

Life of Joseph

Lessons in Humility, Leadership and Forgiveness

Joseph's Dreams

- When Joseph was seventeen years old, he was pasturing the flock with his brothers and brought back a bad report about them to Jacob [Gen 37:2].
- Jacob (Israel) loved Joseph more than his brothers and made him a beautifully embroidered robe [Gen 37:3].
- His brothers hated Joseph because of their father's special love for him (and the bad report?) [Gen 37:4].
- Then Joseph had a dream which caused his brothers to hate him even more [Gen 37:5].
- In the dream, Joseph's sheaf was raised up and his brothers' sheaves bowed [Gen 37:7].
- The sheaves of this dream were prophetic.
- Joseph's brothers understood the meaning of the dream and they hated him even more [Gen 37:8].
- Joseph then had another dream where the sun and moon and eleven stars bowed down to him [Gen 37:9].
- The sun represents Jacob, the moon Jacob's wife (Leah), and the stars Joseph's brothers.
- This time he related the dream to his father and his brothers - his father rebuked him and his brothers were jealous [Gen 37:10-11].
- His brothers went to Shechem to pasture Jacob's flocks there [Gen 37:12].
- Even knowing how his brothers hated him, Joseph obeyed his father's wishes and went to check on their welfare [Gen 37:13-17].
- When his brothers saw Joseph coming, they came up with a plot to kill him, throw him into a cistern and then claim that a wild beast had eaten him [Gen 37:18-20].
- Reuben convinced his brothers not to kill Joseph [Gen 37:21-24].
 - Reuben's intended to rescue Joseph out of the dry cistern and return him to Jacob [Gen 37:22].
 - The other brothers intended to leave Joseph in the cistern to die.
 - Before throwing Joseph into the cistern, his brothers took the robe they hated [Gen 37:23].

- With Joseph down in the cistern, his brothers sat down to eat and they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites travelling to Egypt [Gen 37:25].
- Judah convinced his brothers to sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites [Gen 37:26-28].
 - Midianites – descendants of Abraham/Keturah.
 - The term Ishmaelites included the Midianites.
- Reuben was not involved in the plan to sell Joseph and was very upset when he came to rescue him out of the cistern [Gen 37:29-30].
- The brothers then used Joseph's robe to trick Jacob into thinking Joseph had been killed by a wild animal [Gen 37:31-33].
- Jacob was inconsolable [Gen 37:34-35].