

Beloved Dreamer to Betrayed Slave

Genesis Chapter 37

Joseph + Christ = 1) Objects of a special love from their father 2) Both hated by their brethren
3) Both rejected as rulers over brethren 4) Both are conspired against 5) Both sold for silver
6) Both condemned tho innocent 7) Both raised from humiliation to glory by power of God.

Gen 37:1 **1) Joseph Loved and Hated and Dreamed** vs 1-11

Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had sojourned, in the land of Canaan.

Gen 37:2 These are {the records of} the generations of Jacob. Joseph, when seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers while he was {still} a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father. ."

- *Joseph is 17 years old*
- *Joseph is the main human character for the remaining 13 chapters (1/4 of the entire book)*
- *Joseph is not the main character from which the Messianic line will come. That would be Judah. But this account of this man is a standard for us that takes away all our excuses. His family was dysfunctional, His father was a mess, His brothers were murderers, His sister was raped, He watched his mother die, His brothers hate him, They sell him into slavery, He's only 17, Tempted by a seductress, Falsely accused and he has the presence of mind to say, "...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Gen 39:9*
- *Joseph brought back a bad report a tattletale*

Gen 37:3 Now Israel **loved** Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. ."

- *Joseph grew up under Israel more than Jacob. His brothers knew Jacob well.*
- *Joseph loved Rachel's; Son of old age; connection to Rachel*
- *Given a coat of many colors. Possible a coat meaning a outer garment that had sleeves. Most had a large linen material that had a hole in the center and draped over the body. It had no sleeves. Plus this was a patchwork material. It showed the work and time of affection. This was noticed by all especially his brothers.*

Gen 37:4 His brothers saw that their father **loved** him more than all his brothers; and {so} they **hated** him and could not speak to him on friendly terms. ."

- *Joseph didn't have an abundance of friends. His brothers were his friends, his playmates. Imagine having 10 brothers, all older, those you look up to, hate you and always speak unkindly to you.*
- *It is common for those who are beloved by God to be hated by the world. 1 John 3:13 "Marvel not that the world hate you."*

Gen 37:5 Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they **hated him even more**.

Gen 37:6 He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have had;

Gen 37:7 for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf." ."

- *Joseph tells his brothers a cool dream. Cool dream for him but not so cool for his brothers.*
- *We can see that with Jesus as with Joseph the world will hate the news of Jesus' Lordship.*
- *This is a problem common to man. When we receive favor, and especially favor from God, we can easily become focused on our self. We share with enthusiasm that which God is showing us, or doing with us and we forget if this is an encouragement to the hearer.*
- *Gifts are given to build unity and to build up one another. Eph 4:11-13 Rom 12:3 + 16 1 Cor 12:7+22-25*

Gen 37:8 Then his brothers said to him, "Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?" So they **hated him even more** for his dreams and for his words.

Gen 37:9 Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

Gen 37:10 He related {it} to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him,

"What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?" ."

- *Jacob actually understood this dream to mean him his wives and his other 11 sons will bow down.*

Gen 37:11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying {in mind.} ."

- *These dreams were sealing his destiny towards Egypt.*
- *Jealous / Envy Gal 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."*
- *But his father kept these in mind. Mary kept these sayings concerning Jesus in his heart"*

Gen 37:12 **2) Joseph Sold as a Slave** vs 12-30

Then his brothers went to pasture their father's flock in Shechem.

- *Shechem 50 miles away*

Gen 37:13 Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing {the flock} in Shechem? Come, and I will send you to them." And he said to him, "I will go."

Gen 37:14 Then he said to him, "Go now and see about the welfare of your brothers and the welfare of the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

- *This is where these brothers slaughtered the men and stole their things after their sister was raped.*
- *Their father was concerned for their welfare.*

Gen 37:15 A man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the field; and the man asked him, "What are you looking for?"

