

**Passage:** Genesis 37

**Title:** The Life of Joseph: A Reflection of Christ and a Call to Faith

**Summary:** The story of Joseph in the book of Genesis is a powerful narrative that encompasses nearly 25% of this foundational text. While only one chapter is devoted to the creation of the universe, God chose to dedicate a significant portion to Joseph's life. This emphasis begs the question: Why? The answer lies in the profound truth that God desires us to know the Creator more than the creation itself. Through Joseph's life, we see a vivid picture of Jesus Christ, offering us deep spiritual insights and a call to unwavering faith.

### **Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers**

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### **Only 1 Chapter for Creation / Evolution Counter / Nothing more to Say - I Am**

What is more interesting to me is that only 1 chapter was given for the creation of man and the universe. I personally would have loved 25% of this book to be about Creation, so then I would be loaded with all kind of ammo to defeat the Theory of Evolution. But God's priorities are different than mine, and of course God's ways are better than mine, higher than mine. He just says. "In the beginning". He doesn't try to explain or defend His existence; that's how it was when Moses met Him on the Mount that day, who shall I say sent me, and God replies, tell them "I Am, that I Am." Nothing more to say, I Am, that settles it.

### **25% on Creation - Man still Doubt / Something Better - the Prophetic Word**

You see God could have spent 25% on Creation, but man with his higher learner would question, attack, and twist all of that just like they do that 1 chapter. God gives man 1 chapter, and He starts with "in the beginning God". And, God says I will give you something that only God can give, I will predict the future, and if you are truly honest with yourself, and you are truly seeking me, you will know that "I Am, that I Am".

*(2 Peter 1:19 NKJV) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

*(2 Peter 1:20 NKJV) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,*

*(2 Peter 1:21 NKJV) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

### **Reason Man Wont - John 3:19**

The reason man won't believe, John 3:19:

*(John 3:19 NKJV) "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."*

*(John 3:20 NKJV) "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."*

*(John 3:21 NKJV) "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

### **Prove Existence - Still Sin Issue / Study Joseph Fascinating - Picture of Jesus / No Sin Record**

You see you can prove God's existence all day, but that won't deal with the sin issue, it won't bring man back from prison to paradise. Only the Messiah, the Savior can do that, and that is why the study of Joseph is so fascinating, for we will see in so many ways Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ. This is called Biblical typology, and we have pictures of people and things that represent the spiritual realm, Joseph is a picture of Jesus. Joseph is only one of two major characters in the Bible that there is no recorded mention of their sin. Daniel is the other one; now this doesn't mean they were sinless, for all have sinned:

*(Romans 3:23 NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

### **Joseph not Line of Messiah**

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### **Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good**

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good (Romans 8:28).

### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

*(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Outline: Genesis 37**

- Joseph Busy About His Father's Business (37:1-2)
- Joseph's Coat of Many Colors and Big Sleeves (37:3-4)
- Joseph Dreams and Visions (37:5-11)
- Joseph Sent to Check on His Brothers (37:12-17)
- The Brothers Plot Against Joseph (37:18-28)
- Joseph Sold into Slavery (37:29-36)

### **Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

### **Joseph Busy About His Father's Business (37:1-2)**

**(Genesis 37:1 NKJV) Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.**

**(Genesis 37:2 NKJV) 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.**

### **Brings Report**

Now Joseph brings a report to Jacob of his brothers doing wrong. We do not know what they were doing but whatever it was it was bad enough that Joseph needs to report it to dad. Many commentators call Joseph a little brat, tattle-tale, and all the trouble he gets into is because he was.

### **Dwelling in Harmony / Busy Father's Business / Tending the Flock / Picture of Jesus**

But in verse 1 we see that he is dwelling with his father, at harmony with his father, busy about his fathers business tending the flocks, looking to please the Father. A picture of Jesus:

### Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

#### Looking to Please the Father:

*(John 8:29 NKJV) "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."*

#### In Harmony with the Father:

*(John 5:19 NKJV) Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."*

*(John 5:20 NKJV) "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel."*

#### About the Father's Business:

*(Luke 2:48 NKJV) So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."*

*(Luke 2:49 NKJV) And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"*

### Hated for Relationship with Father

We will see that Joseph's brothers don't hate him because he tells on them, but because of his relationship with his father.

### A Key to Life Here - Be about the Father's Business / Things Roll Off

You know a key to a happy life, fulfilled life here on this side of heaven, is to be about the Father's business. Be focused on the Father's business and you will see how the little things don't even bother you, if you even notice them at all. Be focused about the Father's business as Jesus was, and you will have life and that more abundant (John 10:10).

### Joseph's Coat of Many Colors (37:3-4)

**(Genesis 37:3 NKJV) 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.**

**(Genesis 37:4 NKJV) 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.**

### People Wishing / Have - Don't - Live - or Be / Materially & Spiritually

Many people wish that they had something else, or they wish they lived somewhere else, and others wish they were someone else. They ask why don't I have that, live there, or be who that person is. There is something in us that makes us want to have what other people have, and not only in the material realm, but the spiritual realm also. Envy is resentful desire for what someone else has or is. This means that envy is not simply about stuff; it is also about character traits, gifts, blessings, families, positions in life.

### Legend - Envy

Legend has a story, and it was a man who wanted to go to seclusion so he might spend all his time in intercessory prayer and worship of the Lord. Well Satan sends some henchmen to go disrupt him. They try to lure him with lust, anger, loneliness and the likes, but to no avail. So Satan says watch, and he goes and perches on the man's shoulder and whispers in his ear, your brother has just been made Bishop of Alexandria. Immediately the man's face turns to a frown, and turmoil and struggle enters into his heart, joy was lost.

