

Hope in Heritage

A close-up photograph of a lit oil lamp. The flame is bright yellow and orange, with a blue base. The lamp is dark and textured, possibly made of metal or ceramic. The background is black, making the light from the lamp stand out.

Genesis 37



Genesis 37:

1 Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had sojourned, in the land of Canaan. 2 These are *the records* of the generations of Jacob. Joseph, when seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers while he was *still* a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And



Genesis 37:

Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. 4 His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.

Broken things:

- Daytime “therapy” shows
- “reality” shows
- Heroes?
- Bad behavior excuses
- Blaming anything but ourselves....

History:

- Abraham/Sarah – liars about marriage
- Isaac/Rebekah – played favorites
- Jacob – deceiver, stealer of blessings
- Mother dies bearing his brother
- 2 mothers/2 concubines
- Sister violated, entire town judged

Complications:

- Fighting between Leah/Rachel
 - “Bought for berries” – you MUST (30:16)
- Concubines being used
 - Sons given second place... (2)
 - Hatred, no friendly speech (4)



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Enter Joseph

- 17 years old
- Favored (3) and over-protected
- The coat – *kethoneth passim*
 - Long sleeves & hem – not for work
 - 'varicolored' – expensive, unique

Chosen by God?

- Joseph brings “bad report”
- What does God do? Gives dreams!
- Result – “hated even more”
 - Brothers, father, “your mother” bow?
 - They interpret for him



Genesis 37:

10 He related *it* to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?" 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying *in mind*.

If the story stopped here...

- Man's responses or God's plan...
- Brothers run: Shechem, Dothan
- God separates Joseph –
 - Safety & Preparation – 13 years!
 - In a pit without water or pity...

Lesson

- Heritage, history, family
- Listen and remember promises!
- Admit your part in the hurts!
- Be patient in your blessings
- Be diligent and faithful

