

GENESIS

(BERE'SHEET)¹

CHAPTER 39:1 And Joseph was taken down toward Egypt,² and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, chief of the slaughterers,³ an Egyptian man, acquired him from the hand of the Ishmaelites who had caused him to go down toward there.⁴ **2** And YHVH was with Joseph, and he was a man caused to be prosperous. And he was in the house of his master^p, the Egyptian. **3** And his master^p saw that YHVH was with him, and that all he did YHVH caused to prosper in his hand. **4** And Joseph found favor in his eyes and served him, and he singled him out⁵ over his house, and all there *was* to him, he gave into his hand. **5** And it was, from then—he singled him out over his house, and over all there *was* to him, and YHVH blessed the house of the Egyptian on account of Joseph, and the blessing of YHVH was in all that there *was* to him, in the house and in the field. **6** And he left all that there *was* to him in the hand of Joseph, and he did not know anything that he had, but indeed the bread that he ate. And Joseph was beautiful of shape and beautiful of sight.⁶ **7** And it was, after these things, that the woman of his master^p lifted her eyes toward Joseph and said, “Lie down with me.” **8** And he refused and said toward the woman of his master^p, “Look! my master does not know what *is* with me in the house, and all that there *is* to him, he has given into my hand. **9** There *is* none larger in this house from me,⁷ and he has not withheld from me anything, but indeed you, because you *are* his woman, and how can I do this large bad *deed*, and err to ELOHIM?” **10** And it was, as she spoke toward Joseph day *by* day, and he did not hearken toward her, to lie down beside her, to be with her. **11** And it was, according to this day, and he came toward

¹ The books of the Hebrew Bible are named from their opening words: here *Bere'sheet*, meaning “At *the* first of . . .”

² Lit “Egypt-ward.”

³ I.e., executioners, or perhaps bodyguards.

⁴ Lit “there-ward.”

⁵ I.e., appointed.

⁶ The same Hebrew expression is used in Gen 29:17 for Rachel.

⁷ I.e., in comparison with me.

the house⁸ to do his work, and there *was* not a man from the men of the house, there in the house, **12** and she caught him by his clothing, saying, “Lie down with me,” and he left his clothing in her hand, and fled, and went toward the outside.⁹ **13** And it was, as she saw that he left his clothing in her hand, and fled toward the outside, **14** and she called to the men of her house, and said to them, saying, “See, he caused to come to us a man, a Hebrew, to laugh with us;¹⁰ he came toward me, to lie down with me, and I called in a large voice, **15** and it was, as his hearing that I have caused my voice to lift up, and called, and he left his clothing near me, and fled, and went toward the outside.” **16** And she placed his clothing near her, until the coming of his master toward his house. **17** And she spoke toward him, according to these *spoken*-things, saying, “He came toward me, the Hebrew servant whom you caused to come to us, to laugh¹¹ with me, **18** and it was, as I caused my voice to lift up and called, and he left his clothing near me, and fled toward the outside.” **19** And it was, as his master^p heard the *spoken*-things of his woman, that she spoke toward him, saying, “According to these things your servant has done to me,” and his nose burned.¹² **20** And the master^p of Joseph took him, and gave him toward the house of the roundness,¹³ the place that the bound ones¹⁴ of the king *were* bound, and he was there, in the house of the roundness. **21** And YHVH was with Joseph, and stretched out toward him loyal-kindness, and gave his favor in the eyes of the chief of the house of the roundness. **22** And the chief of the house of roundness gave into the hand of Joseph all the ones bound who *were* in the house of the roundness, and all that they are doing there, **he** was the one doing. **23** There *was* nothing, the chief of the house of roundness was seeing¹⁵ under his hand, for YHVH *was* with him, and that which he did YHVH caused to prosper.

⁸ Lit “house-ward.”

⁹ Lit “outside-ward,” here and vv. 13, 15, 18.

¹⁰ Or, “against us.” The verb, *tzachaq* means “laugh,” but the context must determine whether it is in the sense of playing or mocking.

¹¹ See note on v. 14.

¹² I.e., with anger.

¹³ I.e., the prison.

¹⁴ This is the corrected (*qere*) reading, the MT text (*ketib*) reads “ones being bound.”

¹⁵ I.e., he did not have to look after anything.