

THE STORY OF
JOSEPH
SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE



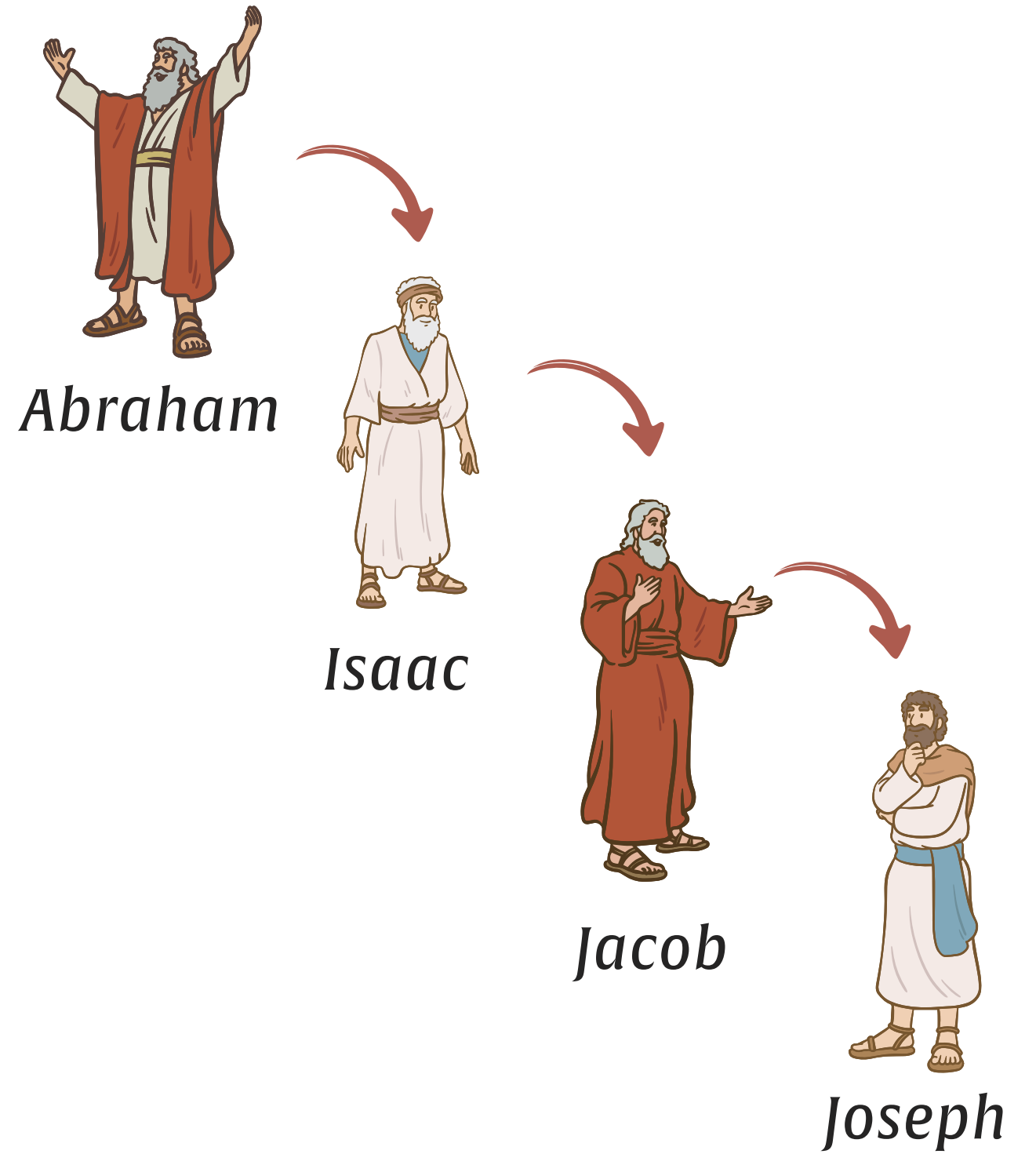
The Garden



The Ark



The Tower

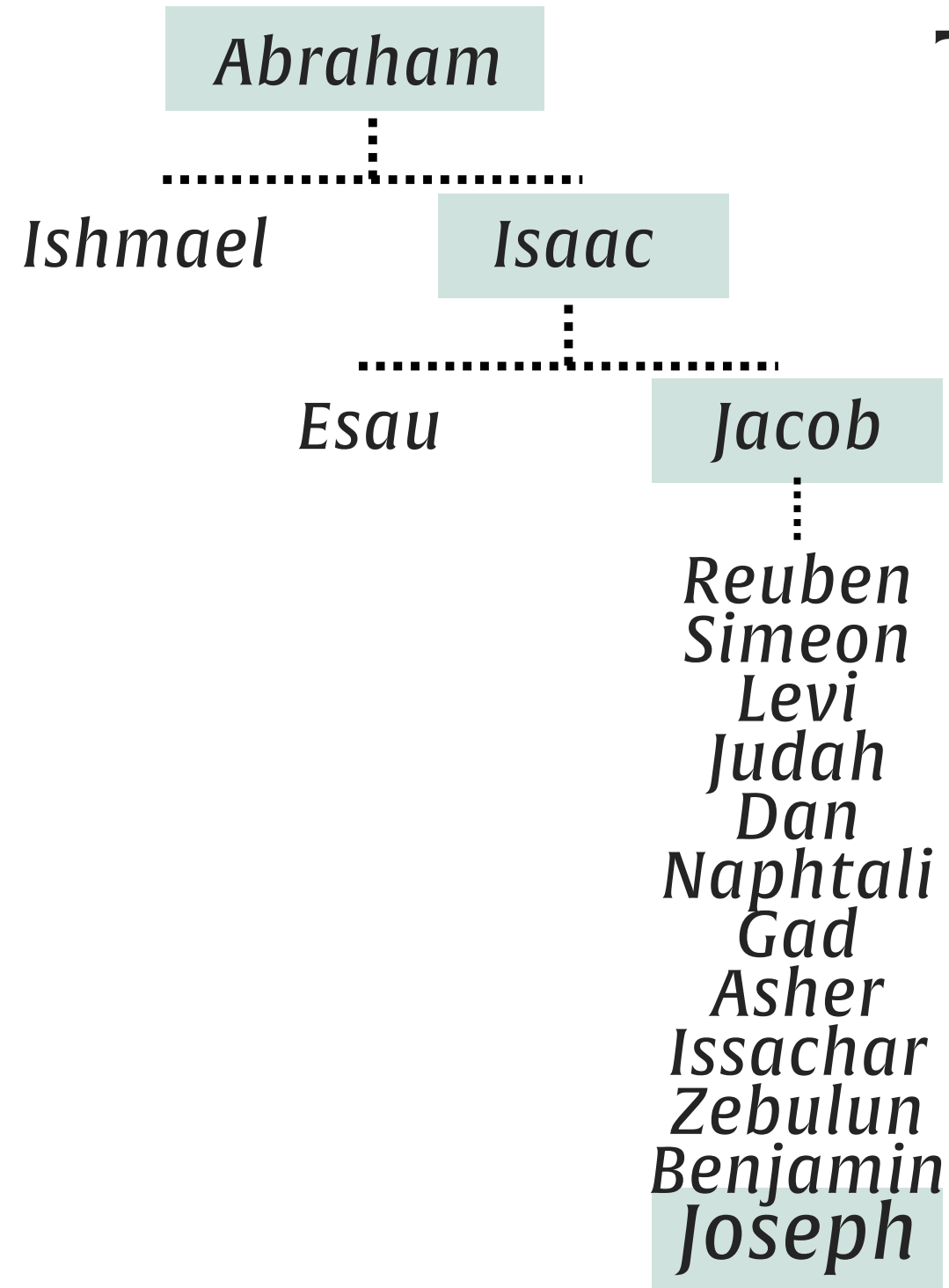




