

Genesis Chapter 37: ...*this* will he also reap.

Remember to Lift Up Jesus

Genesis Chapter 36 Review:

- Genealogy of the flesh; This week enter Joseph
- Central figure to end of Genesis
- More Scripture devoted to Joseph than Abraham, Isaac or Jacob and more chapters devoted to Joseph than Genesis 1-11

Genesis 50:20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

Psalm 105:17 He sent a man before them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. ¹⁸They afflicted his feet with fetters, He himself was laid in irons; ¹⁹Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.

Hebrews 12:11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Genesis Chapter 37: Sin/Favoritism leads to Misery

Strike 1: The Bad (but True) Report

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

- Jacob now in Hebron; south of Bethlehem

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.

- Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah are away [Shechem incident] Leah's other 2 considerably younger sons Issachar and Zebulun are not mentioned; Benjamin also young and at home
- **Joseph** now 17, working in the field with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah i.e. **Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher**
- **Pasturing the flock:** Lit. shepherd *over* the flock; i.e. **in charge but younger**
- Joseph brings Jacob a "**bad report**" about these 4 brothers; messin' around

Proverbs 17:25 A foolish son is a grief to his father...Sadness

Proverbs 19:13 A foolish son is destruction to his father... [cf. Eli, Samuel, David]

- After Jesus speaks **truth** to the religious leaders they answered...

... "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" 49Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but **I honor My Father**, and you dishonor Me... [John 8:48]

- **Joseph honored his father** by giving a true report, causing those who were not honoring his father to hate him; Jesus also honored His Father at the risk of offending others
- Honor for our Heavenly Father and His purpose **must surpass all other loyalties ...no matter what**

Strike 2: Favoritism on Parade; the Coat of many Colors

Matthew 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Romans 2:4 ...do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

1 Timothy 2:3 ...God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- **Omnipresent:** God sees things as if they already were

3Now **Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons**, because he was the **son of his old age**; and he made him a **varicolored tunic**. 4His 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.

- **Loved more**...son of old age; Lit. "Wise son": Rachel's now w/the LORD
- **Lesson not learned:** Years before Isaac favored Esau leading to Jacob deceiving his father and various other family dysfunction:
 1. **Disobedience to God by father:** Isaac knew Jacob should receive the blessing but tried to bless Esau his favorite *in spite of God's revelation to Rebekah that Jacob should be blessed*
 2. **Disobedience to God by mother and son:** Rebekah and son Jacob made sure Jacob was blessed by *deceiving Isaac and not trusting God*
 3. **Strife between brothers:**

Genesis 27:41 ...Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then **I will kill my brother** Jacob."

- They "**hated**" him; **could not** speak kindly to him because they saw Jacob loved Joseph more.

- **Favoritism forbidden:** Choose to sin...Choose to suffer

Proverbs 24:23 These also are sayings of the wise **To show partiality in judgment is not good.**

Acts 10:34 ...Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth **I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:** **35** But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is **accepted with him.**

Romans 2:10 ...but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **11**For **there is no partiality with God.**

Galatians 2:6 But from those who were of high reputation (what they were makes no difference to me; **God shows no partiality**)--well, those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me.

James 2:9 ... **if you show partiality, you are committing sin** and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

- **Varicolored tunic:** Lit. "coat of many colors" or "coat with sleeves"; **Colors:** Heb. Passim. Uncertain meaning; long sleeves? Symbol of authority and/or favored position.

Joseph and all other favored ones are given an extra burden:

Romans 12:3 ...everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment

Lack of discernment in speaking? God allows things to happen in our lives to bring about circumstances that move us to where He wants us to be.

God allows those not working with God to accomplish His good in those who love him:

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

- Jacob now perpetuating a God ordained self-fulfilled prophesy leading to his own deception, choosing not to remember that the sin of favoritism led to him deceiving his own father and hatred between Jacob and his brother

Strike 3: God Given Dreams of Greatness

John 10:33 "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, **a mere man, claim to be God.**"

- **We are who God says we are:** Sinner, Forgiven, Treasure, Beloved
- Jesus told His disciples the plans the Father had for Him; their response determined their destiny; is He the Messiah?

