

Specially Chosen

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. News item today caught my eye: Jonny Kim, already a Silver Star-awarded Navy SEAL, and Harvard-educated doctor. Now the 35-year-old California native can add another title to his résumé: *1st Korean-American NASA Astronaut*. [what hav u done w/yur life? *bwahaha*]

II. Intro: Specially Chosen

- A. Enoch shows us the walk of faith. Noah the perseverance of faith. Abraham the obedience of faith. Isaac the power of faith. Jacob the discipline of faith. Joseph the triumph of faith.
- B. What is your ideal family? You grow up in a home that never knew divorce, & your spouse-to-be didn't either. You get married young, but not too young (whatever age that is). Both have great careers. Then at the right amount of time (whenever that is) your wife gets pregnant, & puts her career on hold. Husband is able to make enough to support family. Have 3-5 kids, spaced out just right. Kids grow up healthy. Go to great schools. Love within the home. No school drama, no boyfriend/girlfriend drama, no health drama, no legal drama, no drama drama. The kids get into great universities. They get married. They bring you awesome grandchildren. Who all love each other. And then you retire with a very comfortable retirement. *David Guzik*
1. Maybe that speaks of your story? Most don't get to live that.
 2. **Family** is messed up, by sin & the fall.
- C. The rest of Genesis gives us the story of Joseph and his brothers (& the episode of *Judah and Tamar*, ch.38 & *Jacob's final words*, ch. 49).
1. Joseph's story is the **longest** in the patriarchal narratives, and it leads to Israel's descent into **Egypt**.
 2. Is it one of the **most exciting biographies** in the Bible. It illustrates the sovereignty of God and God's providential care of His own.
 3. Joseph has **faults** but he stands as **a spiritual giant** in his own family.
- D. Slide1b Outline: 1 Coat. 2 Dreams. 3 Schemes. 4-square Sorrow (4-square = *firm or Resolute*).

III. Slide2a 1 COAT (1-4)

- A. (3) Now Israel love Joseph more than any other of his sons - now there's *a recipe for family harmony* :)
1. Understandable from the standpoint of *Joseph being the firstborn of Rachel, Jacob's first love, after years of barrenness.*
 2. **Favoritism** - Which of **your siblings** was your parents favorite? Did that caused any problems in your family? Which of **your children**, do your other children say was/is your favorite? Why?
- B. Slide2b (4) A robe of many colors (כְּתוֹנֶת פָּסִיִּים *kutonet passim*) - meaning is uncertain.
1. *Kutonet* = **tunic**. A base garment, worn over the loincloth, from shoulder to knees. *Passim* - a sleeve from the shoulder to the wrist, long sleeve.
 - a) The idea that the robe had *many colors* derives from the way the LXX translated it.
 2. A coat of many colors? A long robe with sleeves? **Which was it?** I think both.
 - a) It was a garment of distinction. The ordinary tunic had *no sleeves*. So perhaps a robe with sleeves implied freedom from manual labor (i.e. all his bro's working in the fields watching flocks, **not** Joe).
 - b) Regardless of its appearance, the robe *distinguishes* Joseph from his brothers **and** possibly indicates *a position of authority over them*.
 3. Only other place was in 2 Sam.13:18 (Tamar, Absalom, Amnon. **Rape**. Virgin daughters of the king wore...i.e. **royalty**)
- C. At 17 Joseph was shepherding the sheep with his brothers, **until** Jacob relieve him of that duty **then** made him an *overseer*.
1. It seems that Jacob wanted to make Joseph a **ruler before** he had really learned how to be a **servant**. **Result:** *brothers hated & envied him*.

IV. Slide3a 2 DREAMS (5-11)

- A. Slide3b The account of the **dreams**, which come out right away, makes **God**, *not Joseph*, the **hero** of the story: it is not a tale of **human success** but of *divine sovereignty*.
1. Slide3c Joseph is *specialy chosen*. **Divine election**, being a theme of Genesis. Which always seems to bring out the attempts to **thwart** God's plan.

B. (11) Despite his rebuke in v.10, Jacob leaves open the possibility of the dream's *future fulfillment*.

1. Slide3d There are always only 2 reactions to *news from God*, found here in verse 11.
2. Jacob/Israel learn by now to allow for **God's** hand in affairs, and for **His** right of choice among men.

V. Slide4a **3 SCHEME'S (12-28)** *Kill him, pit him, sell him*

A. Everything from Jacobs ill-conceived errand to the chance meeting with the stranger, combine to deliver Joseph into his brothers hands.

1. Slide4b It would turn out that **God** had been *as watchful and His hiddenness* as in any miracle. [eg. Elisha who found himself *visibly encircled* by God's chariots 2Kgs.6]

B. (28) This alternation of the names *Ishmaelites & Midianites* were synonymous or overlapping terms. [both *Ishmael and Midian* ultimately came from the line of Abraham]

VI. Slide5a **4-SQUARE SORROW (29-36)** *firm or resolute*

A. (31) *You reap what you sow*. Irony: Jacob had killed a *goat* and lied to his father, **now** his own sons do the same to him with a *goat*.

B. (32) *They sent the robe of many colors* - the brothers **send** the robe to Jacob instead of taking it to him, **creating the impression that others** had found it.

C. Slide5b (33) *Do you ever jump to conclusions? Think the worse?*

1. Jacob spent the next 22 years in **sorrow**, thinking that Joseph was dead.
 - a) He even says later, *all this is come against me* (42:36)...when in reality everything was working for him (Rom.8:28).

D. (35) *Read it again*. We can all *stubbornly refuse comfort*.

1. Jacob wrote the song, *It's my party & I'll continue to cry if I want to* (Lesley Gore, 1963)
2. We build up a fortress of reasons why **we deserve to stay hurt**. **We deserve to remain in mourning**. **We deserve to carry on groaning w/grief**.

3. Slide5c 2 choices with suffering/sorrow: we either *withdrawal into* our own suffering *or* invite **Jesus** into our suffering.

E. Slide6a The life of **Joseph** is also a picture of **Jesus**.

1. **Both** were greatly loved by their father. **Both** were hated and envied by their brothers. **Both** were plotted against, sold as a slave, arrested unjustly, and made to suffer. **Both** went from suffering to glory. **Both** became the savior of the people who had rejected them. *Wiersbe* [both sold for pieces of silver]

F. Slide6b God's goal for all His children is that we would become **like His Son Jesus**. *The goal is glorious, but the process is painful.*

1. If Joseph remained at home his father probably would have pampered him and ruined his character. **God knew what was best.**

G. Slide7 Main Theme in Joseph's story: (Piper) *That God in His sovereignty, through a treacherous sin, saved the killers, and in doing so preserved the household of Judah, from which then could come the lion of Judah, who would bring about the full salvation of all Christ killers, namely me and you.*

1. In this story **We are the brothers!** Diff degrees (*let's kill him - no let's sell him*).

H. Your **story** is better than your *chapters*.