### Envy Pull Down Strongest / Joseph's Brothers filled with Envy

Interesting story, that how envy can bring down the strongest. Satan knows that, and he will use that against us. Envy, wanting what we don't have. Acts 7:9 tells us that is just what happened to Joseph's brothers, they had envy towards Joseph.

*(Acts 7:9 NKJV) "And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him"*

### **Robe had Sleeves / Common Worker Robe / Bosses Sleeves / Briefcase**

Verse 3 - Also he made him a tunic of many colors: A more correct translation for colors is "pieces". This robe had sleeves you see, and that made it special, and that made the one who wore special. The common man, the workingman, their robe was sleeveless so that the sleeves would not get in the way of working (carpentry, farming, digging). But a person who had sleeves, they would be like the boss on the job, it was a symbol of authority. It was written that the sleeves served as a briefcase also, and they would carry the papers and drawing, etc.

### **Brother hate Symbol of Superiority / Plotting Begins / Innocent Victim**

So the brothers don't like Joseph having any symbol of superiority over them, he was the second youngest; he had no superiority over them. So we see envy coming upon them, and they plot to Joseph's demise. Joseph is an innocent victim here, but we can still learn a great lesson from his coat.

### **Recap - Pit - Slave - Robe Dipped - Jacob Deceived**

You remember what is going to happen, they will throw him in a pit and leave him to die, but then they decided to sell him as a slave to a caravan passing by, make a buck or two. So they took that robe, dipped it in animal blood, then take it to Jacob and saw we found this robe, Joseph must have been attacked by wild beast.

### **Potiphar - New Robe - Seduced - Integrity - Prison**

You know the story, he ends up at Potiphar's house, the number 2 guy. So he gets a new robe to wear as servant in this home (as it was in those days), we know that because it ends up in Potiphar's wife's hand as she tries to seduce him. Joseph's integrity gets him in trouble, and into the prison he goes, the robe was the evidence against him.

### **The Coats - The Places of Prominence / Work - Captain - Person**

This coat, these coats, these places of prominence, got Joseph in much trouble in his life. You know, we say I want that position at work, I should be captain of the football team, why am I still sitting at this desk and work and not in the managers seat, how come I didn't get the big contract. How come they get all the attention at school. We look around and ask how come I am not being noticed or acknowledged, elevated, rewarded.

### **The Tendency - WHY / Think we Know - So Sure / People wanted the Coat / For Position**

Whether it is at work, at school, in the church, there can the tendency of asking why him, why her, instead of me. You know we think we know what we want, so sure of it, and then struggle when we are not there. Lots of people (All Joseph's brothers) wanted Joseph's coat, not to wear for comfort, but to wear for that position, but Joseph wore it, and it brought many problems upon his life.

### **Positions with Pressures - No Idea of / Space - College - Lost It / Lake Charles**

You know there are positions and places that have pressures and circumstances that we have no idea of, problems and pains that we have no idea will come with that position. I remember several years ago, I quit my job from the Space Center launching rockets, a great job - the pinnacle of aviation (I worked my way up from mechanic to Program Analyst), to go to Bible College. Friends and family thought I had lost it. Well I get back from Bible College and go into unemployment for 9 months, which to many was confirmation that I made a foolish mistake. Then I get a temporary job, so no stability, then I finally get a full-time job with a major corporation. It was great, I started a Home Fellowship, I was having sweet fellowship with the Lord in the morning, I was studying the Word, listening to Bible Study tapes, it was great. But get this within 30 days they want to make me a Lead; a Lead over 10 people and 2 aircraft, WOW.....

### **Prayed - Analyzed / Prove Critics / Didn't Ruin my Life**

So I prayed, I analysed, hey, I that means I can witness to presidents and Commanders, the extra money would be nice, but I know deep in my heart one of my motives: It prove all the critics wrong, it would show them hey quitting and going to Bible college wasn't a life ruining mistake, I did recover and got back on top.

### **Like Lot - the Progression / Not Consumed Father's Business / Stress & Trouble**

Like Lot pitching his tent towards Sodom, a progression of things began. You know what happened first, my mind was no longer consumed with my Father's business. Rather than thinking on the next Bible Study, rather than waking in the morning and going time for the Word, time to hear from Him; I remember the mornings come, and my mind would immediately race to what I had to do to impress the boss, to build my reputation in this new place, to how much work had to be done. My Word time suffered, my mental health suffered because the stress of the job. Each plane was worth 100 million dollars and I was responsible to get it done on time and on cost. Financially they pulled a switch on me and I only get 40 dollars a week for the stress. On top of that I was often the scapegoat when things went bad, the program was often close to being terminated.

### **Gave Up Fellowship / Gave Up Easy Work**

I gave up that sweet fellowship with the Lord, a mind that was free to just go to work, do what came easy to me, thus allowing me to think upon all day, for 40 a week, all so I can so friends and family would see, hey I wasn't a fool to quit the Space Center for Bible College.

### **God so Gracious**

God as always was and is so gracious to me, and even though I pitched my tent facing Sodom if you would, then went and dwelt in the city and became a leader in the city, He still called me righteous.

*(2 Peter 2:7 NKJV) and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked*

*(2 Peter 2:8 NKJV) (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds);*

### **Those Big Sleeves / Cost me Trouble / 14-14-14**

Those big sleeves, that robe of many colors wasn't all that I thought it would be, it cost me trouble, it cost me that sweet time for fellowshiping with the Lord. 14 months, and 14 days and 14 hours, I had to ride it out, not that I was counting.

