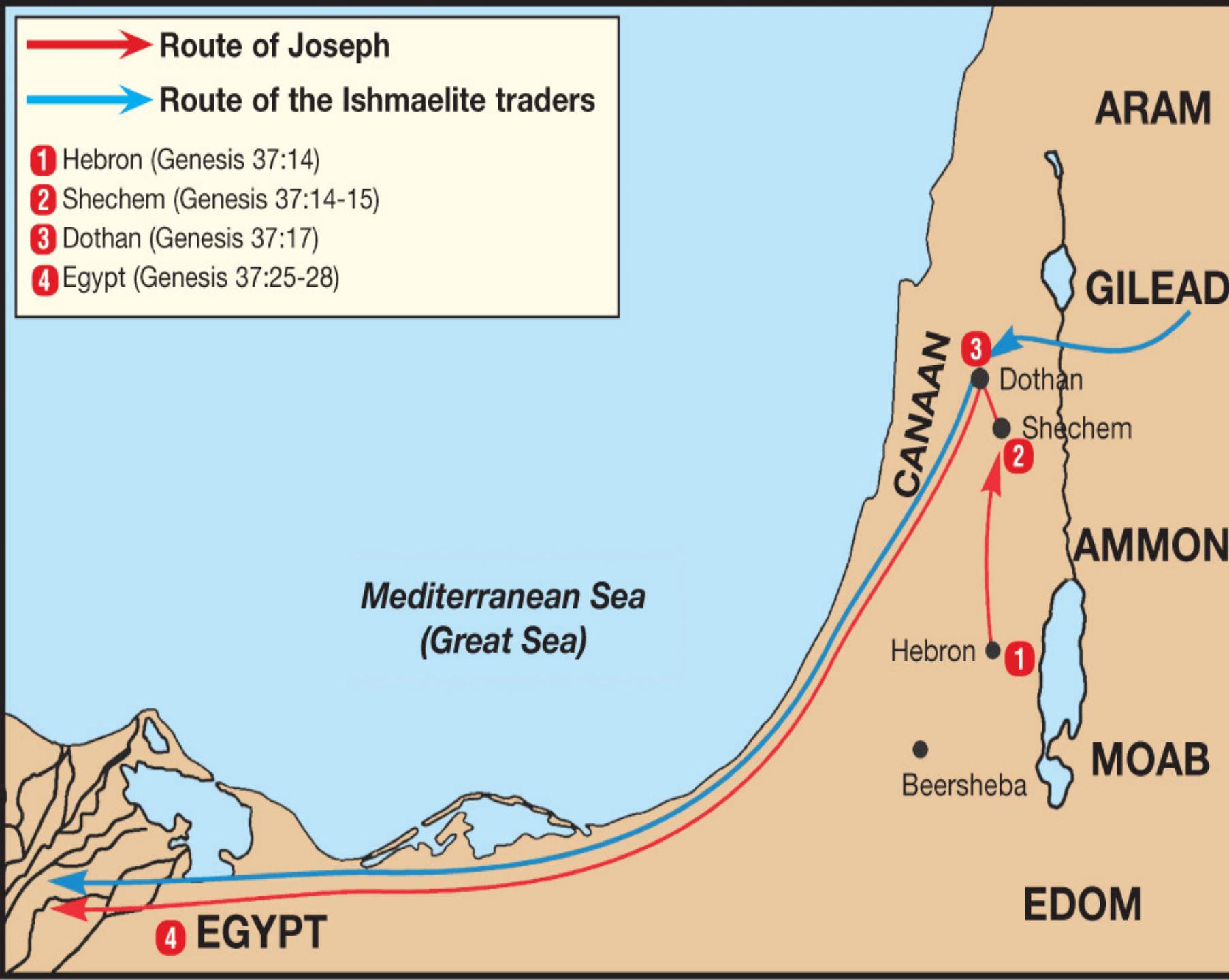


# AdSS19- Joseph and Potiphar



(1) Background: Joseph's brothers sold Joseph to slave traders.

(2) The slave traders brought Joseph to Egypt and sold him to Capt. Potiphar.



