

Parallels between Joseph and David narratives

[adapted from s. Postell, "POTIPHAR'S WIFE IN DAVID'S LOOKING GLASS:

Reading 2 Samuel 11-12 as a Reflection Story of Genesis 39" (Tyndale Bulletin 71.1 (2020) 95-113)

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a lad [na`ar] to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah (37.2)	Samuel said to Jesse, " Are all your lads [hane`arim] here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep. " (16.11)
Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. (37.12)	But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father... " (17.34)
So he said to him, "Go now, see to the shalom of your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." (37.14)	Jesse said to his son David, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers... See to the shalom of your brothers, and bring some token from them." (17.17-18)
[The brothers] said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." (37.19-20)	His eldest brother Eliab heard him talking to the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David. He said, "Why have you come down? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart; for you have come down just to see the battle." (17.28)
"Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning [nabon] and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt....So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you." (41.33, 39)	One of the young men answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a warrior, discerning [nabon] in speech, and a man of good presence; and YHWH is with him." (16.18)
Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking. (39.6)	[David] was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. (17.42)
Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (41.46)	David was thirty years old when he began to reign... (2 Samuel 5.4)
Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. (37.27)	Then Saul said to David, "Here is my elder daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife; only be valiant for me and fight YHWH's battles." For Saul thought, " I will not raise a hand against him; let the Philistines hand be on him." (18.17)
Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find anyone else like this-- one in whom is the spirit of God? " (41.38)	Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of YHWH came mightily upon David from that day forward. (16.13)
YHWH was with Joseph, and he became a successful man... (39.2)	"...and YHWH is with [David]. " (16.18)
Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, (37.3)	But all Israel and Judah loved David... (18.16)
Then Jacob tore his garments, and put sackcloth on his loins, and mourned for his son many days. (37.34)	But Absalom fled, and went to Talmi son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. David mourned for his son day after day. (2 Samuel 13.37)
[Jacob] had made [Joseph] a long robe with sleeves. (37.3)	Now [Tamar] was wearing a long robe with sleeves; for this is how the virgin daughters of the king were clothed in earlier times. (2 Samuel 13.18)
"How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?" (39.9)	But [Tamar] said to [Amnon], "No, my brother; for this evil in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me." (2 Samuel 13.16)
Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, " Send everyone away from me. " (45.1)	Amnon said, "Send out everyone from me." (2 Samuel 13.9)
Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was hurriedly brought out of the dungeon. When he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. (41.14)	Then David rose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes. He went into the house of YHWH, and worshiped... (2 Samuel 12.20)