### **Be Careful Things we Want / May Cost Freedom / Give Thanks He didn't Want It**

Be careful about those things we want or think we need, or worthy of; it may cost you your freedom.

Look, if you don't get that job, promotion, position, that guy, that gal, that home, then give thanks and know that the Lord did not want it for you:

*(Psalms 34:8 NKJV) Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*

*(Psalms 34:9 NKJV) Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.*

*(Psalms 34:10 NKJV) The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.*

### **Learn to be Content / More Comes Praise Him / Be careful Big Sleeves though**

Learn to be content in what the Lord has given you, and if He gives you more, praise Him, but be careful of desiring those big sleeves, who knows how much trouble may come with them:

*(Philippians 4:11 NKJV) Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:*

*(Philippians 4:12 NKJV) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

### **Big Sleeves - God or Enemy**

But also, it is important to say here, Christian you can't always say, well if you don't want this for me Lord than block it or take it away. God allows these "big sleeve" opportunities so we will put things aside, come back to Him, spend time with Him, and seek His will for our lives. Sometimes these "big sleeve" opportunities come right from the enemy as he desires to draw you away, take away your joy, and diminish the sweet time of fellowship and freedom you have with the Lord. If Satan can't make you bad, he'll make you busy.

### **Next Time**

But next time that "big sleeve" opportunity comes, remember this story of Joseph, and may it make you consider is it worth:

- How much trouble that may come with it,
- How will it affect my time with the Lord,
- How will it affect my freedom in Christ

- How will affect my relationship with my family,
- How will this draw me closer to the Lord, (or will it draw me away from the Lord).

### **Amazing**

You know it is amazing to me now after my experience, after my failing, how guarded I am about those big sleeve opportunities, at work, in ministry, at play, in relationships, it amazes me how content I have learned to be. But it came the hard way.

### **Joseph Dreams (37:5-11)**

**(Genesis 37:5 NKJV) Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.**

**(Genesis 37:6 NKJV) So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed:**

**(Genesis 37:7 NKJV) "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."**

**(Genesis 37:8 NKJV) 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.**

### **Sheaves / Ruling Over Them / Opposite Culture**

Sheaves are wheat. So Joseph is telling his brothers that the meaning of the dream is him ruling over them, and they would bow down to him. This is totally opposite of the culture of the day for birth order determined who was to be head over the other. This doesn't sit well with his brothers, especially since Joseph is wearing the robe, with the sleeves, and is favored by his father.

**(Genesis 37:9 NKJV) 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."**

**(Genesis 37:10 NKJV) 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?"**

**(Genesis 37:11 NKJV) And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Dream / Mom & Dad Too**

In this second dream not only are Joseph's 11 brothers bowing down to him, but also his mother and father (the sun and the moon).

### **Dreams of God – Come True Later**

The dreams of Joseph are no doubt of God, because we see them come true later on in the story; but, in the meantime, his brothers are going to do all they can do to thwart the purposes of God.

### **Why Tell the Dream / Like Jesus – Tells it Like it Is / Joseph is Caring**

Now why did Joseph tell these dreams to his brothers and parents? He already knew the brothers despised him, and his father would not take pleasure in such a thought, but he did anyway. Why, because Joseph, like Jesus, told things as they were, and then would let the chips fall where they may. From reading the whole story of Joseph, we can see that he is a sensitive caring person, deeply interested in the welfare of others (as we will see in the coming chapters).

### **Flattery / Christians Susceptible to This – Love / Damaging to Them / Burning Home**

So Joseph tells it like it is. You know one of the worse things you can do to a person is flatter them, when you know the flattery is not the reality. Christians are extremely susceptible to this because we want to be nice people, we want to love one another, we are told to love one another. It can be damaging to flatter someone, for we could be keeping a word they really need to hear from them. We really flatter because we want people to like us. But that is not love. If you were sleeping on the couch of a burning home, it would not be love to not wake you because I did not want to disturb your rest. Likewise if I saw you involved in something that was going to hurt you spiritually or physically, true love would come and say brother we need to talk..



### **Can be Embarrassing / Shaving Cream / Do it in Love**

Sometimes it can initially be embarrassing, but a person who wants to do right, or not be embarrassed themselves will be thankful. If I had shaving cream in my ear, please tell me, I'll be embarrassed, but I'll be thankful. Of course when you come, do it in love and gentleness. Some will use this as an opportunity to rip someone, and then feel justified in saying it was for their own good – pray to know the difference

### **Jesus did It / Saved us from Destruction / John 8:32**

That is what Jesus does, He told us like it was, that we were sinners, we were going on a path of destruction, but He spoke the words of truth to us:

*(John 8:32 NKJV) "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

### **Verse 9 – Important to Rev 12 / People make this the Church**

Verse 9 is important to us to help us unlock the meaning of Revelation 12.

*Verse 9 - Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.*" In the Book of Revelations, chapter twelve, where we have listed some symbolic personages: the woman clothed with the sun and the moon and the twelve stars; many interpret this woman as the church and they see the church going through the tribulation. This is a stretching of biblical symbolism:

*(Revelation 12:1 NKJV) Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.*

*(Revelation 12:2 NKJV) Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Mention – Expo Constancy / So Sun-Moon is Jacob / Same in Rev / Church no Wrath**

To interpret a symbol, you need to go back to where it is used in scripture and see how it is used there.

