



### **Genesis 37**

1. The marks of a young person (Christian) on the path to becoming a great leader: 1) they expose rather than fear the evil actions of others including those older or stronger than them (1-2 – “bad report” = Literally, a report of wickedness; Eph 5:11), 2) they earn the respect and favor of their leaders (3), 3) they are not intimidated by the naysayers or their opposers (4-8), 4) they are not ashamed to share their convictions (6-11), 5) They view righteousness and truth as worth the risk (1-11).

2. Those who courageously reveal God’s truth will generate hatred and jealousy in those who cowardly retreat from such actions (3-11 – “Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, b/c he was the son of his old age” = Not a reference to being the youngest [since Benjamin was Israel’s youngest]. Rather it is a reference to Joseph’s righteous, no compromise character - i.e. Joseph was the *faithful* son of Israel’s old age [in contrast to his other sons]; e.g. Joh 7:7).

3. Like God, parents should reward and elevate those children who are righteous in their behavior (3).

4. Unchecked hatred and jealousy toward those God has raised up as righteous leaders in our covenant family can eventually lead to murderous betrayal (12-30), and masterful cover-ups (31-36) (e.g. Judas in re: to Jesus; members leaving the church and making up stories meant to slander and destroy her leaders – e.g. “we were kicked out of that church for being late”).

### **Genesis 38**

1. Like father, like son or “the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.” (1-26 = Er and Onan were immoral and wicked like their father, Judah).

2. God can bring great deliverance and goodness out of great failure and sin (27-30 - Judah and his love-child w/Tamar – Perez, are the ancestors of David and Jesus – Mat 1:3, 6, 16).

3. God does not need great beginnings to accomplish great ends (Jesus is the lion of the tribe of Judah; in this light consider 1Co 1:26-31).

### **Genesis 39**

1. When God is w/us in our efforts, we often find favor w/others and what we do is very successful (1-6a, 21-23; Psa 127; Pro 3:3-4; 2Th 1:11; e.g. 1Sa 3:19; also Joh 14:13-14, 15:16; 1Jo 3:22, 5:14-15).

2. Those people or areas in close proximity to God’s favored people (i.e. His faithful ones) have been known to also experience God’s blessings (5; Denver’s prosperity b/c of CCC?).

3. Avoiding great sin requires: 1) recognizing great privilege (6b-9), 2) refusing to listen to the words of sinners (10; Psa 1:1), 3) running away from the places of sinful influence (11-12; 1Co 6:18) .

4. The lies and destructive plans of the wicked will never prevail against those who possess God’s steadfast love (13-21; Pro 24:16; Psa 33:18-22, 52:1-9, 143:12).

## **2Jo 1**

1. The key to having God's grace, mercy and peace is abiding in the truth (as explained by Jesus the Christ – Joh 1:16-18 w/2Jo 1:9) (1-3).
2. Abiding in the truth (as explained by Jesus – 9) requires practicing it which includes loving our brothers and sisters, obeying all of God's commands and confessing Jesus as the Messiah (4-7).
3. It is possible to lose our justification/salvation (8).
4. The person who does not abide in the truth (as explained by Jesus) is not a Christian (9).
5. We are to have nothing to do w/those who call themselves Christians yet do not abide in the truth (as explained by Jesus – 9) otherwise we will also be considered guilty of their wicked deeds (9-11).
6. The Bible teaches guilt by association (11; Jos 23:11-12; 2Co 6:14-7:1)
7. Like the Apostle John, we are to love and take great joy in the church (1, 12-13; Psa 122:1).

## **3Jo 1**

1. As Christians we sb pursuing wellness/health in all areas of our life (our affairs, bodies and souls) (1-2).
2. Nothing should makes us more happy than the knowledge that those under our care/oversight are living in faithfulness to God (3-4).
3. One of the ways that we demonstrate faithfulness to God is by financially supporting those who are legitimate ministers and missionaries (5-7).
4. One of the ways that Christians expand the gospel is by financially supporting ministers and missionaries (8).
5. Those who do not acknowledge the authority Christ has given the elders in His churches - or slanders them, are to be exposed (9-10a).
6. Pastors who abuse their authority by disciplining or threatening their members who associate w/other legitimate Christians are not to be tolerated (10b).
7. Only those who imitate what is good and have a good testimony w/those in the church will see God (i.e. go to heaven) (11-12; Mat 5:8).