

**HOW CAN WE ENDURE LONG AND DIFFICULT TRIALS?  
LEARNING FROM THE LORD'S TESTING OF JOSEPH  
Genesis 40:1-23**

- I. **UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF TRIALS FOR A BELIEVER: While in chains, the Lord was refining Joseph with His Word (Psalm 105:18-19, James, 1Peter)**
  
- II. **LEARN FROM JOSEPH' RESPONSE TO GOD'S REFINING TRIAL: Joseph in prison interprets the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker and hopes the cupbearer will mention his false imprisonment to Pharaoh, yet the cupbearer forgets Joseph (1-23)**
  - A. Pharaoh's chief cupbearer and baker are thrown in prison where Joseph was and Potiphar puts Joseph in charge of them (1-4)
  
  - B. Both have a dream the same night, Joseph interprets them, hoping the cupbearer will mention him to Pharaoh (5-19)
  
  - C. Joseph's interpretation from God comes to pass yet the cupbearer forgets Joseph (20-23)
  
- III. **WHAT WE NEED TO LEARN TO DO IN TRIALS (1-23, Psalm 105 and Misc. Scriptures)**
  - A. **Hope in the Lord through His Word** rather than a human resolution (14-15, Psalm 105:19).
  
  - B. **Serve the Lord** in spite of the difficulty (4,7-8).
  
  - C. **Don't get discouraged, angry or resentful** leave it in God's hands (50:15-21).
  
  - D. **Know the Lord hasn't forgotten you**, even though man might (40:23, Psalm 105'18-19).
  
  - E. **Remember the Lord is always doing much more than just refining us: We need to trust that God is working good behind the scenes** (Psalm 105:16-18, Gen. 50:20)