

Notes and Quotes

Based on the chronological reading schedule followed in THE DAILY BIBLE compiled by F. LaGard Smith and published by Harvest House Publishers.

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Gen. 39

Some of the people we meet in our early reading in Genesis disappoint or disturb us. Cain killed his brother. Noah, after a great salvation, got drunk. The story of Lot is tragic. Likewise we are disturbed by the episode of Shechem and Dinah (Gen. 34).

It is refreshing, therefore, to read the story of Joseph and become acquainted with him. You think, because of the trouble that invades his life, that he will have no future, or that he will simply give up. Yet this man becomes a model of perseverance through difficulty, and it was because of his trust in God.

One memorable example is, the bold seduction that came to him from Potiphar's wife, who said: "Come to bed with me!"

Joseph refused, offering this explanation: "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" The appeals continued, but he continued to say "no," refusing to commit adultery.

I do not believe Joseph had to quickly think through the process and make a quick decision. I believe Joseph formed a close relationship with God very early and learned to make honorable choices long before the moment of this temptation. Life priorities were set. The sanctity of marriage was a principle he accepted before this event. His godly heart concepts and commitments were fixed. Thus, his response was the response of a heart trained in righteousness. He was well armed for this attack by his previous learning and living.

Though trouble and persecution came as a result of his refusal, there is no evidence he ever regretted his choice of purity over pleasure.

After this event, Joseph's faith continued strong, even to the end. "By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones," (Heb. 11:22).



"Joseph, in like manner, at the end of his life, demonstrated the unshakable nature of his faith when he made mention of the exodus of the Israelites, which in fact **would not take place until another century and a half had passed, but which he foresaw with assurance because of his trust in God and his promises**, and gave directions concerning his burial - literally, concerning his bones. From the age of 17, when the envy of his brothers caused them to sell him into slavery (Gen. 37), Joseph had been an exile in Egypt where, after a first enduring hardship and injustice, he had risen to a commanding position of influence. **But he did not forget his native land and the promises associated with it. Prosperity did not dim the flame of his faith.** Hence the expression of these last wishes from his death-bed to his kinsmen who with his father had settled in Egypt under his patronage. "I am about to die," he told them; "but God will visit you, and bring you up out of this land to the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob;" and then he enjoined that they should carry up his bones with them (Gen. 50:24ff)." *-Hughes Commentary on Hebrews.*