

Genesis Study—Joseph dreams and slavery

Genesis 37

1. **Joseph, being seventeen years old** This chapter begins one the remarkable life stories of the Bible and all literature. He was loved and hated, favored and abused, tempted and trusted, exalted and abased. Yet at no point in the one-hundred-and-ten-year life of Joseph did he ever seem to get his _____ or cease to trust him. Adversity did not _____ his character. _____ did not ruin him. He was the same in _____ as in public. He was a truly great man of God and so is a great _____ of Christ!

2. **How does Joseph's life encourage us to overcome our past?**

3. **How does 37:2-4 pretty well sum stuff up so far?**

4. **Boy what a pair of dream! If your brothers didn't hate you before they do now!! Did Joseph err in telling this dream to his brothers?**

Do the brothers really understand the dream?

What is an interesting irony about the first dream?

What about the "sun" "moon" business? (Rev 12 helps here)

5. **Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?** This portion of Genesis possibly isn't in strict chronological order. Back in Genesis 35:16-20, Joseph's mother Rachel died. This portion of Genesis seems to backtrack somewhat.

Probably, the transition point is in Genesis 37:2: ***This is the history of Jacob....*** This likely ends the record preserved by Jacob himself (who recounted the death of Rachel), and the next line begins the record preserved by Joseph himself. These same kinds of transitions are found in Genesis 5:1, 6:9, and 25:19.

6. **To feed their father's flock in Shechem:** There seems nothing strange about this errand, except Joseph's brothers are in _____, a place where this family was _____

7. **The PLOT: *Look, this dreamer is coming!***

We shall see what will become of his dreams! They decide to defeat Joseph's offending dreams by attacking him. Without intending to, they put Joseph's dreams and God to the _____.

But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands: Reuben - who at another time committed _____ with his father's concubine - took a small measure of leadership as the eldest.

How could Reuben have been more of a leader?

8. The DEED: What does the deed reveal about the character of these brothers?

How does Joseph and the brothers symbolize the Christian and the world?

Interesting that Joseph was betrayed by his "brethren" by pieces of silver! Ring a bell?

9. Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt: Egypt was a large and thriving kingdom for at least a _____ years before Joseph came. The Egyptians were wealthy and had massive natural resources. They were educated and had no real _____ at the time. When Joseph came to Egypt, some of the _____ already looked old and the _____ was already carved. But in God's eyes, the most impressive thing about Egypt was that _____ was now there. "Though stripped of his coat, he had not been stripped of his _____" (Meyer)

10. We can thank God for His great plan.

- ☐ If Joseph's brothers never sell him to the Midianites, then Joseph never goes to _____
- ☐ If Joseph never goes to Egypt, he never is sold to Potiphar.
- ☐ If he is never sold to Potiphar, Potiphar's wife never _____ him of rape.
- ☐ If Potiphar's wife never falsely accuses him of rape, then he is never put in _____
- ☐ If he is never put in prison, he never meets _____ of Pharaoh.
- ☐ If he never meets the baker and butler of Pharaoh, he never interprets their dreams.
- ☐ If he never interprets their dreams, he never gets to interpret _____ dreams.
- ☐ If he never gets to interpret Pharaoh's dreams, he never is made prime minister.
- ☐ If he is never made prime minister, he never wisely administrates for the severe famine coming
- ☐ If he never wisely administrates for the severe famine coming upon the region, then his family back in Canaan perishes from the famine.
- ☐ If his family back in Canaan perishes from the famine, the _____ can't come forth from a dead family.
- ☐ If the Messiah can't come forth, then Jesus never came.
- ☐ If Jesus never came, you are dead in your sins and _____ in this world.

Final word: In this dream business Joseph is a lot like _____