

TEMPTATIONS OF JACOB'S CHILDREN

Genesis 38, 39

After Joseph was sold into Egypt, both he and one of his brothers faced very severe temptations. Read to see what each did in the face of these temptations, and what the outcome was in each case:

A. Events in Judah's Life: Read Genesis 38:1-11

1. Who did Judah marry? Genesis 38:2 _____
2. How many children did they have? Genesis 38:3-5 _____
3. Notice what God did to their first two sons, and why: Genesis 38:7-10

4. Why did Judah not let his third son be Tamar's husband after this? Genesis 38:11 _____

B. Judah's Temptation: Read Genesis 38:12-19

1. In time, what happened to Judah's wife? Genesis 38:12

2. When Tamar saw that Judah's third son was grown, and she was not given to him, notice what she did: Genesis 38:13, 14. When Judah saw her, what did he think her to be? Genesis 38:15

3. Therefore, notice what he asked her: Genesis 38:16, 17. What did she require that he leave with her? Genesis 38:18

C. The Results of Judah's Temptation: Read Genesis 38:20-30

1. When Judah sent the kid he had promised, what happened? Genesis 38:20-23

2. When he discovered that his daughter-in-law was pregnant, what did he say should be done to her? Genesis 38:24

3. But after he learned by whom she had become pregnant, what did he decide? Genesis 38:26b _____
4. What were the names of the twins which were born to them? Genesis 38:27-30

D. Events in Joseph's Life in Egypt: Read Genesis 39:1-6b

1. To whom was Joseph sold in Egypt? Genesis 39:1b, c _____
2. What position did this man hold? Genesis 39:1b _____
3. What was true of Joseph, even though he had been sold into slavery? Genesis 39:2a _____
4. Therefore, what happened to him? Genesis 39:3b, 2b

5. Who soon became aware that God was with Joseph? Genesis 39:3

6. Therefore, what position did he give Joseph? Genesis 39:4

7. What happened to Joseph's master after this? Genesis 39:5

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8. Notice the extent to which Joseph's master trusted him: Genesis 39:6a, b

E. Joseph's Temptation: Read Genesis 39:6c-12

1. Describe Joseph's physical appearance: Genesis 39:6c

 2. Notice what his master's wife did: Genesis 39:7. How did he respond to her invitation? Genesis 39:8a _____
 3. For whose sake and why did he refuse her? Genesis 39:8b-9c, d
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 4. Did Joseph's adamant refusal end his temptations? Genesis 39:10

 5. How often did he have to renew his decision to not yield to temptation? Genesis 39:10b _____
 6. Did he give in even a little bit to her temptations? Genesis 39:10 d, e

 7. On one occasion, why did Joseph go into the house? Genesis 39:11a, b

 8. How many others were in the house at this time? Genesis 39:11c

 7. Notice what his temptress did at this time, besides just *suggesting* that he do evil: Genesis 39:12a. But what did Joseph do? Genesis 39:12b-d
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F. The Results of Joseph's Temptation: Read Genesis 39:13-23

1. When Joseph's temptress saw what he had done, notice how she explained what had happened: Genesis 39:13-15. To whom did she later repeat this explanation? Genesis 39:16-18

 2. When he heard her words, how did he feel? Genesis 39:19

 3. Therefore, what did he do with Joseph? Genesis 39:20

 4. Yet what was still true of Joseph, even there? Genesis 39:21a, 23b
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QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was God pleased with Judah's reaction to his temptations? With Tamar's? With Potiphar's wife's? With Joseph's? Which of these was in the most enviable position afterwards? How could Joseph resist his temptations when the others could not?

2. Am I ever tempted to feel that I am entitled to enjoy sex even though God has not seen fit for me to be married at this time? Or, with someone other than the one to whom I am married? Am I ever tempted by those who have such beliefs? What should I do in such cases? (See 2 Timothy 2:22, James 4:7). What could help me?