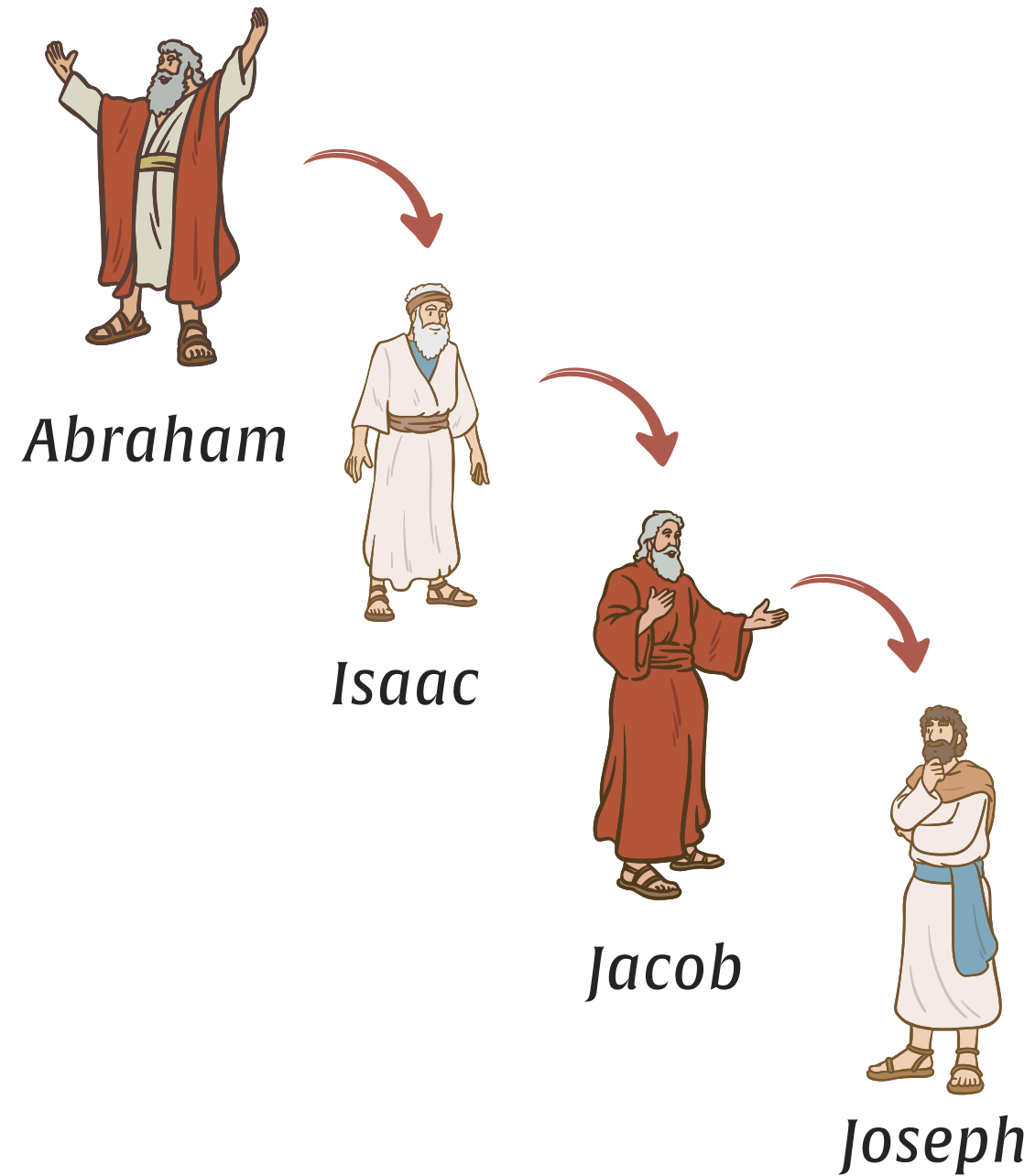
THE PERIL OF FAVORTISM & ENVY

“Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan. ² These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph **brought a bad report of them** to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph **more than any other of his sons**, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe 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 peacefully to him.”

