

Genesis 37

King James Version (KJV)

(Joseph appears in the story)

37 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

²These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. (They <Dan, Nephtilah, Gad & Asher were envious of Joseph because he was the favored son of Jacob. They were griping and complaining continuously. Rachel had been Jacob's favored wife)

³Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. (The many colored coat would have been worn by the eldest and heir of the father. Giving that coat to Joseph offended the older brothers)

⁴And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. (Although this sounds wrong to us, God had picked Joseph to save the family in later years)

⁵And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. (The dream came from God. It was prophetic)

(God is maneuvering things so that Joseph ends up in the right position to save the family)

⁶And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

⁷For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. (This is not always the best way to handle God's favor. God was setting Joseph up for the part he will play after he is sold to Egypt. Joseph maybe should have kept this prophecy to himself, rather than create trouble with his brothers)

⁸And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the

more for his dreams, and for his words. (This did not sit well with his older brothers)

⁹And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. (This was symbolic for his father, mother, and his 11 brothers)

¹⁰And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? (They would – many years later, in Egypt. God was setting Joseph up to be sold into slavery to Egypt. This action will later save the entire family from famine in their land)

¹¹And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying. (Jacob had spoken to God in his earlier days, so he didn't dismiss this so easily)

¹²And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

¹³And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I.

¹⁴And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

¹⁵And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?

¹⁶And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.

¹⁷And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan. (Shepherds had to stay on the move as the sheep grazed. They continually moved to greener pasture)

(Dothan = two wells; they must have needed more water for their flocks)

NOTE: (Dothan and its wells were also a stopping point for caravans going back and forth from Asia to the Mediterranean)

¹⁸ And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. (By now, they hate Joseph so much that they are ready to kill him)

¹⁹ And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. (Name calling; they despise Joseph)

²⁰ Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

²¹ And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. (God is interceding through Reuben)

²² And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again. (He was stalling for time until he could figure out a way to save Joseph. The others tended to obey Reuben because he was the oldest son)

²³ And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

²⁴ And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. (Dothan was on a road utilized by caravans for trading with many countries)

²⁵ And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. (Arab traders, descendants of Ishmael, were going to sell goods in Egypt)

²⁶ And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

²⁷ Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. (Now, God is intervening through Judah. God has a plan for Joseph, and no one will stop it)

²⁸ Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt. (These were Ishmaelites <Arabs>, living in the land of the Medianites)

Note: (The usual price for a slave was 30 pieces of silver. They only got 20 for Joseph)

²⁹ And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. (Reuben was not in on the plan to sell Joseph. He had been playing for time, to eventually save Joseph from the others. Reuben didn't know that they had sold Joseph)

³⁰ And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?

³¹ And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; (They are staging a scene to deceive Jacob)

³² And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. (liars)

³³ And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

³⁴ And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

³⁵ And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

³⁶ And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard. (This put Joseph into Pharaoh's household; right where God wanted Joseph to be)

NOTE: (It is a bad thing for a parent to have favored some children over the others. It brings nothing but trouble)