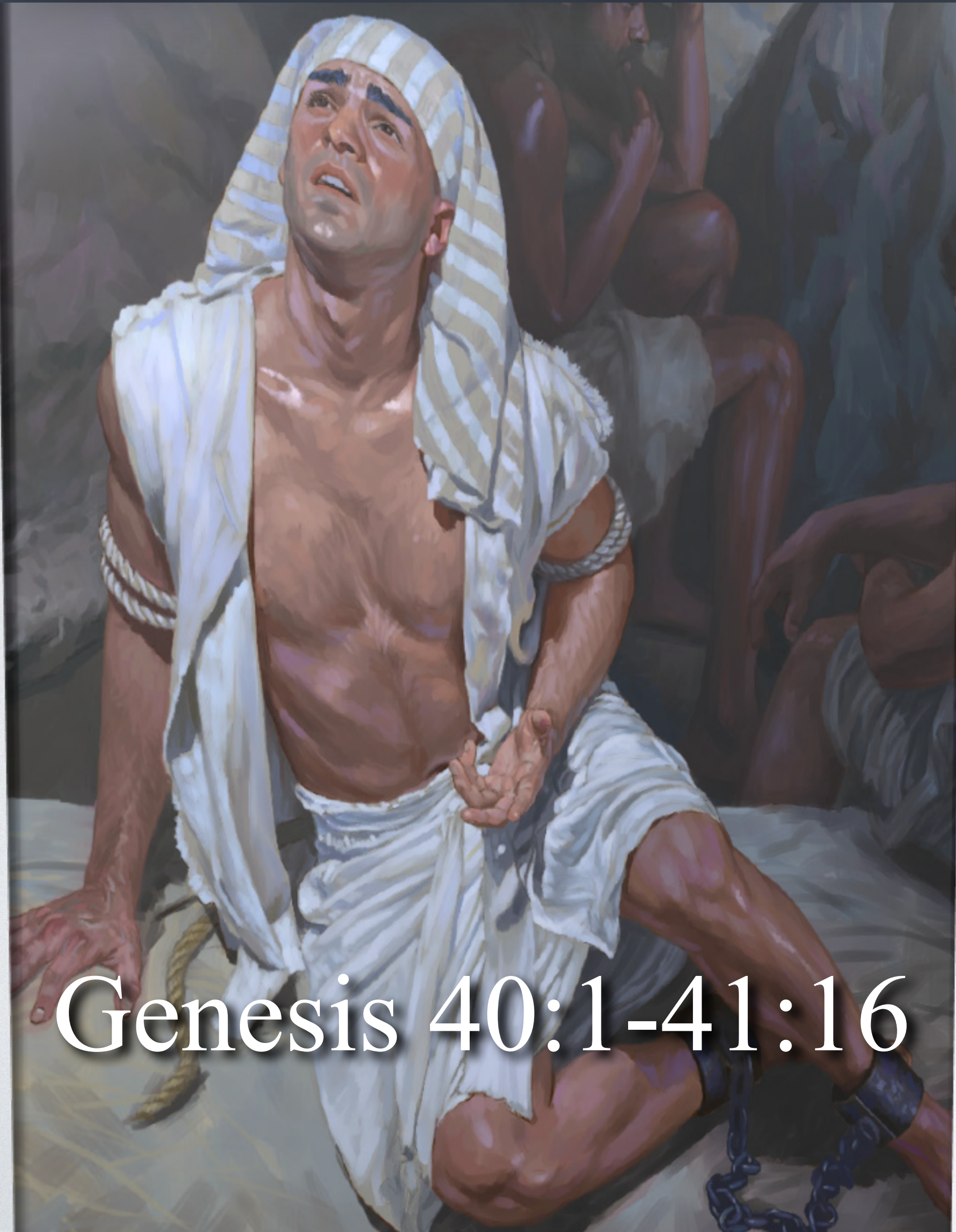
- EXPECT IT (2 Tim. 3:12)
- ENDURE WITH PATIENCE (Rom. 5:3-5)
- USE EACH TRIAL AS A STEPPING STONE TO INCREASE OUR FAITH (James 1:2-12; Romans 5:1-6)



