

Today we begin our series in the Story of Joseph.

For those of you who are new let me give you a little background, and for those who are not, let me give you a little review:

This all began with Abraham.

Abraham had Isaac. Isaac had Jacob. Jacob deceived Esau and fled to his uncle Leban, where he married Rachel and Leah.

Jacob then had 12 children.

God will change Jacob's name to Israel where the 12 children of Jacob will later be forever known as the 12 tribes of Israel.

Israel will then head back with his children to the land God had promised Abraham.

Jacob buries his wife Rachel who dies in child birth and then reaches his father Isaac and later buries his father. This is where we leave off.

Genesis 37:1-4 Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of

Canaan. (2) This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. (3) Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. (4) But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

- A) We start the story with Joseph hanging out with his brothers. While we do not know what happened, we do know Joseph tells on his brothers' behavior. This is where some of the animosity against Joseph begins.
- B) We also know... Jacob loved Joseph more than all. The brothers saw this. To

make things worse, his father made a coat of many colors for him to wear.

C) These two events were the catalyst of their hatred and anger of Joseph. It is not like Joseph did anything wrong. Just his integrity, his love and favor of his father caused hatred in the hearts of his brothers. They hated him so much that whatever they said about him was not peaceable.

I want us to see that this story draws two correlations in the scriptures.

- a. Of Christ
- b. Of ourselves

OF CHRIST: We see the picture of Christ's spiritual integrity. How He rebukes the people for their sinful and hypocritical lifestyle.

He was clothed by his Father, and was loved above all, the love and authority God had for His Son made many people angry and

because of their hatred for Jesus, they refused to believe.

John 8:44-45 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (45) But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

Hebrews 1:8-9 But to the Son He says:
"YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER; A SCEPTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTER OF YOUR KINGDOM. (9) **YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS MORE THAN YOUR COMPANIONS.**"

OF US: We see this picture with us. We are hated by the world not because we do bad but because we are the light of the Lord.

Those who see us see the evil in them and they hate us because we remind them of the truth.

John 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

(19) If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

We also have been clothed....

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Genesis 37:5-11 Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. (6) So he said to them,

"Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: (7) There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf." (8) And his brothers said to him, **"Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?"** So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. (9) Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." (10) So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, **"What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"** (11) And his brothers envied him, but **his father kept the matter in mind.**

A) Joseph was already hated because he held the favor of his father. Now God was going to use Joseph for His purpose. He gives him 2 dreams. Sometimes two dreams that come back-to-back are usually confirmations of each other. Just as Pharoah will experience later.

1.



2.



If you do not know the story of Joseph, I encourage you this week to read ahead. While we will be looking into this story in relation to us and Christ, it will not harm you

to take a moment to read and get acquainted.

B) These dreams of Joseph will come to pass but they will not come to pass easily.

God will have to strategically use the resources around Joseph to bring him to where he needs to be. (AIKIDO)

Romans 8:27-28 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (28) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Genesis 37:12-22 Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. (13)

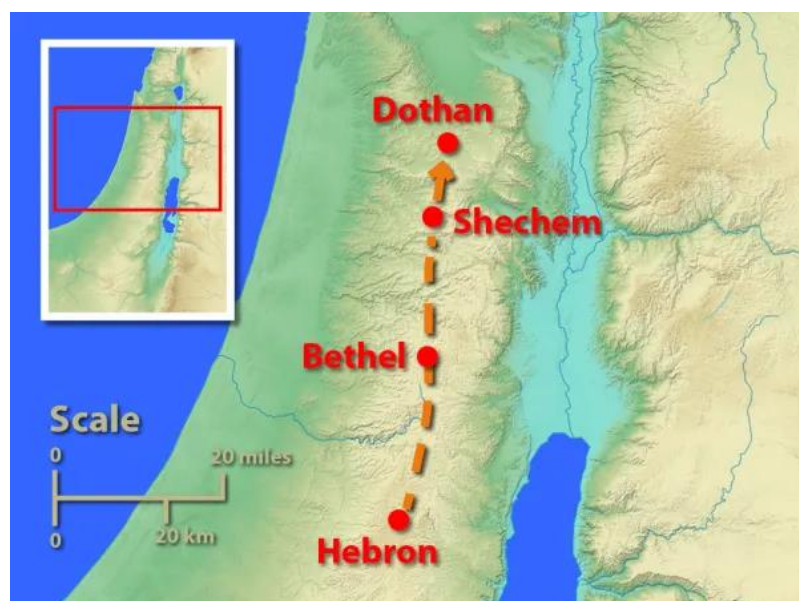
And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem?

Come, I will send you to them." So he said to him, "Here I am." (14) Then he said to him,

"Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem. (15) Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. **And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"** (16) So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks." (17) And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan. (18) Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. (19) Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! (20) Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, '**Some wild beast has devoured him.**' We shall see what will become of his dreams!" (21) **But Reuben heard it, and he**

delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him." (22) And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"—that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

- A) How much hatred does a person have to have that they are willing to kill their own brother? These brothers are not teenagers but grown men who have children. Some even the age of Joseph by now.



- B) About 50 Miles

What I would like everyone to notice also is the peace that God had given Israel by now. That the children of Israel can travel from Hebron to Dothan without fear of war or death. Unfortunately, it was not the outside people they had to worry about but the inside, his own family.

C) I want to mention briefly about the man who Joseph saw and asked about his brothers. Some rabbinical writers indicate that the man Joseph ran into was the Angel Gabriel. This of course is not proven but assumptive among some writers. Whether this is the case or not we must conclude,

- 1) It was God leading Joseph to find his brothers,
- 2) God then allowing the brothers to act on their plotting,
- 3) God rescuing Joseph by plan B just throwing him into the pit,

4) God send the Ishmaelites to pass by,
then God moving in the hearts of the
brothers to sell Joseph,

5) God moving the Ishmaelites to sell
Joseph to Egypt.

Perhaps there is some truth. This would then
bring up a philosophical question,

Why didn't God rescue Joseph from the Plot
of his brothers?

The Answer is he did. By throwing him in the
pit and selling him to the Ishmaelites God
removed Joseph from a hostile environment
so that he would ultimately save those who
plotted against him and hated him. He will
be second in command by the Pharoah to
rule and rein in Egypt.

Folks this is Christ. Jesus died and saved
many of the hands that were crucifying him.
He was thrown into a pit, given over to a
foreign nation, who would crucify Him, but

rising from the grave he will be given authority of the Father over all things. Second in command to the Father.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.