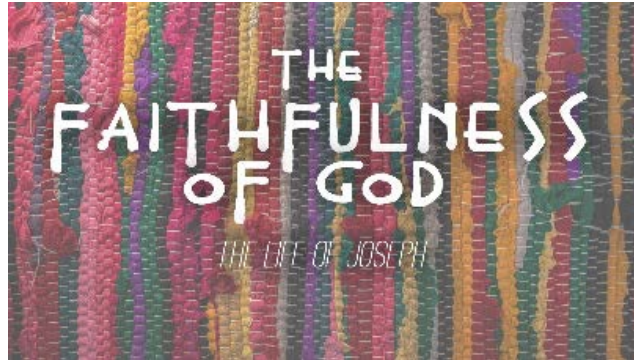


Turn in your Bibles tonight to Genesis 37 and glance up at the screens as well to see the image we will be using as we begin our New Series called, The Faithfulness of God, The Life of Joseph.



We began our study of Genesis on December 29th, 2021, as we began with, “In The Beginning God”, and for the first 2 Chapters we learned of the majesty, and glory of God as he created the universe and its majesty and beauty. God also created human beings, man and woman, male and female, the first, Adam and Eve, in his image in the fact that they were created with a physical body but an eternal soul as well that will live forever. Therefore, we the same way in our existence.

God himself, had an extremely close relationship with Adam and Eve. The creator expressing his love to them by spending time and communing with them as they tended the garden that he placed them in. When you love someone, you seek to see if they truly love you and may expect certain ways of expression to show that as well.

So, God commanded Adam and Eve to not eat of one certain tree of the many that bore fruit in that garden. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil! But Adam and Eve were tempted to question God in his protection for them, as if God was trying to hide or keep something from them.

The lie that they could be like God or become their own god. A lie, that in a way, has been whispered in every ear since, “Did God really say that is sin and if you disobey him you will die? No! Go please yourself, do what you want! Live how you want! Don’t think about truth or see sin for what it is. Complete and total pride of the heart and rejection of the mercy and grace God extends to us each and every day!

So, through Adam and Eve’s sin we see the cascading effects of their sin begin in their own family as their oldest son, Cain, murders his own brother out of jealousy that led to a hatred of his own brother. We saw that sin cascade through mankind as we read in Genesis 6:5

Genesis 6:5

⁵ The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Because of that condition of man’s heart, they left God no recourse but to destroy the whole earth with a flood. But, even in that we see God’s great mercy because there was one man, Noah, that had favor with God because of this obedience and love for God. God would save Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives, 8 people. As God told Noah to build an ark that they would go into and would be saved from the impending wrath.

But, even before that as Noah built the ark, God's mercy was extended as Noah preached as he built the ark for the people to repent and join him in the ark before it was eternally too late! But no one would repent and believe, and they all condemned themselves and are in Hades today in a place of torment.

Out of those 8 saved the world would begin to be populated again. God told the people to spread out and populate the world, but once again we saw the wickedness of man. They refused to obey God and tried to build their own kingdom and a name for themselves instead of worshiping the person and the name Jehovah. God once again had to pass judgment and he confounded their languages at the Tower of Babel, and they then had to disperse for they could not understand each other.

In Chapter 12 of Genesis, we once again see God's mercy and his sovereignty and power as he called out a man named Abram, a pagan man, to go to a country that he would show him, and he would make him the father of a great nation. Through Abram's obedience, his name would be changed to Abraham and his faith, his belief and obedience to God would be considered righteousness to him and the great nation would be started through he and his wife Sarah.

We once again though see the cascading effects of sin, not only from the pagan world around Abraham, but even from him and his own family. We saw cities wiped out from existence because of the sin of homosexuality that was prevalent in those cities. Lies and deceit that plagued the descendants of Abraham. Lies from Abraham himself that put his own wife in jeopardy, not once, but twice.

We saw as Abraham and Sarah got ahead of God and took matters into their own hand and did not wait on God to provide the son that God promised them. Out of that sin a son came but a son, whose descendants would war with the son of promise that eventually came and is at war even up to today as we see Israel is at war with the descendants of the son of sin, Ishmael.