Genesis 39:12-23



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



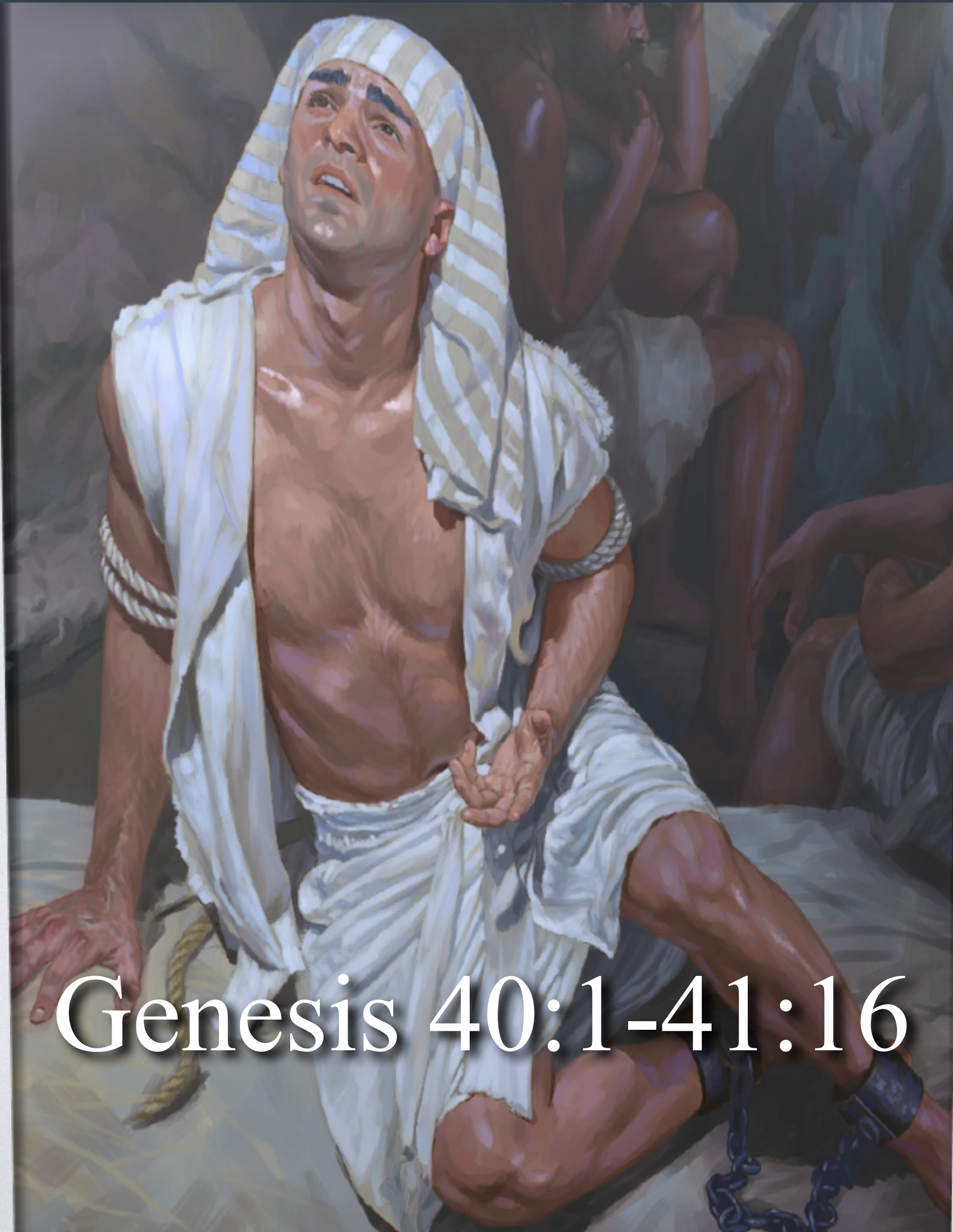
Genesis 40:1-41:16

## EXPERIENCED BEING FORGOTTEN

- Joseph in prison:
  - ▶ Joseph in charge of chief butler & chief baker (40:1-4)
  - ▶ Each had a dream & Joseph interpreted them (40:5-19)
  - ▶ The butler was restored to his position, but forgot about Joseph for two full years (40:14,23; 41:1,9-13)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