GENESIS 37:1-4



THE YOUNGER BROTHER PATTERN

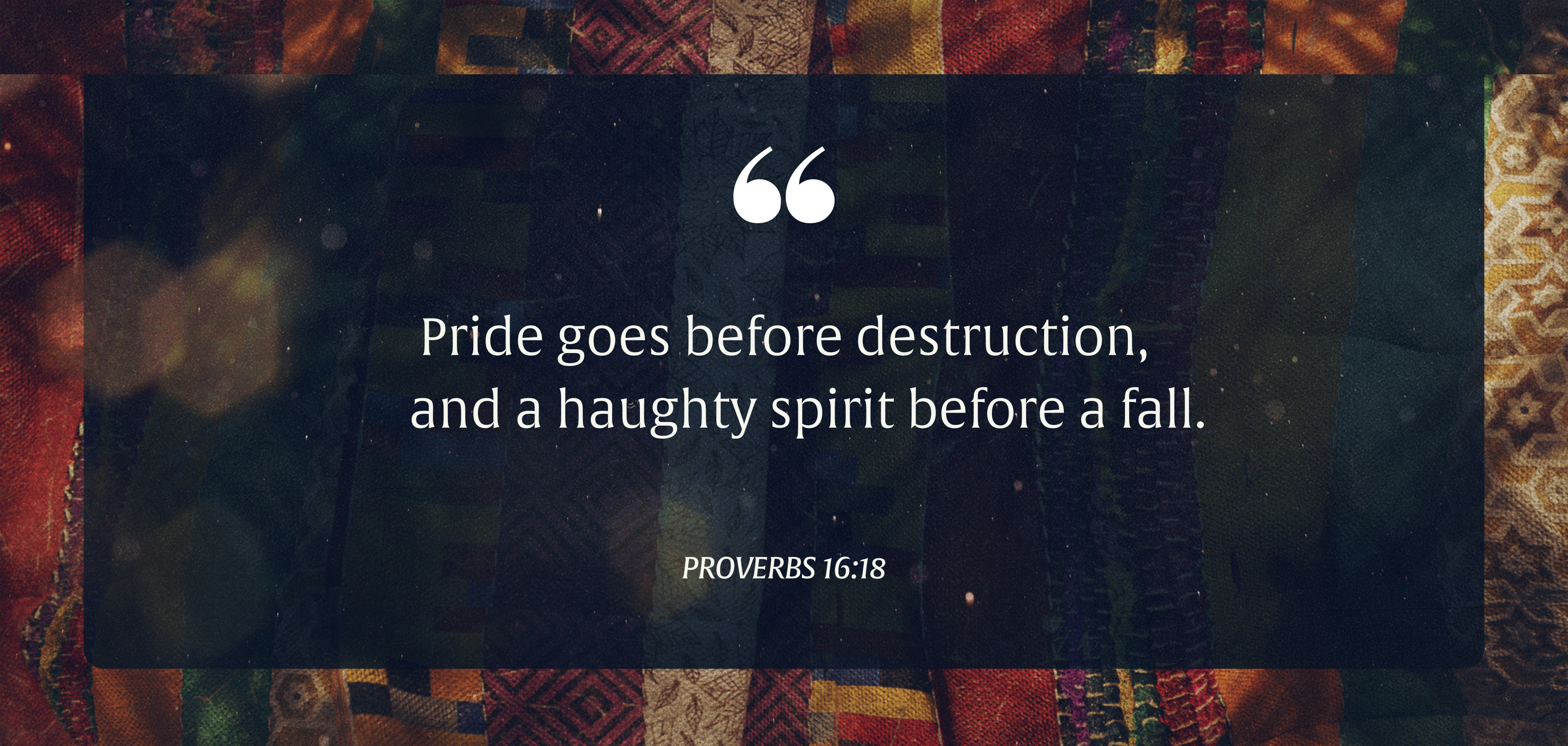


“⁵ Now Joseph had a **dream**, and when he told it to his brothers **they hated him even more.** ⁶ He said to them, “Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷ Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” ⁸ His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?” So **they hated him even more** for his dreams and for his words.

GENESIS 37:5-8

⁹ Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” ¹⁰ But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” ¹¹ And **his brothers were jealous of him**, but his father **kept the saying in mind.**

GENESIS 37:9-11



“

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

PROVERBS 16:18

The image features a dark, textured background with a subtle, mottled pattern of dark blues, greens, and blacks. A vibrant, multi-colored border with intricate geometric and woven patterns runs along the top and bottom edges. The text is centered in a large, white, serif font.

DREAMS ARE
HARD TO
INTERPRET

¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." And he said to him, "Here I am." ¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go now, **see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word.**" So he sent him from the Valley of **Hebron**, and he came to Shechem. ¹⁵ And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶ "I am seeking my brothers," he said. "Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷ And the man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

GENESIS 37:12-17

¹⁸ They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them **they conspired against him to kill him.** ¹⁹ They said to one another, **“Here comes this dreamer.** ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and **we will see what will become of his dreams.”** ²¹ But when **Reuben** heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” ²² And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. ²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, **the robe of many colors that he wore.** ²⁴ And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

GENESIS 37:18-24

²⁵ Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of **Ishmaelites** coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then **Judah** said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him. ²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. **They took Joseph to Egypt.**

GENESIS 37:25-28

²⁹ When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes ³⁰ and returned to his brothers and said, **“The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?”** ³¹ Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. ³² And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, **“This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not.”** ³³ And he identified it and said, “It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces.”

