

## JOSEPH

#7, "Here comes this dreamer!" – Gen 37:3-35

Around ten years could have passed since Joseph arrived in Hebron. Among his chores, as well as his brothers, was pasturing the flock. This lesson starts with seventeen-year-old Joseph bringing a bad report to Jacob (Israel) regarding his brothers. What was the report? No one knows! All we can be sure of is, at this time, our sovereign God started the process that would bring about the 300 year old prediction that He made to Abraham.

### Genesis chapter 37

Gen 37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. 4 His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.

[1.] v:3, Israel loved Joseph, At some time or another, we've all had to endure another being the "favorite". Write down how Jacob's favoritism impacted the other brothers.

[2.] v:3 again, varicolored tunic, If you're Joseph, when do you start "picking up" on what's going on in the family?

[3.] v:4, not speak to him, You're still Joseph and you feel your brothers animosity. What would you do?

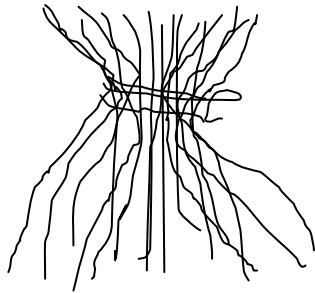
5 Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more.

*In trying to be friends with my brothers, I thought they would be interested in dreams that I had. It didn't seem to help much!*

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6 He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have 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 bowed down to my sheaf." 8 Then his brothers said to him, "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 had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." 10 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 had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?" 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

v:12-14  
Joseph's  
charge



[4.] v:6-8, and bowed down, And this dream implies what?

[5.] question [4.], Why would it be impossible for the brothers, upon hearing the dream, not to feel the full weight of the meaning?

[6.] v:6-8 again, question [4.], again, Who gave Joseph the dream and what is the Lord doing?

[7.] v:9-10, his father rebuked him, As fathers (leaders), if something like this should bother us, how might it give us insight on how it also bothers others?

[8.] v:11, His brothers, Now what has been added to the brother's hatred of Joseph?

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15 A man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the field; and the man asked him, "What are you looking for?" 16 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 Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

18 When they saw him from a distance and before he came close to them, they plotted against him to put him to death. 19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer! 20 "Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, 'A wild beast devoured him.' Then let us see what will become of his dreams!"

21 But Reuben heard this and rescued him out of their hands and said, "Let us not 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 reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his 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 a meal. And as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and myrrh, on their way to bring them down to Egypt.

[9.] v:15-17, he was wandering, **Who might send the man to find wandering Joseph?**

[10.] v:18-20, When they saw, **What was the affect, of hatred and jealousy, on Joseph's brothers?**

