

# **Genesis 37**

## **Genesis 37.1-4**

**V1** – The beginning of one of the best-loved sections of the Bible.

- Why do people like to read the stories about Joseph?** He was a "common person" (not in the genealogy of Jesus Christ)
- What do we know about Joseph?** Older son of Rachel
- "Spoiled"?** At least special treatment from Jacob
- Where was Jacob living at this time?** Canaan (west of the Jordan River)

**V2** – **How old was Joseph?** 17

- What did Joseph do that created bad feelings?** "Squealed" (tattled) on his brothers – told Jacob how they were misbehaving
- Note:** this shows that Jacob had been giving special preference to Joseph
- Why would he treat Joseph special?** Because of his great love for Rachel (transferred to Joseph)

**V3** – **Another reason Jacob loved Joseph?** Born in his old age

- What did Jacob do to show his special love for Joseph?** Made him a special robe or tunic
- Remember how his parents (Isaac and Rebekah) had showed favoritism to their favorite sons
- How would this special gift to Joseph have made his brothers feel?** Hatred toward him
- Most parents try to get their kids Christmas presents balanced almost to the penny

**V4** – **The result of this favoritism?** His brothers hated him

## **Genesis 37.5-11**

**V5** – **What else did Joseph do to antagonize his brothers?** Told them about his dream

- Most of us like to talk about our dreams

**V6** – He started telling them about his dream

**V7** – **Describe the first dream?** His sheaf stood up; their sheaves all bowed down to him

**V8** – **Reaction of his brothers?** They hated him even more

- Probable meaning of the first dream?** They would all bow down to him someday

**V9** – **Nature of his second dream?** Sun, moon, and 11 stars bowed down to him

**V10** – **Jacob's reaction?** Rebuked Joseph

- Jacob's interpretation?** He (sun) and Rachel (moon) and 11 starts (his brothers) would bow down to Joseph

**V11** – But Jacob kept these things in his mind (similar to Mary and words of angel about Jesus)

## **Genesis 37.12-17**

**V 12** – **What had happened at Shechem?** Where Levi and Simeon had murdered all the men in retaliation for rape of Dinah  
-Therefore the sons of Jacob would be in some danger there

**V 13** – **What did Jacob do?** Sent Joseph to find out how they were doing

**V 14** – Joseph was to bring back word about the flocks, etc.

**V 15** – **Who helped Joseph?** A friendly man – gave him directions (some interesting spiritual lessons here – entire sermons have been preached on this man as a guide)

**V 16** – Directions to his brothers

**V 17** – **Where had they gone?** To Dothan

## **Genesis 37.18-24**

**V 18** – **What did his brothers start doing when they saw Joseph coming?** Plotted against him

**V 19** – **What did they say?** Here comes this "dreamer"  
-Probably his nickname

**V 20** – **What was the first suggestion?** Kill him and tell Jacob a wild animal got him

**V 21** – **Who objected?** Reuben – did not want Joseph killed  
-**Why Reuben?** First-born – he was responsible for whatever happened

**V 22** – **What did Reuben suggest?** Throwing him into a pit in the wilderness  
-**His plan?** To rescue him later and return him to Jacob

**V 23** – **What happened?** They stripped his coat off

**V 24** – **Any water in the pit?** No

## **Genesis 37.25-28**

**V 25** – **As they ate lunch, whom did they see approaching?** Caravan of Ishmaelites  
-**Who was Ishmael?** Son of Abraham and Hagar  
-See Gilead on a map of Bible lands – east of Jordan  
-**What were they carrying in their caravan?** Spices, etc.  
-**Where were they headed?** Egypt

**V 26** – **What was Judah's idea?** Sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites (Judah didn't want to see Joseph die)

**V 27** – What did the brothers decide to do? Take Judah’s advice

**V 28** – Price they got for Joseph? 20 shekels of silver

**Note:** *Judges 8.22-24* – Midianites and Ishmaelites were the same (*Beacon Bible Commentary*, I, 138)

## **Genesis 37.29-36**

**V 29** – Who was it in v 22 that was going to try to release Joseph? Reuben

-Apparently, he was out with the sheep when the other brothers sold Joseph into slavery

-**Why was Reuben so upset in v 29?** He thought they had killed Joseph (missing from the pit)

-**How did he express his grief?** Tore his clothes

**V 30** – Reuben was the oldest son – responsible for other boys

**V 31-32** –**What did they do to “cover their tracks”?** Killed male goat; dipped Joseph’s coat in the blood and showed the coat to their father Jacob

-Wouldn’t you just love to have a bunch of brothers like these guys? Really swell guys (murder, lies, sold a brother into slavery)

**V 33** – Jacob examined the coat

**V 34** – **Jacob’s reaction?** Torn up (his favorite son dead) – put on sackcloth and tore his clothes

**V 35** – Sheol = the grave

-Jacob = I will mourn for Joseph until I die

**V 36** – **What did the Midianites do?** Sold Joseph to Potiphar (captain of Pharaoh’s body guards  
[Secret Service today])

**Any great lessons from *Genesis 37***

-It doesn’t pay to brag about yourself to your brothers

-Our relatives can be mean

-**What was Joseph thinking about in Egypt?** Still trusting in God

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