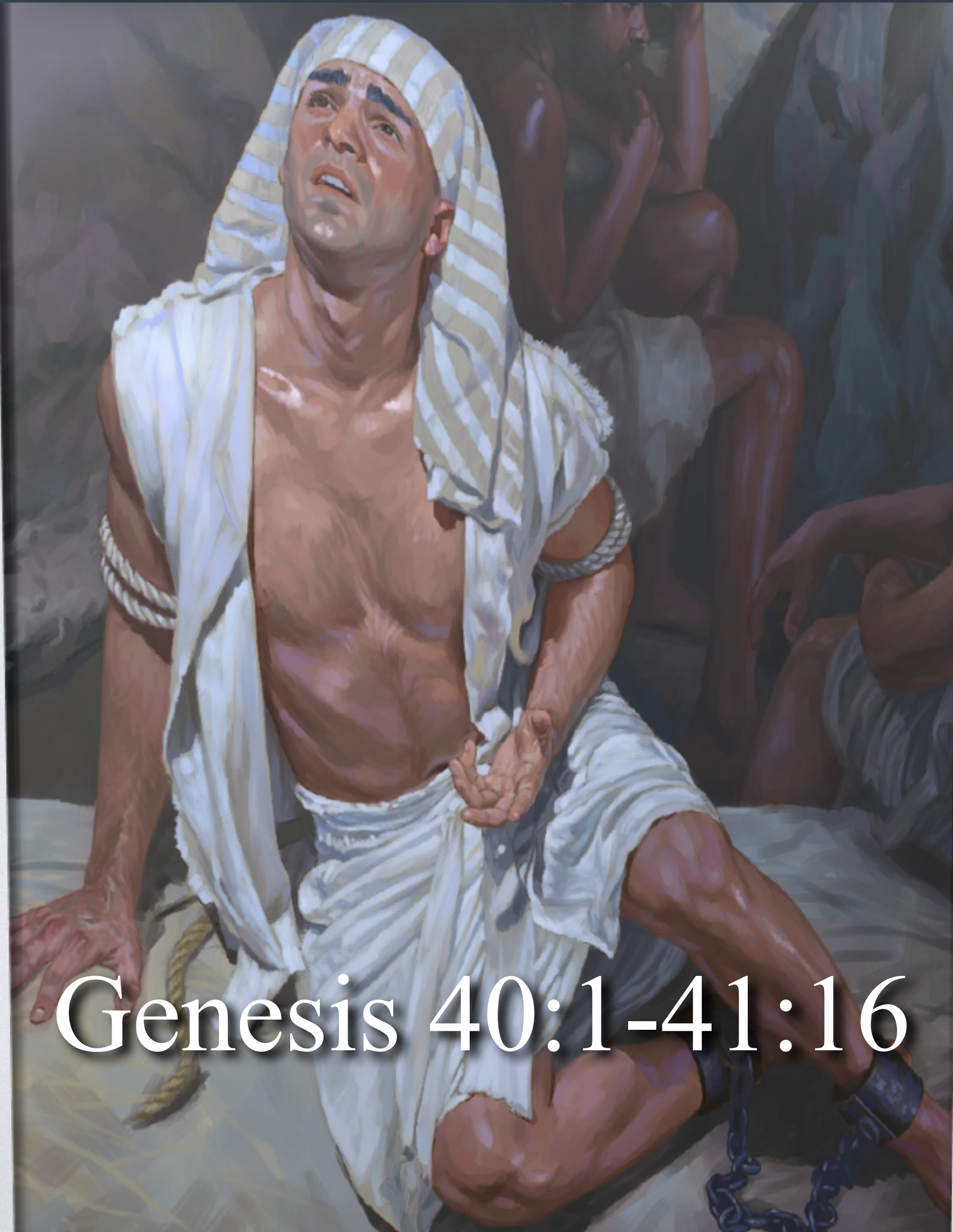
Genesis 40:1-41:16

## EXPERIENCED BEING FORGOTTEN

- Joseph finally released from prison:
  - ▶ Joseph was summoned from prison when the cupbearer remembered that Joseph was gifted in interpreting dreams. 41:9-13
  - ▶ The two years did not make Joseph bitter, despondent or sullen. Nor was he hostile, ungracious, or ungrateful upon his release ...



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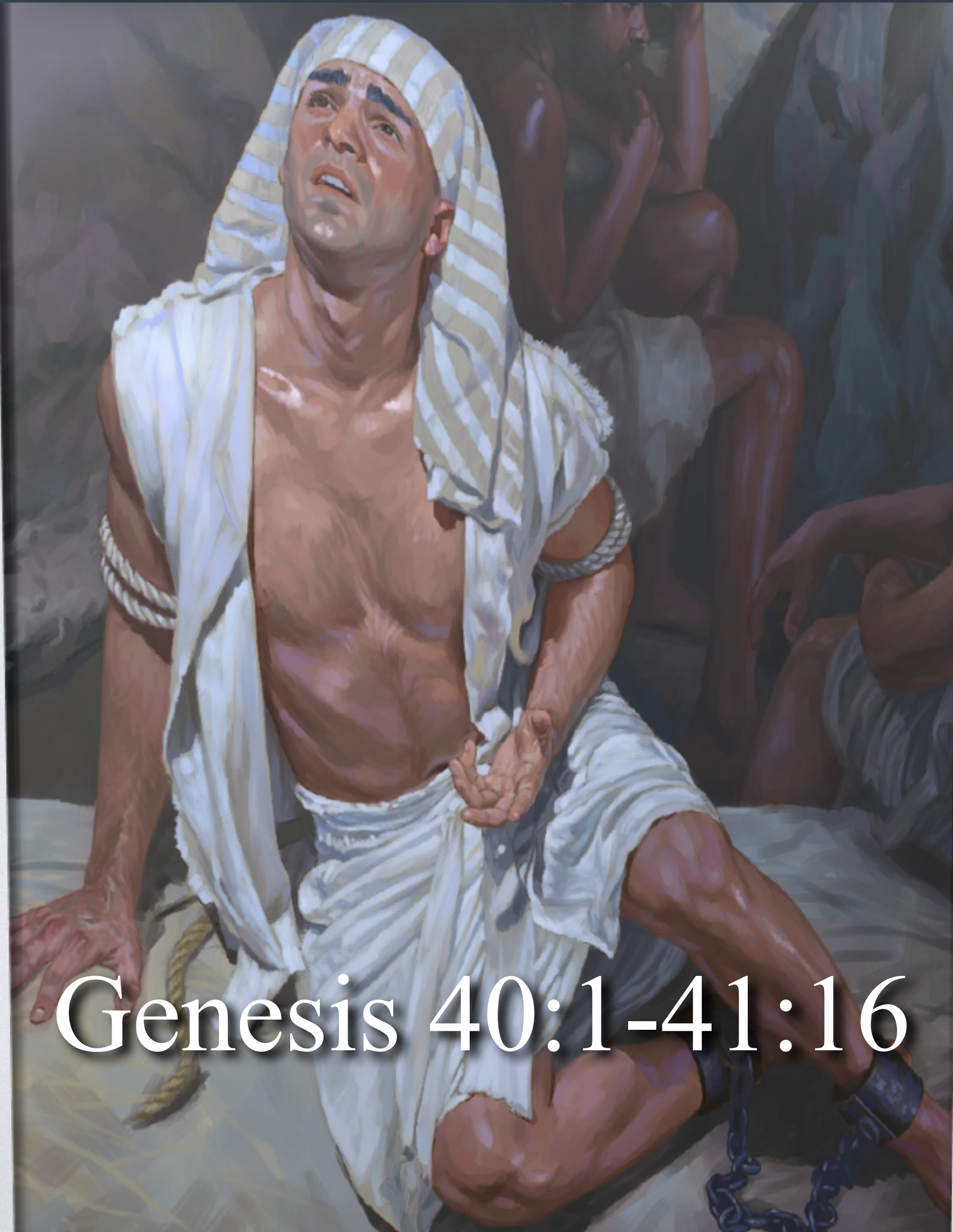
Genesis 40:1-41:16

## EXPERIENCED BEING FORGOTTEN

- Do not be like the butler – We should remember the good that others do for us – express our gratitude in both words & deeds (Phili 1:3,4).
- We need to Keep a good attitude – remain diligent doing what is right, even if others fail to demonstrate appreciation for our efforts (Ps. 55:22; 2 Peter 2:5-9; 1 Cor 15:58).