There is in Hermeneutics the Law of First Use and also the Law of Expositional Constancy. Whatever the use in one area of scripture is also the use in another area of scripture. The Expositional Constancy is extremely important in the understanding of the Parable. Here, the sun, the moon and the eleven stars refer to Jacob and his wife and sons or the nation of Israel. If these symbols refer to the nation of Israel in Genesis, then it is wrong to try to interpret the woman with the sun, the moon, and the twelve stars in Revelation as anything but Israel. Misinterpretation of this, then puts the Church going through the Tribulation Period, which is contrary to the Scriptures, for God will not judge the righteous with the wicked, and the Tribulation Period (the Day of the Lord) is God's wrath on a Christ rejecting world. Again I refer you back to Lot being pulled out of Sodom before god reigned fire down upon it – Abraham said surely God you will not judge the righteous with the wicked – and God did not.

### **Verse 11 / Jacob Ponders the Dream / Like Mary**

*Verse 11 - And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.* - So Jacob speaks quickly, rebukes Joseph, but then goes off and says to himself, I'll keep this tucked away, I won't dismiss it, I'll wait and see. Mary did the same when :

*(Luke 2:16 NKJV) And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.*

*(Luke 2:17 NKJV) Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.*

*(Luke 2:18 NKJV) And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*

*(Luke 2:19 NKJV) But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

### **Jacob Saw Something in Joseph / Saw Call of God – Though against all he Knew**

Jacob saw something in Joseph that he knew was special, different from the other boys. I believe Jacob saw the call of God upon Joseph's life, and though he couldn't understand it because it went against all he was use too, he wouldn't dismiss it as foolishness, so he waited. Good word to us parents, lets not kill our kids dreams, let us seek the Lord also and see what might become of their dreams.

### **Joseph – Save a World – People – Lineage / Not Easy – to Stand On / God Does the Same**

Joseph will be used to save a world, to preserve a nation, to preserve the lineage of the Messiah. It would not be easy on him, he will go through great turmoil in his life to bring all the pieces in line. God gives him a dream to stand on during the hard times. God does that for us. He gives us a dream, a vision, a word in our heart, or a Scripture.

## God gave Jacob Dream / Gen 28 / Joseph ask to hear the Story Again

It is interesting, because God gave his father Jacob (Israel) a dream also. Jacob would see the angels ascending and descending, and it would change his life. I can imagine Joseph sitting at his fathers feet saying tell me the story again dad, tell me the dream that changed your life:

*(Genesis 28:11 NKJV) So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.*

*(Genesis 28:12 NKJV) Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*

*(Genesis 28:13 NKJV) And behold, **the LORD stood above it** and said: "**I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.***

*(Genesis 28:14 NKJV) "Also your descendants **shall be** as the dust of the earth; **you shall** spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth **shall be** blessed.*

*(Genesis 28:15 NKJV) "Behold, **I am with you and will keep you** wherever you go, **and will bring you back** to this land; for **I will not leave you until I have done** what I have spoken to you."*

## Jacobs Ladder / John 1

This is known as "Jacob's Ladder"; Jesus refers to this in John:

*(John 1:49 NKJV) Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"*

*(John 1:50 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."*

*(John 1:51 NKJV) And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."*

## Jacob's Hard Times / Stand on this Dream / I Will

When the hard times came in Jacob's life, how many times would he go back to, stand on that dream he had, that promise, those words from the Lord. God saying I am your God, I will give you this land, and many descendants, and I will bring you back to this Land

## Joseph Would gain Strength from Jacob's Dream / How we Effect People

How Joseph must have gained strength in his time of struggle as he remembered also God's words given to his father, and how God was true to His word. You know, you never know, how just everyday words, conversations will affect a person.

## God not done with Older Men

Older men and woman, don't think that God is done with you, invest in the youth that are in your life:

*(Proverbs 20:29 KJV) The glory of young men is their strength: **and the beauty of old men is the grey head.***

*(Psalms 92:12 NKJV) The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.*

*(Psalms 92:13 NKJV) Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.*

*(Psalms 92:14 NKJV) **They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,***

## My Granddaddy / Imagine Joseph / Dream Changed Life – Not Easy / Joseph's Life Relates

I remember my granddaddy, he was quite the storyteller, I use to love to hear his stories. Could you imagine being Joseph and hearing the stories of Jacob? Yes son that dream changed my life, and my life wouldn't be easy. I worked 7 years for your mother Rachel, but your uncle Laban tricked me, then I had to work 7 more years, but she was worth it. Amazing to see how Joseph's life relates to his father Jacob. Joseph would have 7 years of prosperity, and then 7 years of famine, he was tricked by his family members, but they both had a dream, a vision from the Lord given to them to stand on during the hard times.

## Joseph only 17 / World Desensitized / Lost vision for Youth / Joseph Stood / Joel 2

Joseph was only 17, only 17 when the Lord gave him this dream. Our world is so desensitized to something like this. Today we want to go to college, get a job, a home, get married, have kids, ad all kinds of other things and goals; yet somehow we have lost the vision of seeing young men and woman, receiving a vision from the Lord. A vision that will make them stand above all that is in this world. Joseph would stand on this vision from the Lord, even when everything in the world would say it was wrong.

These are the words spoken for the Last Days concerning our youth:

*(Acts 2:16 NKJV) "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

*(Acts 2:17 NKJV) 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.*



*(Acts 2:18 NKJV) And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.*

### **Not Just for Youth / We Need Fresh Vision – Sow Supernaturally – Vibrancy – the Word**

But this is not just for the youth, maybe you are 30-40-80-90. Are you willing to say to the Lord, I need a fresh vision, a dream, that you would sow something supernatural in my heart that would give me a passion for you, a vibrancy to my relationship with you Lord, that you would make your word come alive in my heart.