(3) God blessed Joseph. (Gen 39:2-6)

(4) Potiphar's wife noticed Joseph. (Gen 39:7-20)

(5) Video: 1:20:10-1:21:57

(Viewers are cautioned on the inaccurate parts of the video)

Source: Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph (movie)

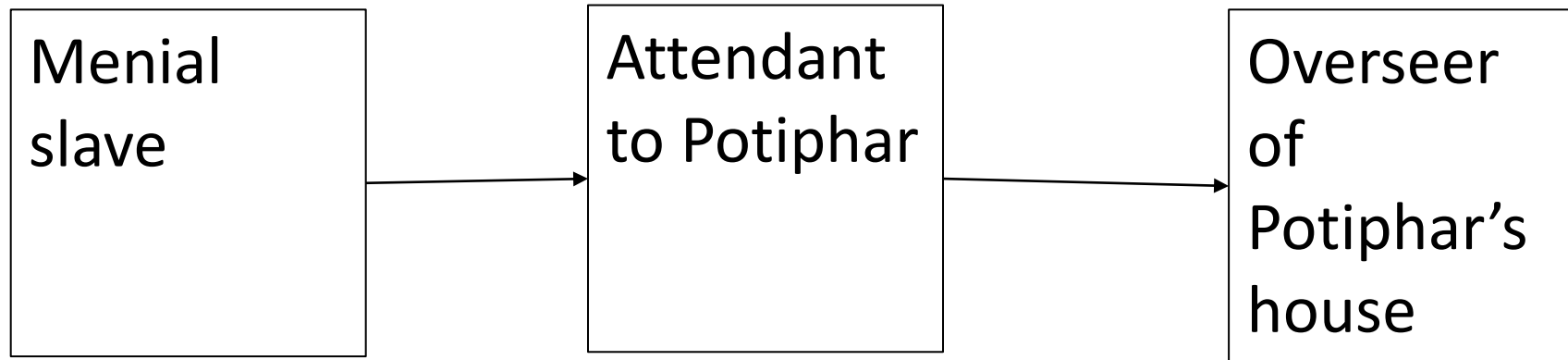
(6) Comments:

(a) God was with Joseph and blessed him. Why?

Ans: Because Joseph was obedient and faithful to God.

(b) How did God bless Joseph?

Ans: God gave Joseph success in everything he did. (Gen 39:3). His position as a slave changed (Gen 39:3):



(b) How do we know Joseph was obedient and faithful to God?

Ans: Because of his answer to Potiphar's wife for not laying with her.

*“how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”* (Gen 39:9)

Joseph was very conscious of God's law, sin and actions which would bring judgement. He did that which pleased God and turned away from acts which displeased God.

Therefore God was pleased with Joseph and blessed him.

## **(7) Spiritual Lessons:**

- (a) God can also bless us in our station in life (rich or poor).
- (b) Refrain from sinning. Be conscious that sinning against God will bring adverse consequences in our lives. We are more fearful of adverse reactions from our bosses and authorities for wrongful acts.
- (c) Put God first in our lives. Please God rather than men.

Acts 5:29: “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

(8) Potiphar committed Joseph to imprisonment. (Gen 39:21-23)

(9) Comments:

(a) Again, God was with Joseph and blessed him.

(b) One would have expected Joseph's fortune to flourish in Potiphar's care. God was with him and Potiphar favoured Joseph.

(c) The event with Potiphar's wife was a setback. But, we know that it was another step in God's plan to bring greatness to Joseph and to save his family.

(d) Being framed by Potiphar's wife, Joseph was sent to jail. Even in prison, Joseph was successful.

(e) Joseph was made in-charge of the prisoners.

## (10) Spiritual Lessons:

(a) We may go through difficulties in life, but if God is with us, we have nothing to fear.

(b) Joseph went through much difficulties:



Thrown into a pit by his brothers

Sold as a slave.



Framed by Potiphar's wife.







Thrown into prison for a crime for which he was innocent.

Source: <https://st-takla.org/bible/commentary/en/ot/matthew-henry/genesis/ch39.html>

Yet, God was with him every moment. In fact, the difficulties were God-planned-and-executed. At the end, Joseph was made prime minister of Egypt and saved his family from famine in Canaan.

