

“Favored Son/Hated Son”

Genesis 37:1-36

INTRODUCTION TO THE JOSEPH STORY

1. The longest story in Genesis (chapters 37-50).
2. Joseph was born to his beloved wife Rachel after many years of infertility. Gen. 30:22-24
3. The introduction of a new favored son. This one is different!

HATRED FOR JOSEPH FROM HIS BROTHERS. v.2-11

1. They hated Joseph because he “brought a bad report of them” to his father Jacob. v.2
 - Heb. = the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah were slandering their father. Joseph reported it.
 - *Jacob is sometimes incorrectly portrayed as a smug, cocky tattletale. This is not in the text.
2. They hated Joseph because their father had a special love for him. v.3-4
 - Jacob/Israel loved him more. v.3.
3. They hated Joseph for his dreams. v.5
 - Joseph’s first dream. v.6-8 (Joseph’s brothers’ sheaves bowing down to Joseph’s sheaf.)
 - Joseph’s second dream. v.9 (The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing down to Joseph.)
 - His father Jacob’s response. v.10-11 → Symbolic of his whole family bowing to him.

HATRED BIRTHED OTHER HORRIBLE SINS FROM JOSEPH’S BROTHERS. v.12-36

1. Joseph was sent to check on his brothers and the flock. v.12-17
2. His brothers conspired to kill Joseph. v.18-20
3. His brothers sold him as a slave to Midianite traders who took Joseph to Egypt. v.25-28
4. His brothers fabricated a story and lied to their aged father. v.29-36

WE SEE IN JOSEPH’S STORY...

1. A PATTERN: Joseph is a characterization of Christ.

- Joseph is the designated 1st born of his father. Reuben lost those rights through sin. Ref. Gen 35:22
→ Jesus is the eternal 1st-born Son of the Father. Col. 1:15-19
- Joseph is pictured as innocent and holy. One of the few people in the Bible never pictured in sin.
→ Jesus is holy and without sin. 2 Cor. 5:21
- Joseph is a prophet to his brothers—speaking words from God to them. Gen. 37:5-9
→ Jesus spoke the true Word of God to us. Acts 3:22
- Joseph was sent by his father to his sinful brothers. Gen. 37:13-14
→ Jesus was sent by His Father to lost and sinful mankind. John 3:16; 6:37
- Joseph was hated by his brothers. Gen. 37:4,5,8,11
→ Jesus was hated by his brethren. John 7:7; John 15:25//Psalm 35:19: “they hated me without cause”
- Joseph was plotted against by his brothers—and thrown into a pit. Gen. 37:18-20, 24
→ Jesus was plotted against and they planned to kill him. The grave is described as a “pit”. Ps. 28:1; 30:3; 40:2
- Joseph was sold for the price of a slave. Gen. 37:28
→ Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver. Mt. 26:14-15
- Joseph was thought to be dead—but was actually alive.
→ Jesus was thought to be dead—but was actually alive. John 20, 21

2. A PRINCIPLE: God’s sovereign salvation through sin and suffering.

- Genesis 15:13-14; 45:4-8; 50:20-21
 - The plan of God for his people and through his people.
- Preserve the people of God because through them would come the Savior of the world.

3. A PROPHECY: the Savior would come through the line of Judah. Gen. 49:8-12

- ...the “Lion of Judah” through the “line of Judah”!