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



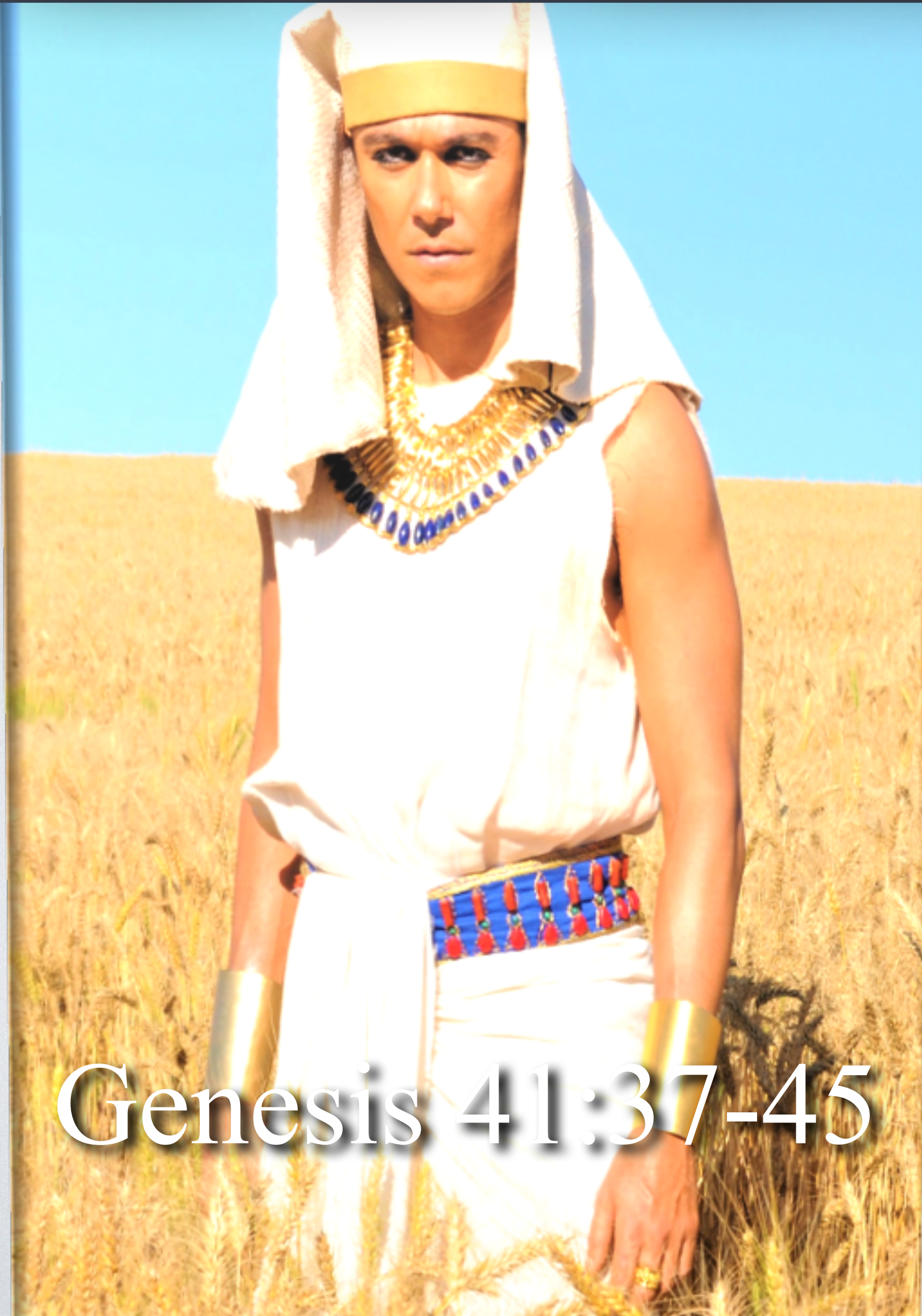
Genesis 40:1-41:16

## EXPERIENCED BEING FORGOTTEN

- Do we become easily frustrated and discouraged by the failures of others?
- Do we become impatient when things are not going the way we think they should?
- Do we express anger and become resentful when we suffer unjustly?