### **Desperately Need / Another Bible Study – Church Again / Word – Prayer / Keep Fire**

How desperately each and every one of us need that in our lives. How I pray that this time we spend together at this church doesn't turn into "just another Bible Study", "it's just Church". How I pray that every time we meet you come expecting to meet the Lord, every time you open this Word you expect to hear from the Lord, in prayer the same. How each and every one of us need a vision and dream from the Lord, to keep the fire burning, something to stand on during hard times, something to keep us focused when things are going great.

### **Focused / Anchored / the Blessed Hope**

That God would give us something that keeps us focused on the things above, an anchor to our souls, a blessed hope:

*(Colossians 1:5 NKJV) because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,*

*(Colossians 1:6 NKJV) which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;*

### **A Fresh Vision / See the Impact You can Make / Daily Life**

That you would have a fresh vision from the Lord and see how much of an impact you can make in the world around you, how much of an impact we can make on one life that God puts in our path. Again, nothing God gives you is common or ordinary for He is no ordinary God, and He does not give us an ordinary life, He gives us that abundant and full life. Young or old, do you realize how you may encourage someone and be used by the Lord. Seek God for a fresh new vision, daily if needed, and watch what He will do in and through you.

*(Acts 2:16 NKJV) "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

*(Acts 2:17 NKJV) 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.*

*(Acts 2:18 NKJV) And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.*

We saw Joseph have a dream, a vision from God, and we know it will not only change his life, but the course of mankind as Joseph will be used by God to preserve a world, a people (nation Israel), and the lineage of the Messiah.

### **How We Need - Youth w/Vision / See Above this World / City Whose Builder is God**

How we need today youth with a vision, youth who see above the carnality and stuff of this world to a city whose builder and maker is God. Not just that Jesus is a part of life, but Jesus is Life:

*(Hebrews 11:9 NKJV) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;*

*(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

*(Revelation 21:2 NKJV) Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

*(Revelation 21:3 NKJV) And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

### **Perspective / Bricklayers**

Perspective is so important for all of us. I'm reminded of the story of a man coming to a construction site and asking a bricklayer what he was doing. The bricklayer answers rather annoyed, I am laying bricks what does it look like I am doing. The man went on to ask another bricklayer what he was doing and he answers, I am building a cathedral. One man saw the drudgery of brick-by-brick, the other one saw past the bricks to the finished project, the purposes of the bricks.

## **Our Life so Daily**

Our life can be like that, get like that. Brick after brick, life can be so daily. But we forget it is brick upon brick that lays the foundation, and then raises the building. Whether it is with our kids and the endless laundry or constant correcting. Or what seems like so I read another chapter, or taught Sunday school again, we have to remember that we are not laying bricks but building a cathedral.

## **Joseph's Life - Reminder**

Joseph's life, what a beautiful study, what a wonderful and powerful reminder for us that it is possible, and that we should be going for it. And, we will see a wonderful and powerful picture of Jesus Christ.

### **Joseph Sent to Check on His Brothers (37:12-17)**

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

**(Genesis 37:13 NKJV)** 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."

Joseph's life to be changed forever because of his dreams.

## **Shechem / Rape & Mass Murder / Wicked & Perverse City**

Shechem, you have to be kidding me, why are they going back to the place that Dinah was raped, and Levi and Simeon were mass murders. Shechem was a wicked, carnal, perverse place, and Jacob's sons are going there to do business, and who knows what else.

### **Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus**

#### **Go Check on Brothers - Here am I / Picture Jesus & World / People Need Help**

Jacob says son, will you go and check on your brothers, and Joseph answers, here am I. Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ, and we have seen Shechem is a picture of the world, and so here we see the Father sending the Son. Here is a sneak preview of the relationship between God the Father and the Son, for the people are in Shechem, they are in a dangerous place, and they need to be helped out, and Jesus would say "here I Am". God sent Jesus to a place of danger, a place where He knew he would be bruised, yet Jesus willingly went, knowingly knew what would lay before Him. He is not only the "Great I Am", but the God who would also say, "Here I am", send me. Sent for me, sent for you, at whatever the price.

## **Jesus when Baptised - Prophetic**

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River that day, he was making the prophetic statement, I will die, I will be buried, but I will rise again:

*(Matthew 3:13 NKJV) Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.*

*(Matthew 3:14 NKJV) And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"*

*(Matthew 3:15 NKJV) But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.*

*(Matthew 3:16 NKJV) When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.*

*(Matthew 3:17 NKJV) And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

## **My Son - Well Pleased / Submit all the way to Cross**

God said this is my Son whom I am well pleased, for He will submit all the way to the cross at Calvary.

**(Genesis 37:14 NKJV)** 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.

### **Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus**

#### **Hebron - Fellowship**

What does Hebron mean, it means "fellowship". We see the Father sending the Son out of fellowship, into the world. The day would come when the Father would turn His back on the Son, turn from fellowship, as Jesus would take on the sins of the world:

*(Matthew 27:46 KJV) And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

## **Most Crushing thing for Jesus - Separation**

The most crushing thing for Jesus that day on the cross was not the nails, but for the first time ever, He was separated from the Father, He was not fellowshiping with the Father, because He had taken on sin; *(2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

## **How Much Love / Why 25% / Not Creation - Creator / Leave Throne - Be Separated**

How much love does the Father have for you, that He would send His only begotten? How much love does Jesus have for you that He would take the separation from the Father. Every step of the way we see Jesus in the life of Joseph. Why is 25 percent of this book about Joseph, and only 1 chapter about creation. Because God wants us not to be so concerned about creation, as He wants us to know the Creator. A Creator that would leave the throne, continual fellowship with the Father, and take on our sin, our shame, our separation from God because of our sin.