John 1: 50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.**"

5Then **Joseph had a dream**, and when he told it to his brothers, they **hated him even more**. 6He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have had; 7for 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.**"

- Probably 10 brothers heard this first dream; "Please listen"... "hated him *even more*"; **hatred growing**
- Joseph's first dream; **Sheaves:** Bundle of harvested grain; All would bow to Joseph; prophesy fulfilled: Joseph would be lifted up...

Deuteronomy 33:16 And with the choice things of the earth and its fullness, And the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush. Let it come to the head of Joseph, And to the crown of the head of the one **distinguished among his brothers**.

Proverbs 14:19 The **evil will bow down before the good**, And the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

8Then 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.

- **You...rule us?**
- **"Hated him even more"** pt 2; Brothers did not like dream 1; now **Dream 2:**

9Now 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.**"

- Sun and Moon being Isaac and Rachel; Israel, **Rachel and the 12 tribes in Book of Revelation:**

Revelation: 12:1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the **sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars**; 2and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

- Dad, Mom and brothers would bow down

10He 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?" 11His **brothers were jealous of him**, but his father kept the saying in mind.

- Brothers jealous; Jacob rebukes Joseph but "kept the saying in his mind" or "took it to heart"; took it seriously asking "could this be true?" **Meditating...**

Daniel 7:28b ...As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but **I kept the matter to myself.**"

Luke 2:19 ...Mary **treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart...** 51And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and **His mother treasured all these things in her heart.**

- **God was with Joseph** and the dream would become reality

Acts 7:9 "The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. **Yet God was with him...**

Plot to Kill the Cause of Discomfort

John 3:19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and **men loved the darkness rather than the Light**, for their deeds were evil. 20" For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

John 10:32 Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for **which of them are you stoning Me?**" 33The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, **make Yourself out to be God.**"

12Then his brothers went to pasture their father's flock in **Shechem.**

- **Shechem:** Where Joseph's brothers slaughtered the city; Brother's home-sick?
- 10 sons [not Joseph or Benjamin] pasture Jacob's flock in **Shechem**; rugged terrain 40 miles away where Abram built his first altar [Genesis 12:6]
- Jacob still owned property there that would later be given to Joseph. Jesus would have an **interesting conversation at this spot!**

John 4:5 So [Jesus] came to a city of Samaria called Sychar [Shechem], near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "**Give Me a drink.**"

13Israel 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."

- **Father and Son:** I will send you...I will go [c.f. Abraham and Isaac]

14Then 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.

- **Father to the Son:** "Go and see about your brother's welfare"

Hebrews 2:11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are **all from one Father**; for which reason He is not ashamed to **call them brethren...**

15 **A man found him**, and behold, he was wandering in the field; and the man asked him, "What are you looking for?" 16He said, "I am looking for my brothers; please tell me where they are pasturing the flock." 17Then 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. 18When they saw him from a distance and before he came close to them, they **plotted against him to put him to death.**

- Man told Joseph his brothers move to Dothan [2 Cisterns], a long way from Shechem and 100 miles from home w/ good water and pasture
- Plotted to "put him to death": **Wicked plotting evil:**

Proverbs 14:22 Will they not go astray who devise evil? But kindness and truth will be to those who devise good.

Psalms 31:13 For I have heard the slander of many, Terror is on every side; While they took counsel together against me, They schemed to take away my life. ...32The wicked spies upon the righteous And seeks to kill him

Psalms 37:12 The wicked plots against the righteous And gnashes at him with his teeth.

Mark 14:1 Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread were two days away; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth and kill Him...

Acts 23:12 When it was day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul.

Traces of Jesus Life

1. Miraculous birth; an answer to Rachel's prayer i.e. "May He add". Jesus was a miraculous "virgin" birth
2. Loved by his father; "this is My beloved Son"...Well pleased.
3. Set apart by coat; Jesus set apart, Holy; separate from sinners

4. Joseph said he would rule; Jesus said He was the Messiah. Both were ridiculed
5. Joseph was sent to "see about the welfare of His brothers" as was Jesus.
6. Joseph and Jesus hated without cause

19They said to one another, "**Here comes this dreamer!** 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!**"

- **Dreamer:** Lit. "Specialist in Dreams" implying "and in nothing else"

21But Reuben heard this and rescued him out of their hands and said, "**Let us not take his life.**" 22Reuben 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.