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



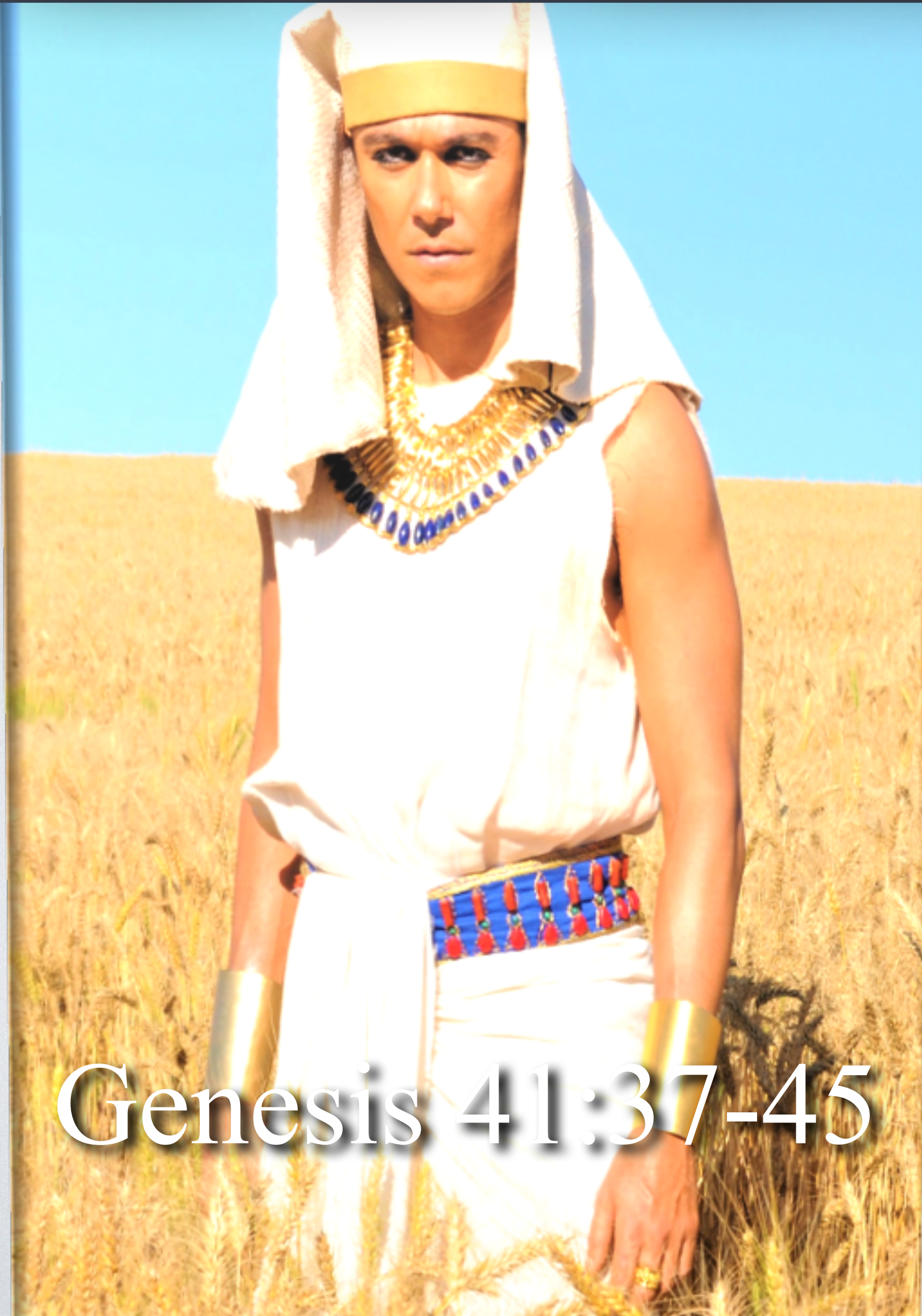
Genesis 41:37-45

## EXPERIENCED WEALTH & POWER

- Joseph, by the power of God, interprets the meaning of Pharaoh's dream (41:15-36)
- After 13 years as a slave and being falsely imprisoned, Joseph was made second in command over all Egypt (41:40,41)
- With power came immense wealth & great responsibility. Joseph's primary role was to oversee the preservation of food - thus saving the lives of the Egyptians and all in the region (41:42-49; cf. 33-36)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



