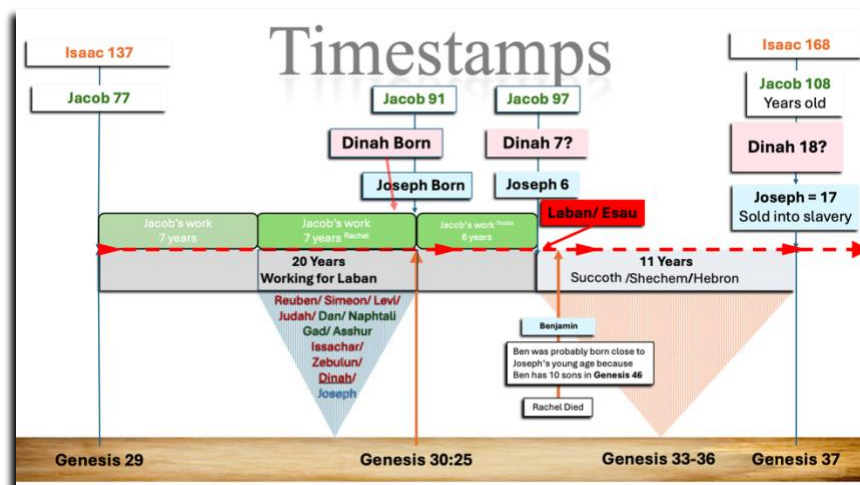




- ◆ **Joseph** has the longest and most detailed continuous biography in Genesis
 - The other characters are driven more by individual episodes.
 - This is a complete/ connected mini-series
- ◆ Joseph is one of 2 people (besides Jesus) that the bible doesn't show sin
 - Joe & Dan
 - Both interpreted dreams to kings
 - Both were elevated to high positions
- ◆ We are going to see one of the greatest pictures of Jesus in the OT
- ◆ We are going to see the absolute sovereignty of God over everything
- ◆ We are going to see evil intentions and actions turned into blessing
- ◆ We are going to see a type/ shadow of God's grace toward guilty sinners
- ◆ We are going to see an innocent/ righteous man suffer injustice
- ◆ We are going to see the foreshadowing of one way to be saved- by God – through the **man** of God
- ◆ And much more...

Joseph's Dreams

37 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.

- **² These are the generations of Jacob – 10x in Genesis**



[AGAIN] ³⁷ 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.

- **Joseph** – Interesting to start with Joseph. The other uses of this phrase “**generations of...**” start with the person it’s named after.
- **Bilhah and Zilpah** – Bilhah was Rachel’s maidservant; Zilpah was Leah’s
 - Dan & Naphtali – **Bilhah**/ Rachel
 - [Genesis 35:22](#) – Reuben slept with Bilhah
 - Gad & Asher – **Zilpah**/ Leah
- **Brought a bad report** – Joseph told the truth to his father.
 - Obviously, they were doing something wrong.
 - This story keeps moving from generation to degeneration

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.

- **Israel** – Jacob and Israel interchange throughout Scripture
- **Loved Joseph more** – Favoritism is devastating to a family dynamic
 - This problem was baked into Jacob’s DNA from his parents
 - Isaac loved Esau, Rebekah loved Jacob – [Genesis 25:28](#)
 - Jacob continued this practice by loving Rachel and not loving Leah – [Gen 29:33](#)
- **“Son of his Old Age”** – “means wise son, or son of wisdom”¹ – Dr. Thomas Constable
 - Benjamin was younger but not described this way.
- **Robe of many colors** –



- - A big deal has been made over the colors of the coat
 - ~🔒 What is the significance of the coat?
- “This was a coat reaching to the hands and feet, worn by persons not much occupied with manual labor, according to the general opinion. It was, we conceive, variegated either by the loom or the needle, and is therefore well rendered χιτῶν ποικίλος, a motley coat.”² - [James G. Murphy](#)
 - Murphy was an Irish Presbyterian minister and Hebrew scholar - 1800’s
- “It was a mark of distinction that carried its own meaning, for it implied that exemption from labor which was the peculiar privilege of the heir or prince of the Eastern clan.”³ – W. H. Griffith Thomas

¹ Thomas Constable, "Genesis 37," in Dr. Constable's Expository Notes, (1999), StudyLight.org, <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/dcc/genesis-37.html>.

² James G. Murphy, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Book of Genesis, with a New Translation* (Boston: Estes and Lauriat, 1873), [442](#).

³ W. H. Griffith Thomas, *Genesis: A Devotional Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1946), **356**. Cited by Thomas Constable, "Genesis 37," in Dr. Constable's Expository Notes, (1999), StudyLight.org, <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/dcc/genesis-37.html>.



○ **Long Sleeves or colors?**

- **Genesis 37:3** – ³ ...a **robe of many colors**.
- **2 Samuel 13:18** – Now she was wearing a long **robe with sleeves**, for thus were the virgin daughters of the king dressed. So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her.

○ ~ This Robe was a constant reminder to the brothers that they were not like Joe

- ⁴ brothers saw ... father loved him more ... they hated him

○ This was not a one-off but a way of life for Joseph. Favor from Dad.