(c) We notice God-planned-and-executed difficulties in the lives of:

- Abraham
  - Months of journeying on foot to the Canaan.
  - Famine in Canaan.
  - Fleeing from famine to Egypt.
  - Almost losing Sarah to Pharaoh.
- Isaac
  - The sadness of being deceived by Jacob.
- Jacob
  - Deceived into marrying both Leah and Rachel.
  - Worked 14 years for Laban.
  - Contend with 4 wives fighting for Jacob's attention.
  - The sorrow of losing Joseph.
- Joseph
  - As mentioned above.

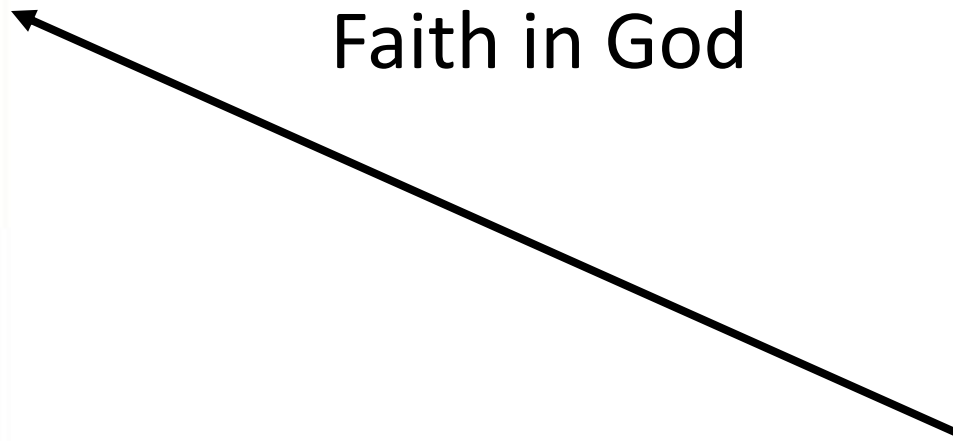
(d) Why did God place difficulties in their lives?

Ans: The many difficulties in the lives of the patriarchs were to compel them to have faith in God to overcome their circumstances. If their lives were plain sailing and without difficulties, there is no need to have faith in God.



Source: <https://www.hayespress.org/product/god-answers>

Faith in God



Source: <http://raynoah.com/2018/03/11/god-i-need-you-right-now/>

(e) Despite all the difficulties, the patriarchs never left their faith in God. God blessed them.

(f) God also placed difficulties in our lives for similar reasons.



(g) The test is placed before us, whether we will exercise faith in God.

(h) Do not be overly concerned about your circumstances in life. Be a Joseph – be concerned that you have done wrong and offended God.

*“how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Gen 39:9)*

(i) Many of us worry that we would get into trouble for our misdeeds. Sinning against God is not a ‘big worry’ for us. Therein lies the difference between Joseph and us.

(j) We must take our sins and misdeeds seriously as an affront to God (eg. Telling lies for our boss). It brings dishonour to God. It brings adverse consequences to us when God turns away from us.

# She lied for her boss. Would you?

**A survey shows that secretaries are increasingly expected to cover up for their employers. Kate Hilpern investigates**

We all lie, even if it's only telling a friend that, yes, her new orange kitchen looks great. A recent Gallup poll found that only 8% of people claim never to have lied and that even they probably weren't telling the truth; 25% of the people interviewed admitted they lie daily.

The problem for today's secretaries, according to the 15th annual support staff survey by recruitment consultancy Gordon Yates, is that they are increasingly expected to lie for other people, too - notably the boss.

"Integrity at work has become a major issue this year, highlighted by the Enron scandal and a host of smaller examples," says Richard Grace, joint managing director of Gordon Yates. "Our survey shows that a staggering 79% of support staff have been asked to invent the truth on behalf of their boss this year. At one end of the scale, these may be white lies such as 'I'm afraid Mr Jones is in a meeting'. More seriously, secretaries may be expected to help fiddle expenses on the boss's behalf."