

Sunday, October 16, 2022
Summary of True Success
Genesis 39:14-23
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Genesis 39:14-23 (focal v21)

What an astounding turn of events! Joseph had gone from 'the pit in Shechem up to the penthouse of Potiphar's estate and now down to the prison-house of Egypt' (Hughes). Few situations could be worse than an Egyptian prison in 1500 BC – especially the lot of a confined prisoner. Psalm 105 describes Joseph's incarceration: *"Joseph... was sold as a slave. His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him"* (vv17b-19). Yet, *God was "with" Joseph*. Here we find the themes that opened the story in verses 1-6 repeated, but at a new level. Here again we see phenomenal, astonishing, empirically verifiable success. Everyone could see that God was with Joseph. And Joseph had never stopped seeing this reality. 'He saw it in the pit, he saw it in the penthouse, he saw it amidst Mrs. Potiphar's lies, and he now saw it in the prison-house' – and that is why he was and would be such an astonishing success.