

Genesis 37.12-36

“Dream Killers”

Genesis 37 JOSEPH sees DREAM that Parents & 11 Brothers will BOW to him!  
Has SAME Dream 2 X’s – Family NOT Happy, BROTHERS Hate him & Dream

Father JACOB a.k.a. ISRAEL – Gave Workman’s COVERALLS to 11 Sons

Favorite SON of Favorite WIFE – Given FANCY ROBE from Expensive STORE

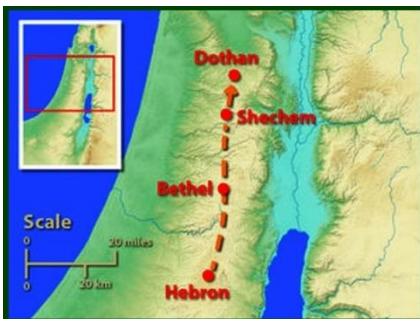
vs. 12,13 Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” And he said to him, “Here I am.”

JACOB has REASON to WORRY - 2 yrs Before in SHECHEM Dinah RAPED

Brothers were out on SPRING BREAK – PARTY Time FAR AWAY from PAPA

Dad just Figured Out E-MAIL – Boys been SNEAKING PICTURES Snap-Chat

vs. 14-17 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. And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, “What are you seeking?” “I am seeking my brothers,” he said. “Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.” 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.



Give Points to JOSEPH for

ZEALOUS DETERMINATION in his SEARCHING

80 kms North to Schechem / Dothan 21 kms More

## 1. Blood Shed

### a. Betrayal of the Favored Son

vs. 18,19 They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer...”

Brothers who would NOT Give SHALOM to Brother while Papa PROTECTED WHY Jacob that they'd give Warm WELCOME Brother w/ SOFT Hands?

When see Fancy Coat Coming Across Fields, Make BIG PLANS for him!

They knew HOW to Kill a Man > After Sister Dinah RAPED in SCHECHEM Sons 2 & 3 Simeon & Levi MURDERED All the Men of SCHECHEM: Ch. 34

Tragically, the brothers don't express their concerns to Dad  
Instead, they hate Joseph. Their real problem is with their father.

They need to deal with him.

What stirs up thoughts of envy and jealousy for you?

When someone talks about his or her many accomplishments.

When others show you their new car, computer, TROPHY SPOUSE

When someone tells you about a large inheritance received.

When someone gets an award, recognition, or promotion that you felt you deserved.

When someone GREAT accomplishment in an area where you want to excel.

When you hear others talk about the vacation you can't afford to take.

Another couple has a CHILD, 2<sup>nd</sup> Child, BOY or GIRL

ISSUES so AGITATED the BROTHERS willing to kill BROTHER!

v. 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.”

Israel's gets RAIN just 3 to 4 months of Year – CONSERVE WATER

CISTERNS either Hollowed Out LIMESTONE Bedrock

Or DUG in the Ground and Lined with PLASTER

Big Brother REUBEN has a Plan

vs. 21-24 But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” 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. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Brothers DETHRONED the Royal Son and tossed him into CHILLY CISTERN

Fantine is left alone, unemployed and destitute – soon finds out she's PREGNANT

There was a time when men were kind

When their voices were soft

And their words inviting

There was a time when love was blind

And the world was a song

And the song was exciting

There was a time

Then it all went wrong

I dreamed a dream in time gone by

When hope was high

And life worth living

I dreamed that love would never die  
 I dreamed that God would be forgiving  
 Then I was young and unafraid  
 And dreams were made and used and wasted  
 There was no ransom to be paid  
 No song unsung, no wine untasted  
 But the tigers come at night  
 With their voices soft as thunder  
 As they tear your hope apart  
 As they turn your dream to shame...  
 I had a dream my life would be  
 So different from this hell I'm living  
 So different now from what it seemed  
 Now life has killed the dream I dreamed.

*"I Dreamed a Dream"* Les Miserables

**b. Blood for Sale JUDAH's 1<sup>st</sup> Act of LEADERSHIP of the FAMILY**

**4<sup>th</sup> Son JUDAH will grow to be LEADER – takes First Kick at Leadership BALL**

**Not a VERY NOBLE Effort – KICKS it Out of BOUNDS**

**To Judah, Money looked Better than Murder**

vs. 25-28 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. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 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 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.

