

school, I was determined to do whatever was necessary to eventually transfer to my dream school. And I did. After spending a wonderful freshman year at Holy Cross College, I was admitted to Notre Dame as a sophomore transfer. I treasure my year at Holy Cross for many reasons. Perhaps most significantly, it introduced me to the brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross and St. André Bessette, a great model of faith in their

community. When I read these words of St.

Andre I was just thinking: Yes a setback is a

setup for a comeback: Turn our moments

of doubt and fear into times of triumph.

don't appreciate it when someone tells

me I can't do something. After being

rejected from the University of Notre

Dame during my senior year of high

Even some of the disappointments, closed doors, and betrayals – even if they make no sense to us – are parts of God's plan to move you to your destiny. Our disappointments are God's appointments. (Romans 8:28) "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his

The most amazing lesson for us in

the story of Joseph, the patriarch of

the Old Testament, is that God takes

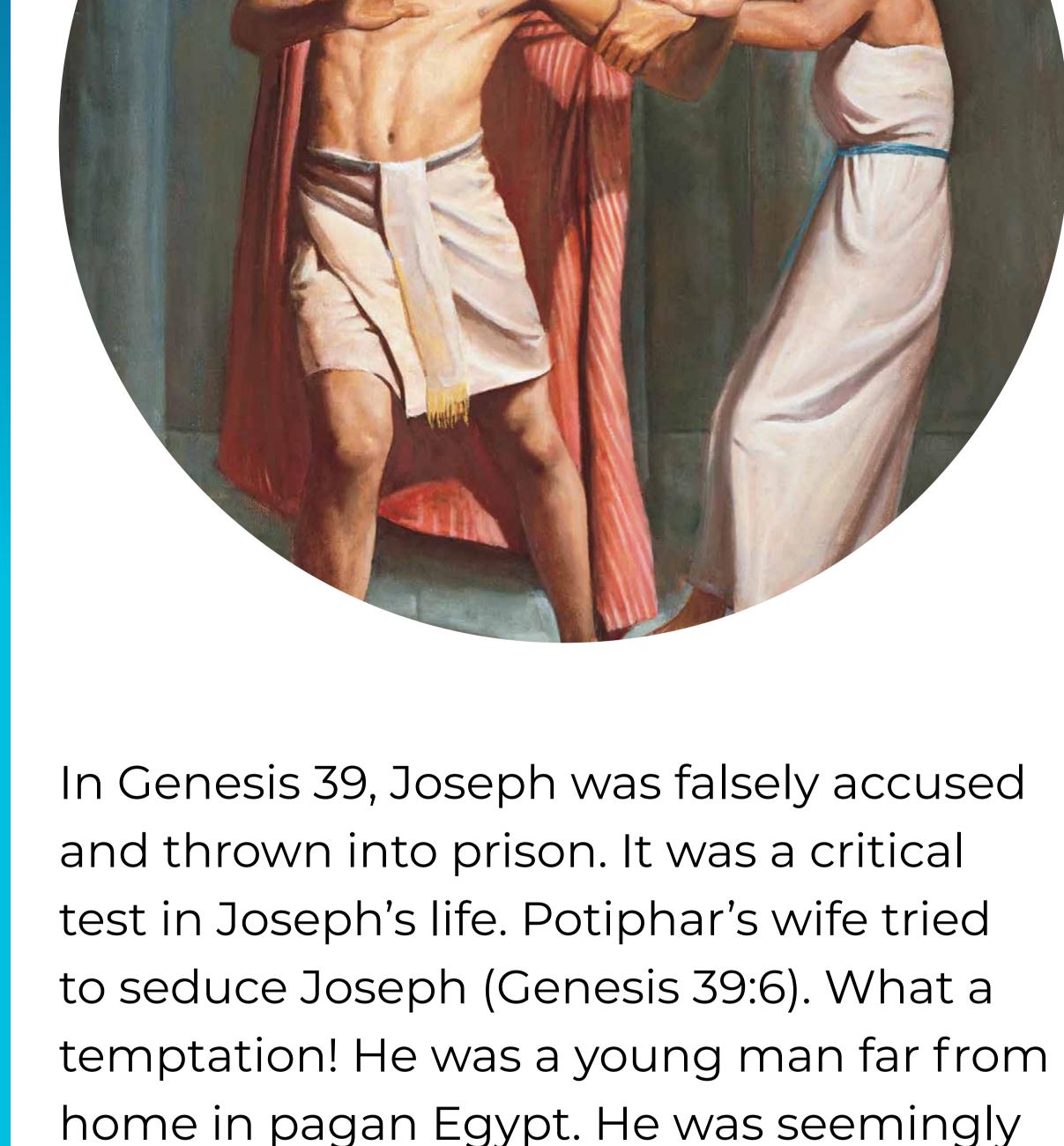
shortcomings, and works them into his

overall good purposes. This doesn't excuse

our disappointments, and even our

purpose for them."

our mistakes, and it doesn't make God culpable of evil in any way. However, it does indicate that our sovereign God can overrule in any area, and he can work things together for good in the long run. When Joseph was only 17 years old, his brothers sold him as a slave to a caravan of traders headed to Egypt (Genesis 37). Instead of exacting revenge, Joseph reconciles with his brothers and restores family unity by extending forgiveness. (Gen. 45:1–15)



forsaken by God and in desperate need

Who would know? But Joseph knew that

Did you know that you can carry a weapon

that will make your thoughts obey Jesus

According to Ephesians 6:17, one of our

Christ and overcome temptations?

In Genesis 40, Joseph was used and

weapons is the Word of God.

of some "companionship." Why not?

God would know, and he refused the

temptation.

forgotten. While he was in prison, Joseph came in contact with two of Pharaoh's officials. Notice again how the sovereignty of God was at work in bringing them to the "same prison where Joseph was confined" (Genesis 40:3). The two officials had dreams, and Joseph interpreted their dreams correctly. Pharaoh's cupbearer was to be released and restored to office, so Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him. Sadly, when he went back to

Pharaoh's court the official forgot all about

If you've ever felt "used and forgotten," you

can imagine Joseph's disappointment. His

hopes and expectations were dashed. God

must have forgotten about him. He was

wasting his prime years in that Egyptian

prison. At least two years went by with no

Joseph. What a disappointment!

change. In Genesis 41, Joseph was vindicated and exalted! God honoured Joseph for his faithfulness. He was elevated to second in command over all of Egypt, the greatest civilization in the ancient world! Such a position for a young Hebrew man necessitated all the experience of Egyptian life and government that Joseph had picked up during those long years of disappointment. God knew what he was doing all along - and he still does! Joseph's story is the story of the whole Bible. It's the story of glory through suffering, exaltation through humiliation. It's the story of the cross and the crown, a journey from fratricide to forgiveness, from famine to feast, and from promise to

Will we accept the setback as an opportunity to let God help us leverage it into a comeback?

disappointment in our lives today? Joseph's story shows that his faithfulness in adversities saved the lives of an entire nation. By extending forgiveness

and faithfulness you can also take the

movement of JY to its glory.

How can we apply Joseph's insights on

Do you believe this?



fulfillment.

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