**(Genesis 37:15 NKJV) Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"**

**(Genesis 37:16 NKJV) So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks."**

**(Genesis 37:17 NKJV) 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.**

## **The Brothers Plot Against Joseph (37:18-28)**

**(Genesis 37:18 NKJV) Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him.**

## **Easy to Spot**

Verse 18 they see them from afar off that wouldn't be hard right he's got that coat of many color that can seem coming from a mile away.

## **Dothan - Major Highway**

Dothan was another fifteen miles up the road toward Megeddo, along the route which was later to become one of the major highways which went down to Egypt from the area of Syria.

## **Conspire to Kill - Ruthless / Chp 42 Joseph Pleas**

Even before he got near, his brothers conspired to kill him. They are really treacherous and there is not much to be admired in them. We know from chapter 42 that Joseph pleaded with them, but their hearts were wicked and cold against the plea of Joseph:

*(Genesis 42:21 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul **when he pleaded with us**, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."*

I believe Joseph's plea was not just for himself, but the sake of his brothers knowing all that would come upon them for doing so. Jesus did not plea for Himself, His plea was for the people:

*(Matthew 23:37 NKJV) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! **How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!***

*(Matthew 23:38 NKJV) "See! Your house is left to you desolate;*

*(Matthew 26:62 NKJV) And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?"*

*(Matthew 26:63 NKJV) **But Jesus kept silent.** And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"*

## **All Began With Envy**

And so we see the envy in the heart of the brothers and it's gonna lead to strife between them and Joseph and even to the point that they're willing to murder him because even in the end, it becomes hatred and in the economy of the Lord, that's murder as well. And I just put a warning out there for all of us.

## Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

### They will Respect Joseph / Respect Jesus

How familiar does this story sound, Jacob thought surely they will respect my son, they will receive my son. Just like the story Jesus told about the vineyard:

*(Matthew 21:33 NKJV) "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country."*

*(Matthew 21:34 NKJV) "Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit."*

*(Matthew 21:35 NKJV) "And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another."*

*(Matthew 21:36 NKJV) "Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them."*

*(Matthew 21:37 NKJV) "Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'"*

*(Matthew 21:38 NKJV) "But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.'"*

*(Matthew 21:39 NKJV) "So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him."*

**(Genesis 37:19 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming!**

Verse 19, they're gonna kill him because of his dream. That's why they hate him. It's because of the dream that he shared with them

**(Genesis 37:20 NKJV) "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!"**

**(Genesis 37:21 NKJV) But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him."**

**(Genesis 37:22 NKJV) 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.**

### Reuben - Pontius / Scourge satisfy Thirst

Notice how the story so much goes along the way of Jesus. Pontius Pilate didn't want to kill him, so he thought maybe a scourging will satisfy the peoples appetite for death. Then Jesus could be released.

**(Genesis 37:23 NKJV) So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him.**

**(Genesis 37:24 NKJV) Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.**

## Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

### Jesus Stripped

Jesus was stripped of His robe:

*(Matthew 27:27 NKJV) Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.*

*(Matthew 27:28 NKJV) And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.*

*(Matthew 27:29 NKJV) When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"*

### Jesus in the Tomb

Joseph thrown into a pit, Jesus was placed in the tomb:

*(Matthew 27:58 NKJV) This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.*

*(Matthew 27:59 NKJV) When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,*

*(Matthew 27:60 NKJV) and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.*

**(Genesis 37:25 NKJV) And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt.**

## Heartless

Verse 24, we know from another passage of scripture that Joseph was pleading with them. There was a depth of his cry for the mercy and then here in verse 25, they are so hardened by their hardness toward Joseph doesn't even ruin their appetite. They just sit down to eat.

*(Genesis 42:21 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."*

## Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

### Spices - Balm - Myrrh

Notice what they are carrying, spices, balm, and myrrh:

*(John 19:38 NKJV) After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus.*

*(John 19:39 NKJV) And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.*

*(John 19:40 NKJV) Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.*

**(Genesis 37:26 NKJV) So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?**

**(Genesis 37:27 NKJV) "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." And his brothers listened.**

### Flesh Justifies Sin / Intimate - Poison Tongue -

They say lets sell him rather than kill him, so his blood won't be upon us. Doesn't matter what the Ishmaelites might do to him, but at least we won't be guilty of his blood. The flesh, our carnal reasoning, can always find a way to take our sins and justify them, reliving us of guilt and shame. Well we are being intimate because we love each other, or we are married in the eyes of God. Or, the person who just spew poison out of their mouth totally ripping and attacking another brother, and then they say, you needed to hear that for your own good - that wasn't anything to do with helping or correcting a brother, it was everything to do with them attacking another brother.

### Joseph Sold into Slavery (37:29-36)

**(Genesis 37:28 NKJV) Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.**

### Fulfilling the Dream

Verse 28 you have to love it here they are they think they're killing Joseph's dream, but instead they're being a hand in the matter of fulfilling the dream because God's plan is to get him to Egypt for this famine and here they are given him a free ride to Egypt through these Ishmaelites. You gotta love God's economy.

### High Price of Guilt

20 pieces of silver. That's a cheap price to pay for the steep price of 20+ years of guilt. Guilt can be such a cruel taskmaster. I thank God for Jesus Christ. Cleanses me. from my guilt. and my shame. And his great grace, he cleanses me, not just of my sin, but of my guilt, that I can be free. And there's those of you are that are here today.