- **Joseph approaches** his brothers; younger with a coat signifying preeminence and/or a mark of position
- **Reuben intervenes** with the purpose of delivering him back to his father Jacob
- Reuben had **most cause for resentment** learning of Jacob's obvious intention to give the birthright to Joseph [1 Chon.5:1] instead of him [see Jacob's concubine incident]
- **Joseph would remember Reuben** when Joseph is exalted by imprisoning the next to oldest son Simeon...not Reuben:

Genesis 42:24 [Joseph] turned away from them and wept But when he returned to them and spoke to them, **he took Simeon** from them and bound him before their eyes.

- **Shed no blood:** Throw him into one of the "2 Cisterns" of Dothan instead of killing him; Knowledge of God's Word was passed down:

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

23 So it came about, when Joseph reached his brothers, that they **stripped Joseph of his tunic**, the varicolored tunic that was on him; 24 and they took him and **threw him into the pit**. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

- Stripped off the coat; Thrown into the dry cistern; **hearing him scream**

Genesis 42:21 Then they said to one another, "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because **we saw the distress of his soul** when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us."

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

- Sat down to **eat a meal?**; **Gilead**: Plateau Region of Laban/Jacob confrontation
- Reuben leaves as his **authority obviously diminished**, not listened to as Simeon is seen as a warrior after Shechem incident [with regard to the flesh]
- Ishmaelites salesman show up with good smelling stuff on bad smelling camels [only the rich]; trade route from Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea
- **Gilead** known for healing balm: [c.f. Jeremiah 8:22, 46:11]

26 **Judah said** to his brothers, "**What profit is it** for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood? 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 barterers**; "let's make some money!"; Reuben off somewhere, unaware of the plot

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.

- **20 pieces of silver**: Later the price of a young slave [c.f. Lev. 27:5]
- Midianites or Ishmaelites?
- **Ishmael**: son of Abraham **by Hagar**; **Midian**: son of Abraham **by Keturah**
- Both traveled together; Joseph sold to be a slave when they get to Egypt:

Psalms 105:17 He sent a man before them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

29 Now Reuben **returned to the pit**, and behold, Joseph was not in the pit; so he tore his garments. 30 He returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is not there; as for me, **where am I to go?**"

- **Reuben**: Mourning and confused; brother say the "kidnappers" got away
- No record as to the boys telling Reuben what really happened

Jacob Reaps **Just what he Sowed**

31 So they took Joseph's tunic, and **slaughtered a male goat** and dipped the tunic in the blood; 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."

- **Boys agreed** upon story is that they never even saw Joseph
- They knew whose coat it was, they hated the coat and it's association
- **Deception with a goat?** Apples not far from the tree

33 Then he [Jacob] examined it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him; Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!"

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, **this he will also reap.**

- **THIS** he will reap; Deceived with a goat skin; reaping the fruit of unrighteousness

34 So Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son **many days**. 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.

- **Mourned form many days:** "Abnormal" grief [McGee] for Jacob as compared to David

2 Samuel 12:22 He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.' ²³"But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? **I will go to him, but he will not return to me."**

- **Sheol:** Place of departed spirits ; Sons comfort Jacob: **Hypocrisy**

36 Meanwhile, the **Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar**, Pharaoh's **officer**, the **captain** of the bodyguard.

- **Potiphar:** Joseph healthy and intelligent sold to the Egyptian official
- **Officer:** Heb. Saris or Lit. eunuch; explains later incident
- **Captain** of the "Guard" Lit. Slaughterers or executioners for Pharaoh

SUMMARY:

1. Bad Report; Good son honoring his father
2. Jacob errs badly: Favoritism on Parade instigating hate

3. God given dreams of greatness...Father, mother, brothers will bow
 - Plot to snuff out the light
 - Jacob reaps just what he sowed; Deceived by his sons...with goat but...

...a righteous man falls seven times, *and rises again*... [Proverbs 24:16]