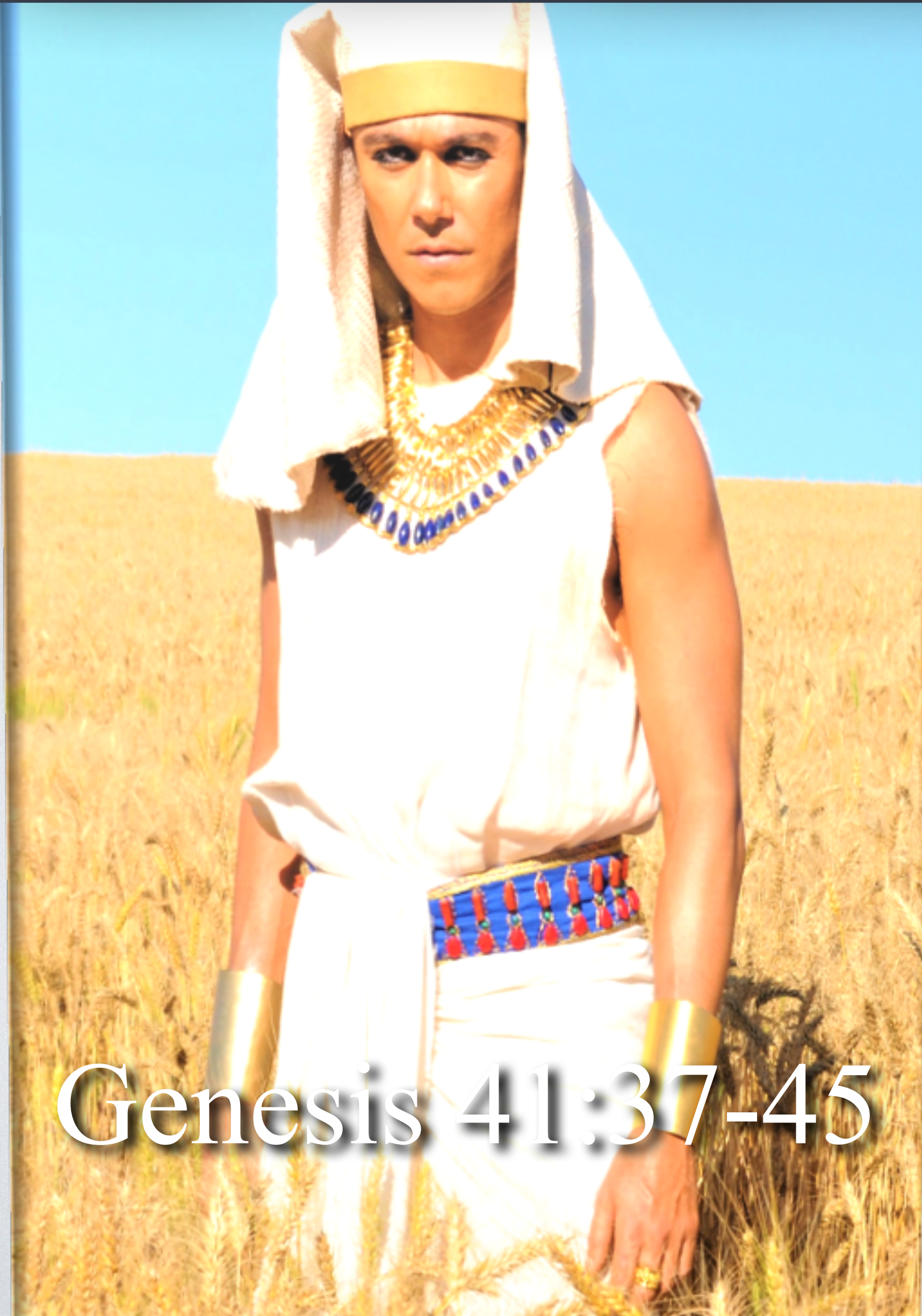
Genesis 41:37-45

## EXPERIENCED WEALTH & POWER

- He attributed his blessings to God  
“Manasseh: “For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house.”<sup>52</sup> ... Ephraim: “For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.”” (41:50-52)
- He had faithfully fulfilled his responsibilities – thus many were saved from death (41:53-57)



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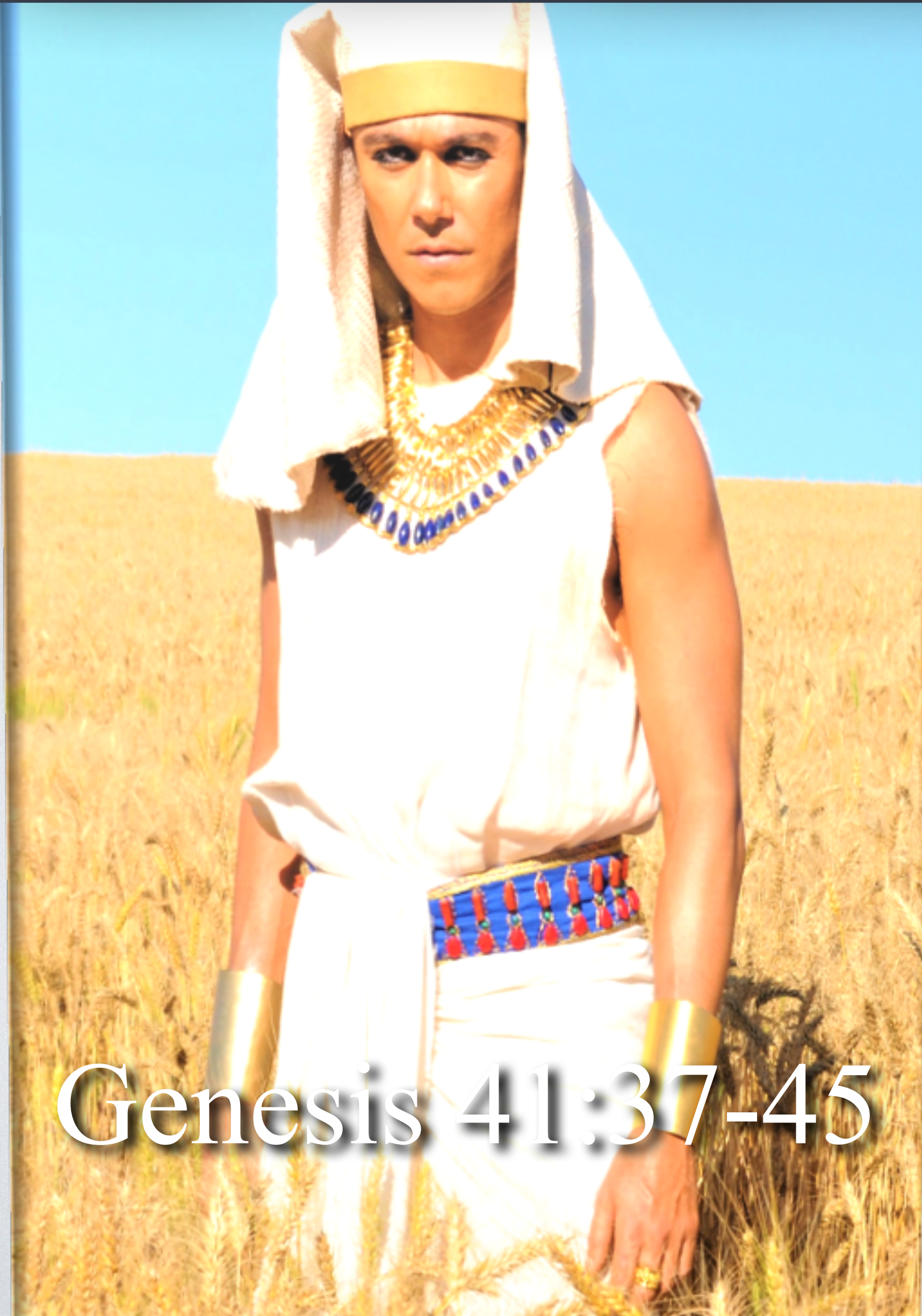
Genesis 41:37-45