You're free. Because the price that was paid, you don't need to carry that guilt around. It has been lifted from you as well as the sin. And now you take that freedom and you go live in that life of freedom. And you extend that freedom to others that they may be free as well, and lift the guilt off of them if they've harmed you. Just as Jesus says, the guilt off of you.

## Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

### 30 Pieces

Jesus betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. Why isn't it 30 pieces of silver here, because Joseph is a picture, a type, he is not Jesus:

*(Matthew 26:15 NKJV) and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.*

*(Matthew 26:16 NKJV) So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.*

**(Genesis 37:29 NKJV)** Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes.

**(Genesis 37:30 NKJV)** And he returned to his brothers and said, "The lad is no more; and I, where shall I go?"

**(Genesis 37:31 NKJV)** So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood.

### **Blood of Goat**

Verse 31 the blood of a goat is what's going to deceive Jacob. It was the goat that was slain that he used to deceive his father, Isaac all those years ago.

**(Genesis 37:32 NKJV)** Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?"

### **Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus**

#### **Lie about Pit / Soldiers lie of Tomb**

The brothers lie about the pit, just as the Roman soldiers were paid off to lie about the tomb:

*(Matthew 27:64 NKJV) "Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."*

*(Matthew 27:65 NKJV) Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."*

*(Matthew 27:66 NKJV) So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.*

*(Matthew 28:11 NKJV) Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.*

*(Matthew 28:12 NKJV) When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,*

*(Matthew 28:13 NKJV) saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'"*

*(Matthew 28:14 NKJV) "And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."*

*(Matthew 28:15 NKJV) So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

#### **Soldiers Killed / Everyone Knew Death Penalty / Nice BMW**

You know what is amazing about the soldiers lying is that in that time, if a prisoner escaped the soldier guarding them would be killed. If they had a seal (governors or emperor seal) on something (such as the tomb), if the seal was ever broken, then every soldier on duty would be killed. So the Jewish religious leaders have the soldiers lie about the disciples coming and stealing the body of Jesus away (to dispel the resurrection). Any person of that day would have known that is a death sentence to the soldiers, so if it really happened, then why aren't they dead. I wonder if people noticed they not only aren't they dead, but they are driving new BMW's.

#### **People Blindly Follow / Not Researching - Digging / Davinci Code - Never Read Bible**

You know so it is today, people blindly follow a lie, never researching, never digging for the answers for themselves. People will follow evolution without asking the appropriate questions. People are reading the DaVinci Code book, and they haven't even read the Bible yet. Of course you can believe the Davinci code if you have no clue what the Bible says.

**(Genesis 37:33 NKJV)** And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces."

**(Genesis 37:34 NKJV)** Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.

**(Genesis 37:35 NKJV)** And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

#### **Daughters Plural**



It talks about Jacob's daughters in the plural, so, even though Dinah is the only one named; it seems that he had other daughters

### **Sowing & Reaping / Jacob deceives with a Goat**

We have that law of God of sowing and reaping. Jacob, earlier, had killed a little goat to deceive his father. He put the fur on his wrists, fixed the meat to taste like venison and gave it to his father to deceive him in order that he might get the blessing. He used a goat to deceive his father Isaac and now, his sons are using a goat to deceive him. They killed a goat and put the blood on the tunic of Joseph. Jacob is reaping what he sowed many years ago.

### **Forgiven - Forgotten / Repercussions Follow**

You won't escape your sin. Yes your sin is forgiven and forgotten by the Father, but the repercussions of that sin will follow you. It is Law:

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

*(Galatians 6:8 NKJV) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

### **Youth - It's no Big Deal / 37 Years Later**

Youth, don't believe that lie, "ohh its no big deal", you will reap the consequences at some point. It may not happen immediately, it might take months, or years, but the consequences of sin will find you, in the case of Jacob it was almost 37 years. He tricked His dad, goes on the run for 20 years, and Joseph is 17 years old here. Sowing and reaping, it is law.

### **22 Years of Suffering**

How about this, these boys will allow the father to mourn for 22 years as if it was his own fault that Joseph was killed by a wild beast. For 22 years and Jacob would wake up every day and say if only I had not sent Joseph to check on the brothers that day, he would still be alive and the guilt that would hound him and yet here these boys are not one of them has any regard of what they're doing to their father's heart. It's showing the condition of their heart, and that's why we need to hold this marker and remember this when we take a look at future chapters of how God's gonna deal with them and convict them for what they've done to Joseph, and they will be convicted.

They will not get to live freely in their sin and may that be a word all of us that God would convict us that we would not be able to sin and freely move on that he would convict us and put that upon us that until we confess, we will have no peace and the beautiful place of peace is repentance. It's a beautiful word repent as 1 John 19 says if we confess our sins, he's faithful in just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. There's a beautiful cleansing that comes in confession and repentance

*1 John 1:9 (NKJV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

### **Jacob Doesn't Know Because God Doesn't Tell him**

I think one of the most amazing things out of all this is the God who speaks to Jacob, gives him dreams, visions leading and yet the Lord does not tell him that Joseph is alive. And for all these years, some probably 20 more years or more. till he sees Joseph again. He thinks he's dead. And I find that interesting in that there's certain things. that God chooses not to reveal to us, even though they could bring us on a relief or some type of comfort or some type of power. And yet, what we have is Jacob that's going to spend all these years in pain. questioning, if only I didn't let my son go, it'd still be alive. You might even question, "Why did you allow this, Lord? Why didn't you tell me, not to let him go, if you would have told me my son would still be alive. So amazing things as we look at these things. Then God and his sovereignty, he may not be telling you something, because he's doing something. There's a greater plan and purpose behind our immediate. plan. I hope that brings you comfort. It's hard to walk by faith, but Genesis all the way through the end of Revelation, God's heart from the beginning and God's heart to the end. But all the way through, for us, it's a calling of faith to trust, believe that he is who he says that he is. And he'll do what he says he will do. for the greater glory