God in his mercy and his providence continued to lead Abraham's family, beginning with the son of promise Isaac, to follow him and this great nation would begin to come to fruition. Isaac would have two sons, Jacob and Esau, and once again we see the cascading effects of sin, as there was favoritism in the family, as Isaac favored Esau, and Rebekah, Isaac's wife favored Jacob.

Once again, we saw hatred between brothers, division within the family, and a family in turmoil. But, even in that God's promise of a great nation through Abraham would not be thwarted. God's promises and plan cannot be changed because of man's sin. But God can use all these circumstances to show his greatness, his holiness, his providence, and his sovereignty in all circumstances to bring glory to his name.

Jacob, with a name that meant deceiver, God would continue to work in his life to where he became a changed man and faithful to God. Through Jacob, would come 12 sons, that would become the 12 tribes of this great nation of Israel promised to Abraham. This nation was to show God's greatness, holiness, and that salvation only comes through repentance and faith in the God who created all the universe.

So, we find ourselves here in Chapter 37 with Jacob, the patriarch of this nation. Abraham is dead, Isaac, the son of promise to Abraham and Sarah, Jacob's father, is dead. Jacob's brother, Esau does not follow God. Jacob is now to lead this family, this nation to follow God. But it is not Jacob that God now puts at the forefront of his promise.

It is Joseph, the 11th son of Jacob. Joseph's life is, for most Christians, one of the most well-known lives in Scripture.

We will see in the Bible through these final Chapters of Genesis the following about Joseph.

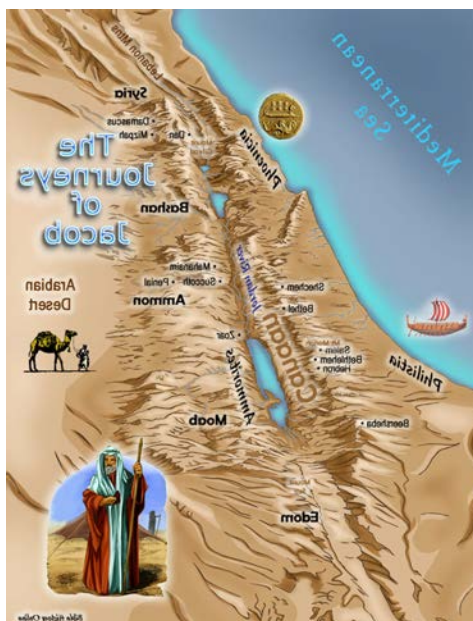
1. Joseph is a beloved son.
2. Joseph was hated by his own. In this case his own brothers.
3. Joseph was sold into slavery.
4. Joseph was falsely accused. Lied about.
5. Joseph was unjustly imprisoned.
6. Joseph's life would be restored and set in a high position of authority.
7. Joseph would be restored to his father and forgive those that through their hatred were used to see God's plan put forth as what they meant to do for harm, God meant to use for good and save a nation.

Did much of that sound familiar? Well, it should have. This is why the life of Joseph is sometimes seen by some scholars as typology of the life of Christ because of the similarities we just read. The one very important difference is that Joseph's suffering and death did not save anyone from their sins and Joseph did not rise from the dead when he died.

Jesus's suffering, death, burial, and resurrection provides salvation for all those that will repent and believe upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and all Jesus embodies being the Son of God and the Savior of the World.

So, let's begin to look at the life of Joseph and as we do, we will also see The Cascading Effects of Sin.

¹ 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.



As you look at it, the last we had heard of Jacob was that he had returned to Hebron where Isaac had settled and would soon die. If you see the boat there in the Mediterranean Sea, just go straight across and you can see Salem, Bethlehem, and below those cities is Hebron.

In verse two it says, these are the generations of Jacob and the next name you see is Joseph. Then it mentions he is pasturing a flock with his brothers. Let's quickly go back over how this family came to be.

