

## Joseph's Dream

37:1 Now Jacob lived in <sup>a</sup>the land <sup>1</sup>where his father had sojourned, in the land of Canaan. 2 These are *the records of* the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, when <sup>a</sup>seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers while he was *still* a youth, along with <sup>b</sup>the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a <sup>c</sup>bad report about them to their father.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was <sup>a</sup>the son of his old age; and he made him a <sup>1</sup><sup>b</sup>varicolored tunic. 4 And his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and *so* they <sup>a</sup>hated him and could not speak to him <sup>1</sup>on friendly terms.

5 Then Joseph <sup>1</sup>had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. 6 And he said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have <sup>1</sup>had; 7 for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and <sup>a</sup>bowed down to my sheaf." 8 Then his brothers said to him, "<sup>a</sup>Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. 9 Now he <sup>1</sup>had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have <sup>1</sup>had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." 10 And he related *it* to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have <sup>1</sup>had? Shall I and your mother and <sup>a</sup>your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?" 11 And <sup>a</sup>his brothers were jealous of him, but his father <sup>b</sup>kept the saying *in* mind.

12 Then his brothers went to pasture their father's flock in Shechem. 13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing *the flock* in <sup>a</sup>Shechem? Come, and I will send you to them." And he said to him, "<sup>1</sup>I will go." 14 Then he said to him, "Go now and see about the welfare of your brothers and the welfare of the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of <sup>a</sup>Hebron, and he came to Shechem. 15 And a man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the field; and the man asked him, <sup>1</sup>"What are you looking for?" 16 And he said, "I am looking for my brothers; please tell me where they are pasturing *the flock*." 17 Then the man said, "They have moved from here; for I heard *them* say, 'Let us go to <sup>a</sup>Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

## The Plot against Joseph

18 <sup>1</sup>When they saw him from a distance and before he came close to them, they <sup>a</sup>plotted against him to put him to death. 19 And they said to one another, "<sup>1</sup>Here comes this dreamer! 20 "Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and <sup>a</sup>we will say, 'A wild beast devoured him.' Then let us see what will become of his dreams!" 21 But <sup>a</sup>Reuben heard *this* and rescued him out of their hands and said, "Let us not <sup>1</sup>take his life." 22 Reuben further said to them, "Shed no blood. Throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay hands on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hands, to restore him to his father. 23 So it came about, when Joseph <sup>1</sup>reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his <sup>2</sup>tunic, the varicolored tunic that was on him; 24

and they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it.

**25** Then they sat down to eat <sup>1</sup>a meal. And as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of <sup>a</sup>Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing <sup>2</sup><sup>b</sup>aromatic gum and <sup>3</sup><sup>c</sup>balm and <sup>4</sup>myrrh, <sup>5</sup>on their way to bring *them* down to Egypt. **26** And Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it for us to kill our brother and <sup>a</sup>cover up his blood? **27** “<sup>a</sup>Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; for he is our brother, our *own* flesh.” And his brothers listened *to* him. **28** Then some <sup>a</sup>Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled *him* up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and <sup>b</sup>sold <sup>1</sup>him to the Ishmaelites for twenty *shekels* of silver. Thus <sup>c</sup>they brought Joseph into Egypt.

**29** Now Reuben returned to the pit, and behold, Joseph was not in the pit; so he <sup>a</sup>tore his garments. **30** And he returned to his brothers and said, “<sup>a</sup>The boy is not *there*; as for me, where am I to go?” **31** So <sup>a</sup>they took Joseph’s tunic, and slaughtered a male goat, and dipped the tunic in the blood; **32** and they sent the varicolored tunic and brought it to their father and said, “We found this; please <sup>1</sup>examine *it* to *see* whether it is your son’s tunic or not.” **33** Then he <sup>1</sup>examined it and said, “It is my son’s tunic. <sup>a</sup>A wild beast has devoured him; <sup>b</sup>Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!” **34** So Jacob <sup>a</sup>tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins, and mourned for his son many days. **35** Then all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. And he said, “Surely I will <sup>a</sup>go down to Sheol in mourning for my son.” So his father wept for him. **36** Meanwhile, the <sup>1</sup>Midianites <sup>a</sup>sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, Pharaoh’s officer, the captain of the bodyguard.

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<sup>a</sup> Gen. 17:8; 28:4

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *of his father’s sojournings*

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 41:46

<sup>b</sup> Gen. 35:25, 26

<sup>c</sup> 1 Sam. 2:22-24

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 44:20

<sup>1</sup> Or, *full-length robe*

<sup>b</sup> Gen. 37:23, 32

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 27:41; 1 Sam. 17:28

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *in peace*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *dreamed*

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 28:12; 31:10, 11, 24

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *dreamed*

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 42:6, 9; 43:26; 44:14

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 49:26; Deut. 33:16

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *dreamed*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *dreamed*

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<sup>a</sup> Gen. 27:29

<sup>a</sup> Acts 7:9

<sup>b</sup> Dan. 7:28; Luke 2:19, 51

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<sup>a</sup> Gen. 33:18-20

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *Behold me.*

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 13:18; 23:2, 19; 35:27; Josh. 14:14, 15; Judg. 1:10

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *saying, "What...?"*

<sup>a</sup> 2 Kin. 6:13

<sup>1</sup> Or, *And*

<sup>a</sup> Ps. 31:13; 37:12, 32; Mark 14:1; John 11:53; Acts 23:12

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *Behold, this master of dreams comes*

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 37:32, 33

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 42:22

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *smite his soul*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *came to*

<sup>2</sup> Or, *full-length robe*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *bread*

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 16:11, 12; 37:28; 39:1

<sup>2</sup> Or, *ladanum spice*

<sup>b</sup> Gen. 43:11

<sup>3</sup> Or, *mastic*

<sup>c</sup> Jer. 8:22; 46:11

<sup>4</sup> Or, *resinous bark*

<sup>5</sup> Lit., *going*

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 37:20

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 42:21

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 37:25; Judg. 6:1-3; 8:22, 24

<sup>b</sup> Gen. 45:4, 5; Ps. 105:17; Acts 7:9

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *Joseph*

<sup>c</sup> Gen. 39:1

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 37:34; 44:13

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 42:13, 36

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 37:3, 23

<sup>1</sup> Or, *recognize*

<sup>1</sup> Or, *recognized*

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 37:20

<sup>b</sup> Gen. 44:28

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 37:29

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 25:8; 35:29; 42:38; 44:29, 31

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *Medanites*

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 39:1

<sup>i</sup>*The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.