**(Genesis 37:36 NKJV) Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.**

And now a little footnote at the end of the chapter concerning Joseph. "And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard

### **13 Years of Trial**

So verse 11 we know this dream will come to pass, but it's going to be 13 years before it does and there's something for all of us we can have this dream or we can hear what we believe the Lord has spoken to us that he has for us and of course we think it's going to take a couple days or weeks for it to come to pass and here's Joseph. It's going to be 13 years before this dream comes to pass and it's going to be a hard 13 years at that and God does something in the trials in that the worst place for us to be is in the position we believe God has called us, but we have not yet been prepared for that call and we come into that call and we were totally ill equipped and unprepared. God gives a dream, but then he gives the preparation to fulfill that calling that he has in our life, that when the time of the call aligns with the time of that moment we're ready to do a God has planned and willed for our life and if you're in a long trial right now, don't lose hope because God very well is putting in the final polishing pieces on that preparation to fulfill that dream, but if not, rest in the power that comes from the potter's hand as he shapes and molds you into the man and woman that he desires for you to do the work that he has called and prepared for you before the foundation of the world.

**Genesis 41:46 (NKJV)** <sup>46</sup> Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

### **Lots of Hurt in this Chapter**

You know, there is a lot of hurt in this chapter as we read it all that is going on in between this family siblings, parents, dysfunctional relationships envy and hatred to the point of willing to murder and yet we know that God is going to reconcile this family and he's going to heal all these hurts. But nobody knows it at this point in the story. And that might be you. The promise of hope that the Lord brings that he can reconcile all the hurt and pain that you experience maybe with your family. Very specifically. and I pray that you would take comfort in that. You would take hope in that. And you would also take an anchor in that and hold on to that. And I'm sure everybody at this point in this story believes it's all hopeless. Joseph's going to end up in prison, right? First, being a slave after a pit, Jacob's going to live in the regret. If only I hadn't sent Joseph to go check on these boys, and we're going to see that these boys that's going to haunt them for all these years of what they did. And the anchor hoped that I hold out to you is if you're God's child, He can do this. He desires to do it. And he's not going to let you go. He's going to hold you in the midst of this pain

God has something worked out into the future for you in the end we see what God will do, what the enemy intended for evil. God turned into good. Not just for a family, but for a nation, and not just for a nation, but for the entire world as through this family, Israel, will come the promised Redeemer. He will not leave you, and he will not forsake you. You might feel that you can't hold on much longer, but you now, may you know. that he's holding on to you, and he can hold you all day, long.

### **Looking Forward to More – Want to Know Him More**

I look forward to the studies that we're gonna do as we finish this book out. As we look at Joseph, for our love, the story of Joseph, his character, his strength, is steadfastness. I also love it, because he's a picture of Jesus. And I'm gonna get to learn more about my Jesus, that after 33 years of walking with my Jesus, all that I can tell you is, I want to know him more. I want to experience him more. I want to enjoy the fellowship with my Savior, my Jesus, the love of my life.

### **Genesis 37 Wrap-up**

**(John 12:21 NKJV)** *Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."*

### **Desire of Human Heart / Study to See Jesus**

That is the desire of every person's heart, that is how God designed us. Unfortunately some will not have them reign over them. Seeing Jesus, that is the purpose of the Scriptures, to see Jesus. When you study your Bible, look for Jesus, for all Scriptures point to Jesus.

### **25% / Picture of Creator / Not what we Create - but Creator / When People Interpret Us**

25% of Genesis is about Joseph, not 25% on creation. Chapter after chapter through this Bible God gives us a picture of the Creator, Jesus Christ. As so that is God's interest in us. Not just what we create (for that has it's place most definitely) but more so when people look at us, bump into us, speak to us, walk with us, interpret us, that they would see Jesus.

### **God - be Like Joseph / A Picture - Illustration / Living Epistle**

God would say to us today, I want you to be like Joseph, a picture, and illustration of Jesus. That people will see my Son when they meet you, experience My Son, that you would be a type of Jesus Christ in your world, that they will read you and see Jesus

*(2 Corinthians 3:2 NKJV) You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;*

*(2 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV) clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.*

### **Know Him - Make Him Known**

God desire is that we know Him, and make Him known.

### **Look at Marriages / Youth w/Vision / In the Word - Bible Study**

When people look and see marriages sticking it out, working it out, don't checking out like the rest of the world, they say - something different. When they see youth having a vision for something beyond this world they say - something different. Why spend you evenings at a Bible Study - something different.

### **Life is Simple / Know Him - Make Him Known**

Life is simple for the Believer, to know Him, and to make Him known.

### **May we all Be Joseph's**

May we all be Josephs, may we all be pictures of Jesus Christ to this lost and dying world, to our lost and dying family members, co-workers, fellow students..

Outline: Genesis 37

- Joseph Busy About His Father's Business (37:1-2)
- Joseph's Coat of Many Colors and Big Sleeves (37:3-4)
- Joseph Dreams and Visions (37:5-11)
- Joseph Sent to Check on His Brothers (37:12-17)
- The Brothers Plot Against Joseph (37:18-28)
- Joseph Sold into Slavery (37:29-36)

### **Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*