## EXPERIENCED WEALTH & POWER

- We cannot allow bad experiences to rob us of future glory (2 Cor 4:8-18)
- Difficulties can be used to prepare for greater service (1 Pet 1:6-9; Eph 6:10-18)
- With authority & wealth comes danger (Deut 31:20; 32:12-15; Hos 13:6; 1 Tim. 6:6-10)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



Genesis 41:37-45

## EXPERIENCED WEALTH & POWER

- A position of authority is a position of serving others – NOT being served (Mat 20:20-28)
- With authority & wealth comes greater “Responsibility” (He 13:17; I Tim 6:17-19)
- More responsibility is given to those who are faithful (Luke 16:10-12)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## THE CHALLENGE OF BEING MERCIFUL



Genesis 41:50-52;  
42:1-24; 43:1-50:21

- Joseph had been helped to forget his troubles (41:51,52)
- Jacob sends Joseph's 10 brothers to Egypt to buy grain (42:1-5)
- Joseph was the governor of the land and recognized his brothers when they came to him (42:6,7)
- They did not recognize Joseph (42:8)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## THE CHALLENGE OF BEING MERCIFUL



Genesis 41:50-52;  
42:1-24; 43:1-50:21

- Joseph remembered the dreams which he had about them (42:9)
- Joseph required that Simeon remain while the rest return to Canaan & return with Benjamin (42:9-20)
- Joseph overheard their regret and wept (42:21-24)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



Genesis 41:50-52;  
42:1-24; 43:1-50:21

## THE CHALLENGE OF BEING MERCIFUL

- Joseph commanded that they be given food and their money (42:25,26)
- When Joseph's brothers return with Benjamin – they are taken to Joseph's home - they were afraid (42:15-18)
- Joseph inquires about Jacob and shows kindness to them – (43:19-28)
- His heart yearns for Benjamin and privately weeps – (43:29,30)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## THE CHALLENGE OF BEING MERCIFUL