GENESIS 37:29-33

³⁴ Then Jacob tore his garments and put **sackcloth** on his loins and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵ All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, **“No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.”** Thus his father wept for him. ³⁶ Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

GENESIS 37:34-36



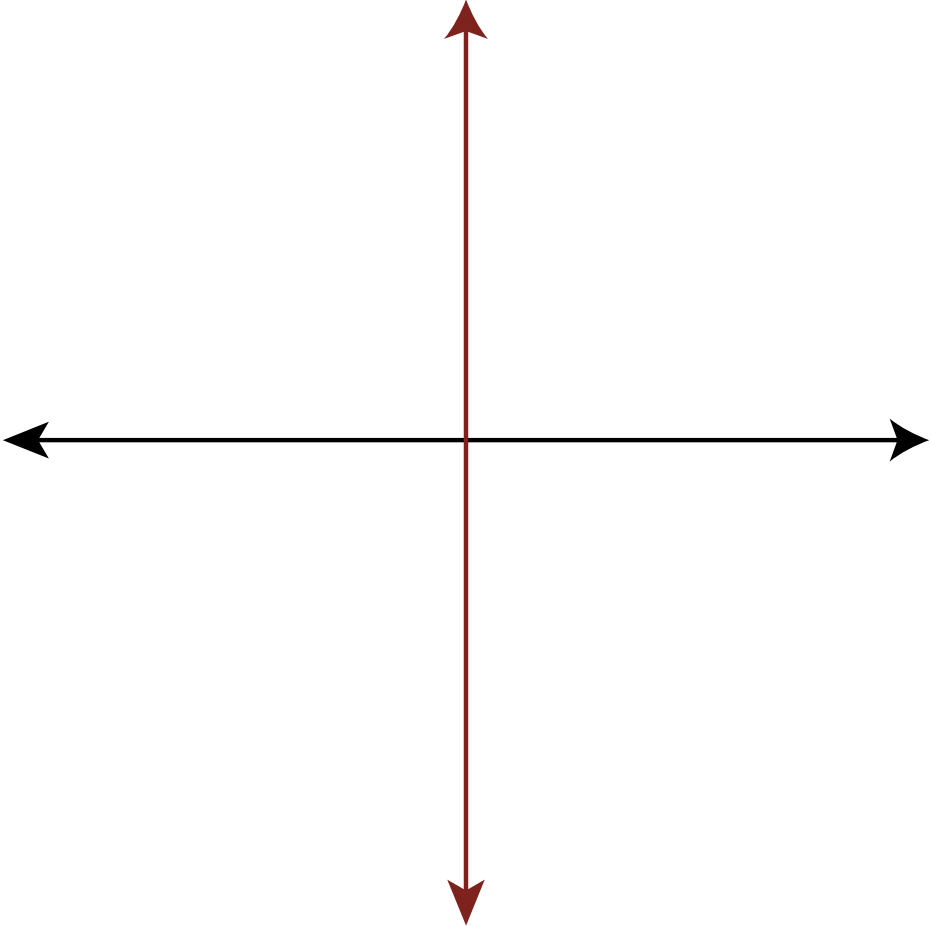
LIVE THE TEXT

God

*Person
Group
Family
Nation*

*Person
Group
Family
Nation*

*Person
Group
Family
Nation*



Vertical Lessons:

- Remember that God's plans extend beyond our present moment.
 - Is life a mess? Does God seem absent?
 - Think about Christ saying, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*"

Horizontal Lessons:

- Favoritism and partiality are condemned in scripture, and it can lead others to envy.
- Envy is "the desire for what another has that we don't have. It is resentful desire." // Tremper Longman
 - Did the brothers **get more** of their father's love?
 - Did the family of dysfunction **become happy and better united**?
 - To avoid envy, we must **find our rest in God**. If we have God, what else do we truly need?

LIVE THE TEXT