**MIDIANITES were BUYERS – ISHMAELITE BOSSES**

1<sup>st</sup> PLAN was MURDER – NEW Plan MURDER FOR MONEY

KIDNAPPING is like MURDER – Taking of a HUMAN LIFE

“Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.” Exodus 21.16

v. 28 LIT “pulled Joseph...sold Joseph...took Joseph”

The BELL Solemnly TOLLS for Joseph

BROTHERS Now think DIVIDE - 8 oz of SILVER! Little BLOOD Money!

ANCIENT Story / MODERN Applic. International Justice Mission

MORE SLAVES in 21<sup>st</sup> C than ANY TIME in Human History!

True they were Joseph's dreams; but More than that > Divine Revelations

KILLING DREAMER > Attempt to KILL the GOD who gave DREAM

v. 19 “They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer...”

Those who Share God’s Word will Receive the SCORN of this World

Elisha was called "bald head" - 2 Kings 2.23

Elijah was called the troubler of Israel - 1 Kings 18.17

Christ was called a blasphemer - John 10.36

Paul was called "mad" - Acts 26.24

Every age hears this criticism of Divine truth.

The enemy will plot and plan, but God's Word shall prevail.

Mockers will come & go, "but the word of our God shall stand forever" Isaiah 40.8

## 2. Blood Stains

### a. Brothers who cannot Forget

#### 1) Meal with Bravado!

vs. 24,25 And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat.

HORRIBLE DEED taken in STRIDE, None of them had NERVOUS STOMACH  
Somebody brought FRESH BAKED PITA – HUMMUS! Wow! DELICIOUS!!  
Putting on BRAVE Face – MEN can look BRAVE, while SHAKING on Inside

NEXT Meal they'll Eat WITH Joseph – HE will be HEAD of the TABLE

#### 2) Memories are Bitter

20 yrs LATER – CONSCIENCES still TENDER for FOOLISH DEEDS...

They said to one another, "In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us."  
Genesis 42.21

At that MOMENT – Only Eldest Brother – Any sense of CONTRITION

Off tending Sheep when Slave Caravan passed – Brother FOREVER GONE!

vs. 29,30 When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes and returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?"

ELDEST Son Reuben HOPED to get Closer to Father – Now even Further Away

"All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way"  
Leo Tolstoy, "Ann Karenina"

BLOOD was HOLY esp Blood of BROTHER – like ABEL'S

FAMILY Should be SAFEST Place on EARTH for KIDS

Too Many times FAMILY Place of ABUSE, VIOLENCE, and SHAME

Even Mother's WOMB can become Place where Children are KILLED

Cloud of GUILT hung over FAMILY 20 yrs like Blanket SMOG over BEIJING

b. Bitterness of their Father

LIES and DECEIT – INDIRECT! YOUR SON – Not OUR Brother

vs. 31-35 Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. 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." 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." Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. 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.

KABUKI DANCE of Pure HYPOCRISY > KILLERS were COMFORTERS

Not FIERCE ANIMAL - REALLY was FEROCIOUS Anger of their HEARTS

NEWS meant DEATH to JACOB'S DREAM TOO

v. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age.

BLESSING of GOD 1<sup>st</sup> give to ABE > ISAAC Not ISHMAEL,

JACOB Not ESAU > Now Jacob that JOSEPH, Not Brothers was THE ONE!

HOW could Blessing pass to ALL his Bad Boys – hard enough to get it to ONE!

Both Words and Deeds will Break their Father's Heart

Had Go Home > give Father Bloody Coat, let Jacob draw Obvious Conclusion

NOTICE their EMOTIONAL DISTANCE – Not OUR Brother, YOUR SON!

Impossible to commit just 1 Sin. 1 Sin guards another to keep from Finding Out

How many more lies did Brothers tell the next 2 decades to Cover their SINS?

Jacob must have grilled these guys, Many Others asked What HAPPENED?

Once go DOWN this ROAD Better have GOOD MEMORY, Keep Story Straight

“A liar should have a good memory.” Marcus Fabius Quintilianus!

REASON this Bitterness TASTED Strangely FAMILIAR to JACOB

Because Jacob Served Big Portion same DECEIT to his BLIND Father ISAAC

"God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap"

Galatians 6.7

### 3. Blood Speaks

#### a. Brother who is not Forgotten

LAST Line – JOSEPH is GONE – But NOT Forgotten

v. 36 Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

This is a sad place to step out of this story.

