

## **~POTIPHAR (201)**

**(Pot'i-phar) [from Egyptian, a shortened form of Potiphera]**

- **An Egyptian court official and chief of Pharaoh's bodyguard. He was Joseph's master for a time and, it appears, was a man of wealth.**
- **However, the Midianites sold him into Egypt to **Potiphar** a court official of Pharaoh, the chief of the bodyguard. (**Genesis 37:36**)**
- **And Joseph kept finding favor in his eyes and waited upon him continually, so that he appointed him over his house, and all that was his he gave into his hand. (**Genesis 39:4**)**
- ****Potiphar** purchased Joseph from the traveling Midianite merchants and, observing what a good servant Joseph was, eventually put him in charge of his whole house and field, which establishment Yehowah blessed on Joseph's account.**
- **However, the Midianites sold him into Egypt to **Potiphar** a court official of Pharaoh, the chief of the bodyguard. (**Genesis 37:36**)**
- **As for Joseph, he was brought down to Egypt, and **Potiphar**, a court official of Pharaoh, the chief of the bodyguard, an Egyptian, got to buy him from the hand of the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. (**Genesis 39:1**)**
- **But Yehowah proved to be with Joseph, so that he turned out a successful man and came to be over the house of his master, the Egyptian. (**Genesis 39:2**)**
- **And his master got to see that Yehowah was with him and that everything he was doing Yehowah was making turn out successful in his hand. (**Genesis 39:3**)**
- **And Joseph kept finding favor in his eyes and waited upon him continually, so that he appointed him over his house, and all that was his he gave into his hand. (**Genesis 39:4**)**
- **And it followed that from the time he appointed him over his house and in charge of all that was his Yehowah kept blessing the house of the Egyptian due to Joseph, and Yehowah's blessing came to be upon all that he had in the house and in the field.**

**(Genesis 39:5)**

- Finally he left everything that was his in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what was with him at all except the bread he was eating. Moreover, Joseph grew to be beautiful in form and beautiful in appearance. **(Genesis 39:6)**
- **Potiphar's** wife was not as faithful to him as was his servant Joseph. She repeatedly endeavored to seduce Joseph and, one day when no other men were around, grabbed hold of him, but Joseph still refused and ran out.
- When **Potiphar** came home, he heard only his wife's frustrated barrage of false accusations. **Potiphar** angrily had Joseph thrown into prison.
- Now after these things it came about that the wife of his master began to raise her eyes toward Joseph and say; Lie down with me. **(Genesis 39:7)**
- But he would refuse and would say to his master's wife; Here my master does not know what is with me in the house, and everything he has he has given into my hand. **(Genesis 39:8)**
- There is no one greater in this house than I am, and he has not withheld from me anything at all except you, because you are his wife. So how could I commit this great badness and actually sin against God? **(Genesis 39:9)**
- So it turned out that as she spoke to Joseph day after day he never listened to her to lie alongside her, to continue with her. **(Genesis 39:10)**
- But it happened that on this day as other days he went into the house to do his business, and there was none of the men of the house there in the house. **(Genesis 39:11)**
- Then she grabbed hold of him by his garment, saying; Lie down with me! But he left his garment in her hand and took to flight and went on outside. **(Genesis 39:12)**
- So it occurred that as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand that he might flee outside. **(Genesis 39:13)**

- She began to cry out to the men of her house and to say to them; Look! He brought to us a man, a Hebrew, to make us a laughingstock. He came to me to lie down with me, but I began to cry out at the top of my voice. ([Genesis 39:14](#))
- And it followed that as soon as he heard that I raised my voice and began crying out, he then left his garment beside me and took to flight and went on outside. ([Genesis 39:15](#))
- After that she kept his garment laid up beside her until his master came to his house. ([Genesis 39:16](#))
- Then she spoke to him according to these words, saying; The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came to me to make me a laughingstock. ([Genesis 39:17](#))
- But it followed that as soon as I raised my voice and began to cry out, he then left his garment beside me and went fleeing outside. ([Genesis 39:18](#))
- The result was that as soon as his master heard the words of his wife which she spoke to him, saying; Like this and this your servant did to me, his anger blazed. ([Genesis 39:19](#))
- So Joseph's master took him and gave him over to the prison house, the place where the prisoners of the king were kept under arrest, and he continued there in the prison house. ([Genesis 39:20](#))
- This prison seems to have been connected with **Potiphar's** house or at least came under his jurisdiction as chief of the bodyguard. Thus, the record speaks of Pharaoh's chief cupbearer and chief baker being thrown into this same jail, the jail of the house of the chief of the bodyguard, the jail of Joseph's master's house.
- As for Joseph, he was brought down to Egypt, and **Potiphar**, a court official of Pharaoh, the chief of the bodyguard, an Egyptian, got to buy him from the hand of the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ([Genesis 39:1](#))
- Now after these things it came about that the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and the baker sinned against their lord the king of Egypt. ([Genesis 40:1](#))

- And Pharaoh grew indignant at his two officers, at the chief of the cupbearers and at the chief of the bakers. ([Genesis 40:2](#))
- So he committed them to the jail of the house of the chief of the bodyguard, to the prison house, the place where Joseph was a prisoner. ([Genesis 40:3](#))
- Then the chief of the bodyguard assigned Joseph to be with them that he might wait upon them, and they continued in jail for some days. ([Genesis 40:4](#))
- And both of them proceeded to dream a dream, each one his own dream in the one night, each one his dream with its own interpretation, the cupbearer and the baker who belonged to the king of Egypt who were prisoners in the prison house. ([Genesis 40:5](#))
- When Joseph came in to them in the morning and saw them, why, here they were looking dejected. ([Genesis 40:6](#))
- And he began to inquire of the officers of **Pharaoh** who were with him in the jail of his masters house, saying; For what reason are your faces gloomy today? ([Genesis 40:7](#))
- However, it seems unlikely that **Potiphar** is to be equated with the chief officer of the prison house who gave over into Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison house.
- However, Yehowah continued with Joseph and kept extending loving-kindness to him and granting him to find favor in the eyes of the chief officer of the prison house. ([Genesis 39:21](#))
- So the chief officer of the prison house gave over into Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison house, and everything that they were doing there he proved to be the one having it done. ([Genesis 39:22](#))
- The chief officer of the prison house was looking after absolutely nothing that was in his hand, because Yehowah was with Joseph and what he was doing Yehowah was making it turn out successful. ([Genesis 39:23](#))
- This officer was probably a subordinate of **Potiphar**.

- **Potiphar's** title court official translates the **Hebrew** word *sa-ris'*, **eunuch**, which in its broader usage meant a chamberlain, courtier, or trusted officer of the throne. The **court official** *sa-ris'* that had a command over the men of war when Jerusalem fell in **607 B.C.E.** was no doubt a high government official, not a castrated person lacking masculinity.
- And from the city he took one court official that had a command over the men of war, and five men from those having access to the king that were found in the city, and the secretary of the chief of the army, the one mustering the people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land that were to be found in the city. (**2 Kings 25:19**)
- So, also, **Potiphar** was a military man, chief of the bodyguard, as well as a married man, facts that indicate that he was not a eunuch in the more common sense.