1. Isaac did not want Jacob to marry a woman of Canaan and he sends him to Sarah's brother Laban.
2. Isaac sees Rachael and it is love at first sight.
3. He wants to marry Rachael. Laban, Rachael's dad said, Rebekah is the younger daughter. This is not customary. Marry my older daughter Leah. Jacob, says no, I want Rachael. Laban says, work for me for 7 years. Jacob says yes.
4. At the end of seven years, it was time for Jacob and Rachael to get married. Laban tricks Jacob and he marries Leah.
5. Jacob works another seven years meanwhile having two wives of Leah and Rachael.
6. Leah was able to have children. Rachael was not. Rachael gave Jacob her maid, Bilhah, as a wife to have children through her.
7. Leah was not able to conceive any more, so she gave Jacob her maid, Zilpah, as a wife to have more children with her!
8. Of course all of that was sin and was not God's design of marriage to be between one man and one woman until death do us part!

And walaw!!! This is what you have as a family after all of that! Look at this table:

Leah	Zilpah	Rebekah	Bilhah
Reuben	Gad	Joseph	Dan
Simeon	Asher	Benjamin	Naphtali
Levi			
Judah			
Issachar			
Zebulun			
Dinah (Daughter)			

There you have it! The generations of Jacob!

You still may have the question of why Joseph is considered the heir. Several reasons. Reuben, the oldest, disqualified himself because of fornication. Simeon and Levi disqualified themselves because of their murderous act over the men of the town of Shechem because of their dastardly deed with their sister Dinah.

Remember out of the 4 wives of Jacob, who did Jacob love the most? Rachael! And who was Joseph's mother? As the Scripture says, Joseph was the son of his old age. Second to the last son born. And as we saw in those first five verses that Jacob loved Joseph the most of all his sons. What did Jacob make Joseph? A robe of many colors? You have always heard it called as a coat of many colors. This coat would be an outer garment, something Joseph could wear all the time. Like this picture:



This gift shows Jacob's favoritism and his love for Joseph more for his brothers. Bringing in the jealousy and animosity that would grow in the brother's hearts. Those feelings causing the cascading effect of what is in their heart. This animosity was already there and then this event did not help Joseph's relationship with his brothers.

Joseph was out in the fields with, Scripture says, the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah. That would have been Gad, Asher, Dan, and Naphtali. Not all 12 sons were there. These sons obviously were reprimanded, or this would not have been recorded. What was this bad report? We are not told but it must have been heinous enough he felt he needed to tell their Daddy!

Was it something going to affect the whole family? Was it something that would tarnish Jacob's name? Was it against the Word of God?

I can see Reuben going up to Dan and saying, "I heard you boys go into trouble? Yeah, Joseph had to open his big mouth. What did you do?" Dan tells Reuben what they did! Reuben says, "Why did you do that?" You know what Dad said about that. Do you know what that would have done to the whole family?"

We saw none of that, we just see more gasoline poured on a fire and the son's animosity and jealousy grows.

Now this is Dale! As we will see in the very near future, Joseph's life is going to turn upon its head! But, did Joseph actually do something wrong. Some will say that this was naivety, that he was full of pride, that he was just being a tattletale because of being spoiled.

I will say this. Speaking of tattletale and gasoline earlier. Young people listen up. There is a difference in going to Mom and Dad, and saying, well so and so hasn't done their chores! That is none of your business. Do your chores and Mom and Dad will take care of the other. There is a difference in that and your sibling standing out back pouring gas on the yard and has a box of matches with them! I am yelling, Dad, Mom!

Back to the point I want to make about Joseph here. Again, this is me! I do believe we can make this point and it isn't adding or taking away from Scripture here. As I said, Joseph's life is about to be flipped on end! The way Joseph goes into each situation reveals his character and also as we get into these other Chapters, we see this said about him numerous times.

Genesis 39:2-3

² The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

Genesis 39:23

²³ The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.

Joseph's character is that he was already walking with the Lord. He had surrendered his life to the Lord and was living in obedience to the Lord. In walking with the Lord on a daily basis Joseph was prepared before hand when these trials and tribulations came and he was able to continue to lean in to and call on the Lord for his comfort, direction, and to be used for his glory even in these extremely difficult trials and sufferings.

Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation but take heart, I have overcome the world!" We just finished 1 Peter and Peter said, "Beloved, don't be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as if something strange were happening to you."

This goes for us as well ladies and gentlemen. We seek the Lord through prayer, we study his Word, to grow in the knowledge and grace of the Lord and when the trials come. We are ready! I'm not saying we enjoy those but what did we learn through our study in the book of 1 Peter. It is in suffering we grow most in our faith. It is even in our suffering that we are used the most for the glory of the Lord because of how we glorify Jesus even in the suffering.

Let's see how this continues to be lived out in the life of Joseph and his family.

Genesis 37:5-11

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. 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.

Here we get into the question of should Joseph have told his family about the dreams. I say, yes! Joseph is providing a prophecy for his family that will come to fruition later in their lives. There was no detail provided for Joseph or his family of how and when this would take place.

We see that the brothers, along with Joseph's father, Jacob, did interpret the dreams properly! Who gave Joseph these dreams? It was the Lord! Interpreting dreams would be one of Joseph's gifts God granted him in his life.

Whether it came from a heart of naivety, arrogance, or even confusion on Joseph's part and he was hoping to have some affirmation, confirmation, or help with what he is going through. We can only speculate here. I will propose to you, since we have most of Joseph's life in Scripture, and we see his character in the circumstances he is placed in, that it was out of a heart of purity and a desire to understand.

Either way, when we are presented with a circumstance, we have two options in how we react to the situation.

The brothers could have said, "Okay Joseph, we'll see! Let's get back to work!" But, no! What happened? We read it! They hated him even more! Jacob gave Joseph a little reprimand, a little slap on the hand. What else did Jacob do? He kept this saying in mind!

The Hebrew word is:

Samar: ponder, watch, observe, preserve, treasure up.

Sound familiar? Some of you are saying, Nope! Mary, the mother of Jesus, with what the Shepherds told her, did what?

Luke 2:19

19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Back to Joseph and Jacob. Who else did God use dreams in their life? Jacob! So maybe Jacob was wondering. Hmm! My boy walks with the Lord. I have to give this some legitimacy, but we will see.

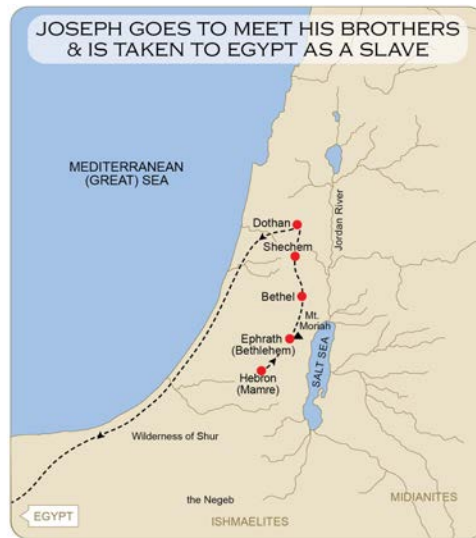
Back to this point as well. We also have two ways we can respond to any situation. We can lash out, with anger, aggravation, hostility as well, a know it all attitude. We can become jealous when another brother or sister in Jesus Christ has a spiritual victory, or a gift that we may not have. In those sins we can create a division that need not be there, or we can let it fester in our hearts until it cascades into something much, much worse!

That is what we are about to see!

Genesis 37:12-36

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. 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. 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. 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." 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.



To get to his brothers, Joseph had to travel about 4 days. They were supposed to be in Shechem but were not there and had traveled up to Dothan. No explanation of why. Joseph does finally find his brothers.

All of what we just read speaks for itself. As Joseph approached his brothers, their hatred and jealousy had now led them to consider murdering Joseph. Which brother suggested this dastardly deed? We don't know. But we do know one who spoke up to at least stop that act! Reuben! Remember Reuben is the oldest son just by basic birthright. The first born of Leah. So Reuben may have had the most to gain here in terms of the inheritance and leadership upon Joseph's death and then Jacob's death.