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.”

- 1st dream in Genesis where God doesn't speak or appear.
- He told it to his brothers – probably wasn't the smartest thing to do.
- Hated him even more – completely hostile environment

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**.

- reign over us... rule over – **they** rightly interpreted the dream!
 - They understood this was at least a possible scenario in Joseph's mind
 - Notice, they reject him and his rulership dream & words
- Why was Joseph hated? Because of the **words** he said to them.
 - Why was Jesus hated? Because of the **words** He said to them.
 - **John 1:11** – ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
 - They rejected him.

-  Typological/ theological impression
 - John 8:37-43 – ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me **because my word finds no place in you.** ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” ³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹ You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because **you cannot bear to hear my word.**

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.**

- **the sun, the moon, and eleven stars** – This directly foreshadows
 - Revelation 12:1-6 – And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed **with the sun**, with the **moon** under her feet, and on her head a crown of **twelve stars**. ² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great **red dragon**, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴ His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵ **She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his**



throne, ⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

[AGAIN] 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.**

- **His father rebuked** – Jacob doesn’t like the meaning of the dream
- Notice, Jacob also interprets the dream correctly.
 - The family all interpret correctly; they just don’t like dreams
 - Joseph will interpret dreams of others later in the story
- Shall **I** ...**mother** ... **brothers** –
 - Jacob/ Israel – the sun
 - Was it Rachel? She was dead
 - Joseph’s stepmom Bilhah was acting as a mother?
 - ~  **were jealous** /Envy [Matthew 27:17-18](#) – ¹⁷ So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” ¹⁸ For he knew that **it was out of envy** that they had delivered him up.
- **kept the saying in mind** – Jacob knows the power of dreams. He knows that God spoke to him through dreams. He was wise to remember this.

Joseph Sold by His Brothers

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.

- ~★ Typological/ theological impression – **Jacob** = Loving Father; **Joseph** = the obedient Son; **Brothers** = Israel
 - **Note:** The **Father who loves the Son very much is sending the Son to His brothers.**
- **Side note:** [Joshua 24:32](#) – ³² As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at **Shechem**, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money.^[c] It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph.
 - Joseph’s bones would be buried at Shechem 430 years after Jacob/Israel went into Egypt (in 22 years). [Genesis 46](#); [Exodus 12:40](#)



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.

- What are you seeking? – Joseph was probably trying to track the herd of animals.

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.”

Strong's #1882	Strong's #1886
dáth/ dawth /	Dôthân
decree, law	Dothan = "two wells"
a decree (of the king)	a place in northern Palestine,
law	12 miles north of Samaria, the
law (of God)	home of Elisha

-
- Joseph was searching for his brothers and found them at Dothan
- Jesus was searching for His brothers and found them conspiring & ultimately rejecting him from the Law
- Let us kill – They already wiped out the men of Shechem
- Then we will say – Now they plot deception to their father

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.

- Reuben rescued him – Reuben had greatly offended his father by sleeping with Bilhah
 - It is sometimes difficult for people to consider the consequences of their
 - Here he shows maturity in persuading the brothers to abandon their murder plan.
- This act of goodness might put him back in right standing with his dad – at least that could be his thought process.



- ~★ **came to his brothers** – [John 1:11](#) – ¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- .
- [Mark 12:1-11](#) [READ] – ^{12:1} And he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country. ² When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³ And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴ Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵ And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed.
⁶ He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ⁷ But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, **let us kill him**, and the inheritance will be ours.’ ⁸ And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. ⁹ What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Have you not read this Scripture: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; ¹¹ this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”
 - [Ps 118:22](#) “*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.*”
 - Jewish legend: During the construction of Solomon's temple, a unique stone was discarded, deemed unnecessary. Years later, when the cornerstone was needed, they realized their mistake. The discarded stone, initially overlooked, turned out to be the essential cornerstone. This tale illustrates the importance of recognizing value in what seems insignificant.⁴

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

⁴ <https://plymouthbrethren.org/article/5864>



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.

- **Then Judah said to his brothers** – Judah

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?”

- **Midianite** or **Ishmaelites** – Yes, both
 - Midian and Ishmael were both sons of Abraham – [Genesis 25:2; 25:12](#)
- [Zechariah 11:13](#) – Then the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the **thirty pieces of silver** and threw them into the house of the Lord, to the potter.
- [Matthew 26:15](#) – and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him **thirty pieces of silver**.

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.”

- They let Jacob believe a false story; they deceived him.
- Jacob is reaping what he sowed with his deception of his father.

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.

- [John 1:11](#) – ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
- This is more than just a theological teaching; we have application
 - Someone might have mistreated you for no reason
 - Someone might dislike or even hate you for no reason.
 - You might have tried to tell the truth and do the right thing only to be ill-treated
 - You might know the feeling of rejection from family or loved ones
 - Take courage, Joseph felt the same way, and more importantly – Jesus was treated the same way.
 - [Hebrews 4:14](#) – ¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

A-Ω

The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.