Gen 37:16 He said, "I am looking for my brothers; please tell me where they are pasturing {the flock.}"

Gen 37:17 Then the man said, "They have moved from here; for I heard {them} say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

Gen 37:18 When they saw him from a distance and before he came close to them, they plotted against him to put him to death.

- *Even while far off they were premeditating his murder.*
- *1 John 3:15 "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer:"*
- *Proverbs 29:19 "The bloodthirsty hate the upright: "*

Gen 37:19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer!

Gen 37:20 "Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, 'A wild beast devoured him.' Then let us see what will become of his dreams!"

Gen 37:21 But Reuben heard {this} and rescued him out of their hands and said, "Let us not take his life."

- *It is interesting that here Reuben has already failed his father and attempts now to preserve Joseph's life.*
- *Reuben showed weak leadership. His brothers were wrong and he knew it. But he tried to maintain a friendship when leadership demanded that he be decisive risking their friendship. Leading done well may for a moment create a seeming separation, but that same leadership is what can strengthen relationships. We need our leaders functioning in their roles properly. Reuben compromised with his brothers rather than taking the lead to defend his brother and not allow this evil thing to come upon him.*

Gen 37:22 Reuben further said to them, "Shed no blood. Throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay hands on him"--that he might rescue him out of their hands, to restore him to his father.

- Gen 37:23 So it came about, when Joseph reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the varicolored tunic that was on him;
- Gen 37:24 and they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it.
- *Genesis 42:21 "And they said one to another, We [are] verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear;"*
 - *Joseph cried out for help and they would not Hear/Listen*
- Gen 37:25 Then they sat down to eat a meal. And as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and myrrh, on their way to bring {them} down to Egypt.
- Gen 37:26 Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood?
- Gen 37:27 "Come and 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 listened {to him.}
- *Judah realizing there is no profit for him if he kills the boy but selling him is just the ticket.*
- Gen 37:28 Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled {him} up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty {shekels} of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt.
- *Bad price for a guilty Conscience (Focht) Each brother got 2 pieces of silver each*
 - *What is not mentioned here is the process of this selling of Joseph. The seller would have to pitch the initial invitation, the buyer would need to examine and then the negotiation. All the while Joseph was there, saw and heard the whole process. Finally settled on a mere 20 shekels.*
- Gen 37:29 Now Reuben returned to the pit, and behold, Joseph was not in the pit; so he tore his garments.
- Gen 37:30 He returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is not {there;} as for me, where am I to go?"
- *Reuben was not there when Joseph was sold. He is at a loss as to what to do.*
- Gen 37:31 **3) Joseph mourned by Father** vs 31-36
- So they took Joseph's tunic, and slaughtered a male goat and dipped the tunic in the blood;
- *It is interesting that the man who once deceived his father by slaughtering the goat will himself be deceived by his son's slaughtering the goat.*
- Gen 37:32 and they sent the varicolored tunic and brought it to their father and said, "We found this; please examine {it} to {see} whether it is your son's tunic or not."
- Gen 37:33 Then he examined it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him; Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!"
- *The question arises. Where, if at all were the brothers wrong in this interaction with their father. They did not tell Jacob that a wild beast devoured Joseph. Jacob came to that conclusion. The sons created the opportunity for Jacob to come to the wrong conclusion. And when he did, they did not correct him with the truth. This is wrong.*
 - *True, a wild beast did devour his son. A Beast of Envy and Hatred*
- Gen 37:34 So Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.
- Gen 37:35 Then all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. And he said, "Surely I will go down to Sheol in mourning for my son." So his father wept for him.
- *Here is a man that has lost so much. He grieves and cannot be comforted.*
 - *When can we get over a loss of a loved one. When we go to the grave. That loss will always be with you. Normalcy can and will return but knowing that you will not forget can actually be quite helpful in the grieving process. It is understanding that someone so dear isn't just erased from us and that we can still feel a joy of our memories and miss and love them that frees us from the fear of forgetting.*
- Gen 37:36 Meanwhile, the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, Pharaoh's officer, the captain of the bodyguard.

**"Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)**