As I mentioned earlier, Reuben forfeited any chance of the inheritance due to the first born, upon a sinful act earlier in his life. As we go through the next events of the life of Joseph, we will see that Reuben becomes a changed man in several ways.

Reuben says, "Let's not kill him, but let us throw him into a pit." The brothers agree, well give them a slap on the back, and they put Joseph in a pit.

It's obvious Reuben leaves his brothers for a time. What do the other brothers do? While Joseph is in the pit they sit down and have a meal! What was the conversation during this time? Were they talking about Joseph? Could Joseph hear all their comments while he is down in that pit? Again, you see the depths of the brother's depravity.

A caravan of Ishmaelites comes by and Judah says we ought to get some money out of this. It is no profit for us if we just kill him. They sell Joseph to these Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver. What we see here is another reason why some say Joseph's life is a Typology of Jesus. The 20 pieces of silver was the price of a common slave. What were the 30 pieces of silver Judas got for helping Jesus get arrested? The price of a common slave.

After that the brothers left the area, but Reuben comes back in hopes to rescue Joseph. Joseph is not there and in a sign of mourning and distress, Reuben tore his clothes, and says, "What is going to happen to me!" Reuben felt, as the oldest, he would have been held responsible for what happened to Joseph.

I had never thought of this before, but the brothers could have gone after Joseph. The caravan could not be moving too fast, they probably could have caught up with them and they could have paid back the 20 pieces of silver and I am sure they would probably had added some silver to that to get Joseph back.

They do not and they again put the plan together to take the robe, put some blood on it and send it to Jacob. They did not even have the nerve to take it to their father themselves!

Here Jacob sits with his favorite son's coat, the deceiver, the liar, from times past, now being deceived, being lied to. Jacob now goes into great mourning! He tells his sons and daughters that he is going to mourn until he dies.

We see again the understanding of that there is life after death for the believer and unbeliever as Jacob mentions Sheol. Sheol, being divided into two places where the believers and unbelievers could see each other. One side was a place of torment where the unbeliever goes and the other side, paradise or also called Abraham's bosom, where the believer goes. Waiting for Jesus' coming Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

Through this point of Joseph's life, we see several things. We saw the cascading effects of sin. It can begin as a trickle. I was reminded of the Cascade Falls on the Parkway. Have you ever walked the trail and there is the creek slowly flowing and then when it starts downhill it becomes that cascading water just rushing down the mountain.

Remember how God warned Cain. Cain, watch out, sin is creeping at the door. The door of his heart! So, it is here with Joseph's brothers. Sin began creeping at the door of their heart and through their jealousy and hatred brought them to the point of almost murdering their brother!

We need to watch our hearts! Jealousy, hatred, pride in our heart can lead to greater sin.

Joseph! God shared with him in a dream that his family would one day bow down to him in honor. That he would be leading them. His life should have been a life of ease, correct? Not to be hated by his brothers, attacked by his brothers, thrown into a pit, sold into slavery and now is a servant of a man named Potiphar in Egypt of all places. Egypt!

After all the favor of God was upon him! Ladies and Gentlemen, having the favor of God upon us, does not mean we are immune to trials, struggles, to be mistreated. Look at Jesus! Look at Joseph's life. As we will eventually get to in Joseph's life, what people may mean as evil against us, God will use for good.

You may be here tonight, and you may say, why do I have this cancer, or any physical ailment that is a constant ailment. Spiritual attacks that come at you from Satan or the persecution that you may be taking as being the only believer where you are at in school, on a team, in a family, at work! Lord, I am totally surrendered to you, why am I going through this.

To give me glory! I have already glorified you. If we die before Jesus comes back, we see Jesus face to face, but in the meantime we are glorify him in all circumstances. If you are saved tonight, no matter the circumstance you have won. Seek first, the kingdom God and his righteousness and he will carry us through the brokenness that comes from a broken world. For he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Take what comes and allow that to provide opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ so those looking on and listening may come to that point as well to repent and surrender their life to Jesus Christ for they see there is no hope any other way