Joseph is gone, sold as a slave, and headed off to Egypt in chains.

Jacob is heartbroken and inconsolable.

The beloved son of wife Rachel; his choice to be head of his family is gone.

Brothers are guilty of a terrible sin against their brother, family and their God.

Being eaten alive by guilt.

Prosperous, promising family Plunged into Depths of Gloom & Hopelessness

The 20th century Danish Christian philosopher

“Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.”

Soren Kierkegaard



Easier talk about what God did 5 or 10 years ago  
than it is to talk about what God is doing in our lives at this very moment.

God POWERFUL PROMISE KEEPER – Yesterday, Today, Forever

FATHER Jacob Constantly WEEPING – Heavenly Father Constantly Working

Joseph NOT Forgotten by Father, or even Brothers, Most of All Sovereign GOD

God has been as watchful in His hiddenness as in any miracle. Derek Kidner

DOTHAN – Where JOSEPH CRIED & LATER was Where...

ELISHA found himself ENCIRCLED by the CHARIOTS of GOD

They have no idea what is happening. They are utterly oblivious to God's invisible hand in their action. They do not know that in the very effort to destroy this dreamer, they are fulfilling Joseph's dreams. Oh, how often God works this way! He takes the very sins of the destroyers and makes them the means of the destroyers' deliverance. John Piper

World been HIT HARD by FIRES, FLOODS, HURRICANES, STORMS

Thousands in Many Lands LOST EVERYTHING

HOPES Floated out FRONT DOORS

DREAMS Blew Off with the ROOFS of their HOUSES – WALLS too!

Greatest TREASURES cannot be Replaced by MONEY

Sometimes DREAMS we THINK are FROM God must be KILLED

So THAT we can REALLY Know the Lord TRULY and All He has for US

Some of you are looking at what you think are shattered dreams right now.

What are you going to do with them?

Are you going to weep and mourn like Jacob?

Or, are you going to cling to God's promise?

Will you Trust that the Judge of all the earth will do right?

There will be times when things appear hopeless. There will be times when the shattered pieces of our dreams will lie all around us. In times like that we must not despair! Instead, we must cling to the precious promises of our great God. We must understand that despite how things appear to our human eyes and reasoning, God has a plan and nothing can derail that plan! Kent Hughes

## b. Blood that Forgives

Joseph NOT Really DEAD – GOAT had DIED in his PLACE

In Fullness of TIME ANOTHER would DIE in Joseph's PLACE

He is SPOTLESS LAMB of GOD – SINLESS Son of God – Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the final and ultimate and perfect righteous one. It looked to others as if his life was going so badly that he must be a sinner. But in the end, all the sin against him, and all the suffering he endured in perfect righteousness, led to his vindication and, because of it, to our salvation. If Joseph is amazing in his steadfastness, Jesus is ten thousand times more amazing, because he experienced ten thousand times more suffering and deserved it ten thousand times less, and was perfectly steadfast, faithful, and righteous through it all. John Piper

Blood of GOATS can NEVER Take Away Sin – but HIS Did

His Blood Speaks BETTER WORD than ABEL who was Killed by his Brother  
BETRAYED by His Brothers – Falsely Imprisoned – Taking OUR Place, SINS

His BODY was thrown into PIT of DEATH

3 days later, He came out of that Tomb Victorious over all His Enemies!

Just like JACOB Recognized his Son's BLOOD-STAINED COAT

Heavenly Father will RECEIVE You when Wear Blood-Stained Coat of His Son

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Genesis 37.<sup>12</sup>Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem.<sup>13</sup>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."<sup>14</sup>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.<sup>15</sup>And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, "What are you seeking?"<sup>16</sup>"I am seeking my brothers," he said. "Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock."<sup>17</sup>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.<sup>18</sup>They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him.<sup>19</sup>They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer.<sup>20</sup>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."<sup>21</sup>But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life."<sup>22</sup>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.<sup>23</sup>So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore.<sup>24</sup>And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.<sup>25</sup>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.<sup>26</sup>Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?<sup>27</sup>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.<sup>28</sup>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.<sup>29</sup>When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes<sup>30</sup>and returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?"<sup>31</sup>Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood.<sup>32</sup>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."<sup>33</sup>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."<sup>34</sup>Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.<sup>35</sup>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.<sup>36</sup>Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.