

Genesis 37

1 Notice we are calling him Jacob again. Old man/new man? As heir of the birthright the property, two-thirds of it would be Jacob's.

2 Sloughing off on the job and Joseph at the age of 17 lets Dad know.

3 Benjamin was too, and both were born of Rachel, but perhaps her death after giving birth to Ben caused him to favor Joseph. This was evident even when they came back and met Esau. Rachel and Joseph were in the back so they could escape if something went wrong.

4 This poisonous jealousy surely began long ago. It is hard to hide favoritism, and it sounds like Jacob made no attempt to. They gave Joseph the cold shoulder.

5 Did he have to tell them? Was it a kind of "I'm warning you" effort or just asking for some wisdom naively?

6-8 They got the meaning right away and the bitterness grew deeper. The resentment festered. Don't let this happen to you or you may end up like them. God will favor whom He favors and choose whom He will.

9 Jesus also knew that one-day every knee would bow. There are many similarities with the life of Joseph and that of Christ.

10, 11 Why rebuke him for a dream? Jealousy is a poisonous attitude that devours everyone involved. It was for envy that the priests decided to kill Jesus. Jealousy demands something that God has given to another, or creates a situation where none exists. In this case, the brothers wanted the love and attention that Israel lavished on his son Joseph. They wanted that position. If they got it, the other brothers would feel the same toward them. His father wondered about what it could mean, but his brothers just hated him even more.

12-14 Joseph had told on his brothers before, so now Israel is using him to check up on the brothers. This only inflamed the matter. He is one of the youngest and has a position of oversight. That must have been hard on their pride.

15 –17 God is the God of Providence. What if this solitary man had not been there and Joseph had to return without finding them? God places people in time and space where they need to be to have His Sovereign will come to pass.

18-20 His coat made him visible from a distance. Cisterns are deep caverns hewn in limestone. Many of them are inaccessible except by rope. It would be like hiding the body in a well. This is premeditated murder.

21 Reuben being the oldest was ultimately responsible. He already has a bad mark on his name because of sleeping with his father's concubine.

22 Maybe in this way he could restore his lost position.

23 Jesus was also stripped of his raiment, and his raiment was valued by others.

24 Jesus also was lowered into a cistern/pit recently excavated in the lowest level of Caiaphas residence. See Psalm 88 – Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern too. They were going to leave Joseph to die of hypothermia or thirst.

25 Hard hearted, they sit and eat while he wonders what his fate will be. Their relatives come by on their way to trade with Egypt.

26 Judah finds a way to spare his life. Is this the reason Judah became the kingly line? Could little acts have such great consequences? Or was he just greedy for gain?

27,28 Jesus was also sold for the price of a slave. If Benjamin was at home, they would each get two shekels.

29,30 He will be found in disfavor with his father again!

31 Cover up. Many criminals add lying and deceit to their crime.

32 Did they not think what grief this would cause him? Their desire for his attention may be entirely a selfishness that demands being first, without love for their father.

33 Why does he not seek God or at least ask about other evidence? The man who wrestled with God is believing this false piece of evidence.

34 Utter depression. Come on Israel! One out of 12 and he decides life is over. Again God is making Himself first in the life of Jacob. Sometimes we become depressed and despondent over something that is not even reality. It is just the way we perceive it at the time.

35,36 The Sovereignty of God is placing Joseph right where he needed to be.