



Joseph's Dream

Genesis 37:1-36

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January 14, 2018

What will we learn?

❖ About God?

- ❖ He is sovereign.
- ❖ He is hidden.
- ❖ He is trustworthy.

❖ About ourselves?

- ❖ Suffering is not random.
- ❖ We reap what we sow.

Genesis 1-11: Origins

❖ Creation

❖ Work

❖ Marriage

❖ Sin

❖ Flood

❖ Languages

Genesis 12-36: Patriarchs

- ❖ Abraham
- ❖ Isaac (not Ishmael)
- ❖ Jacob (not Esau)

Jacob's children:

Born to Leah:

- ❖ 1. Rueben, 2. Simeon, 3. Levi, 4. Judah, 9. Issachar, 10. Zebulon, 11. Dinah

Born to Leah's handmaid, Zilpah:

- ❖ 7. Gad, 8. Asher

Jacob's children:

Born to Rachel:

- ❖ 12. Joseph, 13. Benjamin

Born to Rachel's handmaid, Bīlhah:

- ❖ 5. Dan, 6. Naphtalí

Genesis 37:1-2

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Genesis 37:2

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

Genesis 37:3-4

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Genesis 37:5-7

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

Genesis 37:8

His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

Genesis 37:9

Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

Pairs of dreams:

- ❖ Joseph's two
- ❖ Cupbearer and baker
- ❖ Pharaoh's two

Genesis 37:10-11

When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?” 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Joseph's dysfunctional family:

- ❖ “Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons.” (verse 3)
- ❖ His brothers “hated him.” (verses 4, 5, 8)
- ❖ “His brothers were jealous of him” (verse 11).

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction,
a haughty spirit before a fall.



Genesis 37:12-13

Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied.

Genesis 37:14

So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

Joseph's search for his brothers



Arabian
Desert



Joseph's search for his brothers



Genesis 37:14-15

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, “What are you looking for?”

Genesis 37:16-17

He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?" "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

Joseph's search for his brothers



Joseph's search for his brothers



GREAT SEA
(The Mediterranean)

SEA OF GALILEE

DOTHAN •

JORDAN RIVER

• SHECHEM

Canaan

JERUSALEM •

HEBRON

SALT SEA

Arabian Desert

NILE RIVER

Egypt

The Negev

Sinai

MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Genesis 37:18-20

But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. “Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. “Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.”

Andrew Lloyd Webber

The accuracy of the dreams
We brothers do not know.
But one thing we are sure about
The dreamer has to go!

— *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

Genesis 37:21-22

When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

Genesis 37:23-24

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe — the ornate robe he was wearing — and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

Genesis 37:25

As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

Genesis 37:26-27

Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.”
His brothers agreed.

Genesis 37:28

So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

Genesis 37:29-30

When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes. He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! Where can I turn now?"

Genesis 37:31-32

Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe."

Genesis 37:33-34

He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe!
Some ferocious animal has devoured him.
Joseph has surely been torn to pieces."
Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth
and mourned for his son many days.

Jacob

- ❖ Deceiver
- ❖ Deceived



Galatians 6:7

**Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.
A man reaps what he sows.**



Genesis 37:35-36

All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted.

“No,” he said, “I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave.” So his father wept for him. Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard.

Genesis 45:5

[Joseph to brothers]: “And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.”

Genesis 45:6-7

“For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Genesis 45:8

“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.”

Genesis 50:19-20

But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Acts 2:22

[Peter at Pentecost]: “Fellow Israelites,
listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man
accredited by God to you by miracles,
wonders and signs, which God did among
you through him, as you yourselves know.

Acts 2:23-24

“This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

What have we learned?

❖ About God?

- ❖ He is sovereign.
- ❖ He is hidden.
- ❖ He is trustworthy.

❖ About ourselves?

- ❖ Suffering is not random.
- ❖ We reap what we sow.



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper