

The Torah Project

Genesis 39

Three Joseph Stories...

1. – Joseph and **Potiphar** (39:1-19)
2. – Joseph and the **Jailer** (39:20-40:23)
3. – Joseph and **Pharaoh** (ch.41-50)

... And Their Sub-Stories

1. – Joseph and **Potiphar**
 - + Mrs. Potiphar the Seductress
 2. – Joseph and the **Jailer**
 - + The Baker & the Cupbearer
 3. – Joseph and **Pharaoh**
 - + Salvation of the World
 - + Salvation of the Joseph's family
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SUB-STORY #1 – Mrs. Potiphar the Temptress

Q: What does this story teach us about people who try to tempt Yeshua?

Q: Do some people actually try to tempt Yeshua?

Q: How could such a thing even be attempted?

The Tempter's Template for Temptation

...and how believers sometimes follow it!

(Matthew 4:1-10)

Temptation #1

Then Yeshua was led up by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, **“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”**

- *“A miracle is necessary right now!”*
- *“Yeshua, Your reputation is at stake!”*
- *“You have all power. Use some of it!”*
- *“Let's see a sign and a wonder!”*

This thinking is prevalent in **Apostolic Pentecostalism** and the **hyper-Charismatic Movement**.

The Godly Response: Deut. 8:1-10

“All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which Adonai swore *to give* to your fore-fathers. You shall remember all the way which Adonai your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, **(a) that He might humble you, (b) testing you, (c) to know what was in your heart, (d) whether you would keep His commandments or not.** He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that **man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of Adonai.** Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. **Thus you are to know in your heart that Adonai your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.** Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of Adonai your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For Adonai your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will eat food without scarcity, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron,

and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless Adonai your God for the good land which He has given you.”

Insights:

- We live according to God’s Word, not according to our own drives.
- The effects of miracles are overestimated.
- The effect of God’s Word is underestimated.
- The story is not over yet! (Joseph knew this.)
- There is no substitute for humility.
- Hunger and thirst have a purpose in this world.

John 14:12

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father.”

Matthew 12:38-39

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign...”

Temptation #2

Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command His angels concerning You’; and ‘On their hands they will bear You up, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’”

- *“Reveal yourself! Come out of hiding!”*
- *“Prove to the world that my faith is not misplaced!”*
- *“Demonstrate the correctness of my theology!”*
- *“Don’t embarrass me!!!”*
- *“Come on, Lord, everyone’s looking!”*

This thinking is prevalent in **Cultural Relativism** and **“Designer Christianity”**.

The Godly Response: Deut. 6:16-19

“You shall not put Adonai your God to the test [temptation], as you tested *Him* at Massah [“Temptation”]. **You should diligently keep (a) the commandments of Adonai your God, and (b) His testimonies and (c) His statutes** which He has commanded you. You shall do what is right and good **in the sight of Adonai**, that it may be well with you and that you may go in and possess the good land which Adonai swore to *give* your fathers, by driving out all your enemies from before you, **as Adonai has spoken.**”

Exodus 17:7-8

He named the place Massah [“*Temptation*”] and Meribah [“*Contention/Strife*”] because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because **they tested Adonai, saying, “Is Adonai among us, or not?”** Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim.

Insights:

- Learn from the past. God has already revealed Himself!
 - You focus on your responsibilities, and let God focus on His.
 - Focus on doing what *is* right, and not on appearances.
 - The story is not yet over. Yeshua will reveal Himself in due time.
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Temptation #3

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and prostrate Yourself before me.”

- *“You must submit to my faith!”*
- *“You must keep Your promises (as I interpret them)!”*
- *“If You give me what I want, then I will give you what You want.”*
- *“If you came to serve, then serve me!”* (Matt.20:28)

This is the most satanic of the three temptations and is prevalent in the **Faith Prosperity Movement**.

The Godly Response: Deut. 6:10-15

“Then it shall come about when Adonai your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, **then watch yourself, that you do not forget Adonai who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall fear only Adonai your God; and you shall worship Him** and swear by His name. You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, for Adonai your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of Adonai your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.”

Insights:

- This is the temptation that arouses God's anger.
- This practice smacks of idolatry and pagan worship.
- This is a temptation that is practiced only by those who live in affluence and are greedy for more.
- This practice robs Messiah of His dignity, makes Him a slave, and drives Him out of our lives.
(Genesis 39:12,17)
- Yeshua WILL receive all things, but not on my terms.
- I must bow to Him; not the other way around.

Matthew 16:23

But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

1 Kings 13:18

He said to him, “I also am a prophet like you, and an angel spoke to me by the word of Adonai, saying, ‘Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.’” *But* he lied to him.

1 Kings 18:22

Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left a prophet of Adonai, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men.”



Hadedas