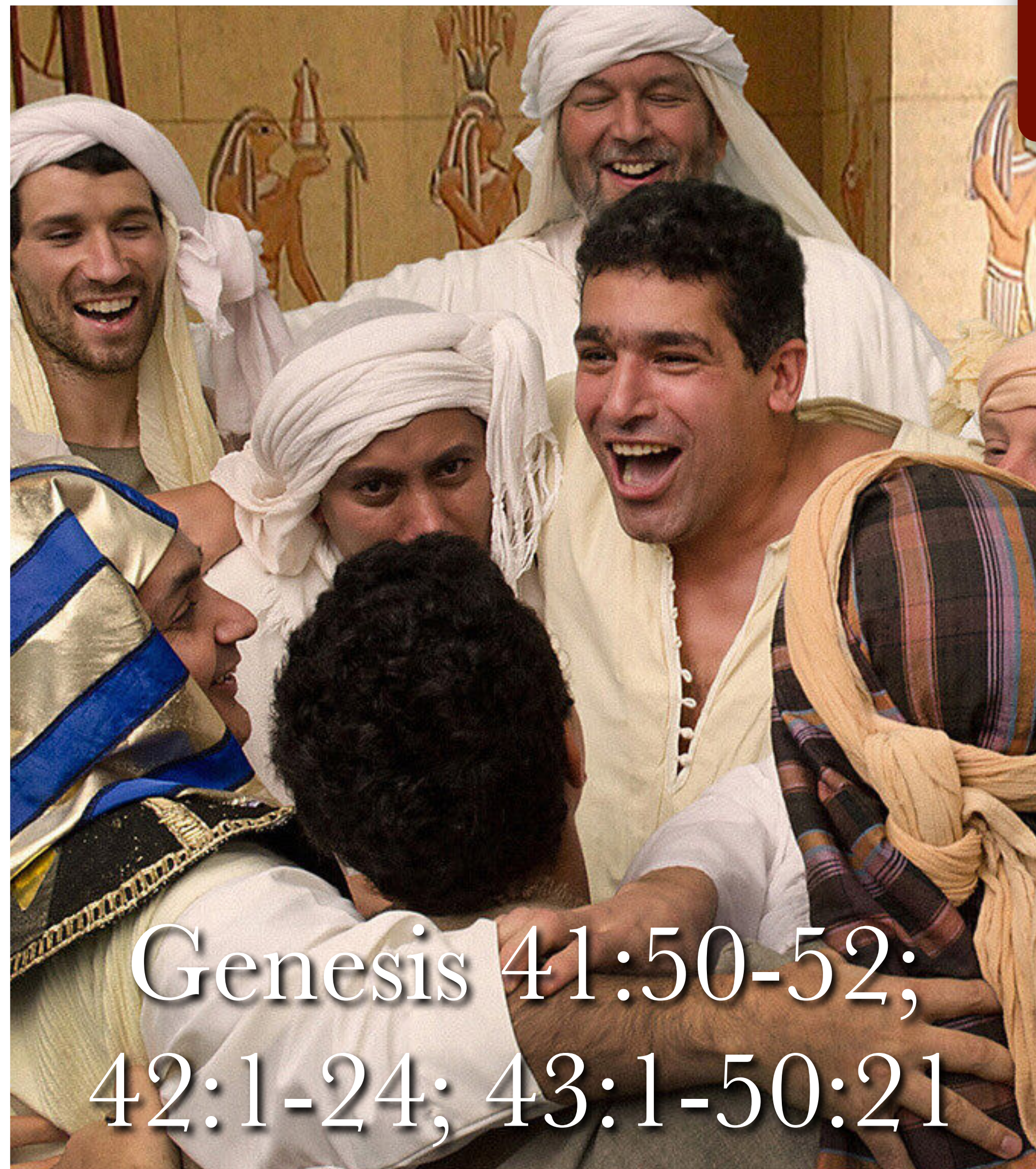
Genesis 41:50-52;  
42:1-24; 43:1-50:21

- He again gives them grain along with their money and has his cup put in Benjamin's bag - (44:1-3)
- He sends his steward to bring Benjamin back – Judah intercedes for Benjamin – (44:4-34)
- He reveals himself – (45:1-14)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## THE CHALLENGE OF BEING MERCIFUL



### Genesis 45:4–8 (NKJV)

“*I am* Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For these two years the famine *has been* in the land, and *there are* still five years in which *there will be* neither plowing nor harvesting. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Genesis 41:50-52;  
42:1-24; 43:1-50:21



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## THE CHALLENGE OF BEING MERCIFUL



Genesis 41:50-52;  
42:1-24; 43:1-50:21

**Genesis 45:4–8 (NKJV)**  
8 So now *it was* not you *who* sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## THE CHALLENGE OF BEING MERCIFUL



Genesis 41:50-52;  
42:1-24; 43:1-50:21

- Joseph sends them home to retrieve Jacob (45:9-24)
- The brothers return home and inform Jacob Joseph is still alive and is Lord over all Egypt (45:25-28)
- Jacob is reassured by God (46:1-4)
- Jacob and Joseph reunited (46:28-47:12)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



Genesis 41:50-52;  
42:1-24; 43:1-50:21

## THE CHALLENGE OF BEING MERCIFUL

- After 17 years Jacob dies – his brothers are afraid that Joseph will hate them (50:15)
- They are afraid that Joseph will hold them accountable for their sin – so they plead with him (50:16-18)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## THE CHALLENGE OF BEING MERCIFUL



Genesis 41:50-52;  
42:1-24; 43:1-50:21

- Joseph could have revived old trespasses – BUT he didn't – he was moved with compassion (50:17)
- Joseph saw the big picture “*you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*” (50:19,20)
- Joseph assured them he would provide for them (50:21)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## THE CHALLENGE OF BEING MERCIFUL



Genesis 41:50-52;  
42:1-24; 43:1-50:21

- When confronted with painful memories – we should be cautious and deliberate in our reaction (1 Thes 5:21)
- We should never return evil for evil, but good (Rom 12:17-21)
- We need to live in the present – and live for the future!! (Phili 3:13,14)



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## THE CHALLENGE OF BEING MERCIFUL



- Blessed are the merciful & peacemakers (Mat 5:7,9)
- Some hold grudges for years even after they are asked for forgiveness, but we must seek to forgive (Luke 17:3,4; Mat 6:14,15; Col. 3:13; 2 Cor. 2:6-9)

Genesis 41:50-52;  
42:1-24; 43:1-50:21



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Genesis 37-50

## Genesis 49:22–26 (NKJV)

22 “Joseph *is* a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough  
by a well; His branches run over the wall. 23

The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot *at*  
*him* and hated him. 24 But his bow remained in  
strength, And the arms of his hands were made  
strong By the hands of the Mighty *God* of  
Jacob (From there *is* the Shepherd, the Stone of  
Israel),





# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Genesis 37-50

## Genesis 49:22–26 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you *With* blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb. <sup>26</sup> The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.





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Genesis 37-50

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# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Genesis 37-50

## Joseph A Shadow of Jesus

Before Joseph dies in Egypt he makes his brothers promise his bones would be taken out of Egypt at the great deliverance (vv. 24–25; cf. Ex. 13:19; Josh. 24:32; Heb. 11:22).

This deliverance, he reassured them, would take place when God would visit them to fulfill His promises to their fathers.





# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Genesis 37-50

## Joseph A Shadow of Jesus

The Challenge of Hatred & Envy

The Challenge of Betrayal

The Challenge of Persistent Temptation

The Challenge of False Accusations

The Challenge of Ingratitude

The Challenge of Power & Wealth

The Challenge of Forgiving enemies



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Genesis 37-50

## 1 Peter 3:18–22 (NKJV)

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, . . . . 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.



# REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Genesis 37-50

## 1 Peter 3:18–22 (NKJV)

121 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,







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## 1 Peter 4:12–17 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; <sup>13</sup> but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. <sup>14</sup> If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. <sup>16</sup> Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. <sup>17</sup> For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?