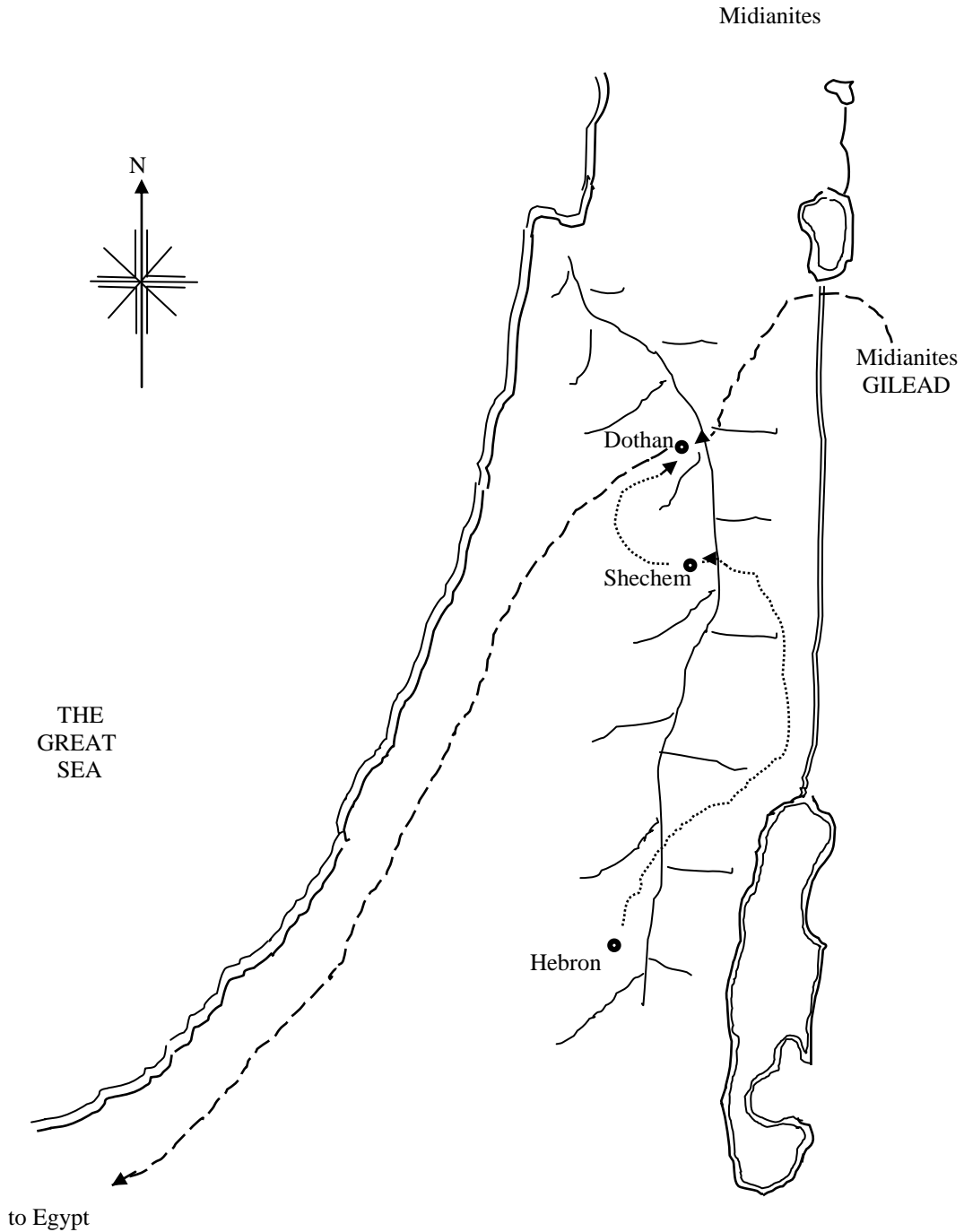
[11.] v:21-24, Reuben heard, **Why would Reuben have a greater "say-so" that the other ten?**

[12.] v:25, Then they sat down, **How did the brothers display their callousness?**

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**Dothan**, (*do'-than*) probably (*two wells*) an upland plain on a caravan route from Syria to Egypt, about eleven miles N. of Samaria, and noted for its excellent pasturage; . . . One of the two wells found there now has the name of "the pit of Joseph."  
Unger's Bible Dictionary



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26 Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood?  
27 " 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 Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt.

29 Now Reuben returned to the pit, and behold, Joseph was not in the pit; so he tore his garments. 30 He returned to his brothers and said, " The boy is not there; as for me, where am I to go?"

[13.] v:26-27, What was Judah's suggestion on how the brothers could profit from Joseph?

[14.] v:28, Midianite traders passed by, Under each statement, jot down words that probably describe Joseph's thoughts:

- a) When he was alone in the pit.
- b) When the line came down and they pulled him up.
- c) When they dragged him to the caravan.
- d) When he watched his brothers collect the money from the traders.

[15.] v:29-30, as for me, where am I to go?" From the following, choose what you think Reuben meant by his words.

- a) Where do I go to find him?
- b) Since I am responsible, how can I go back to my father?
- c) Let's plan a cover-up?
- d) What do I do now?
- e) All of the above?

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31 So 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 examine it to see whether it is your son's tunic or not." 33 Then he examined it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him; Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!"

34 So Jacob 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 go down to Sheol in mourning for my son." So his father wept for him.

[16.] v:31-33, Joseph's tunic, **How did Israel come to his conclusion about Joseph?**

[17.] question [16.], **As twice born Christians, what proofs do we accept that form our conclusions?**

[18.] v:31-33 again, **How might the brothers have known that their father would buy their cover-up?**

[19.] v:34-35, Jacob tore his clothes, **When it came to watching Jacob's intense grief, how might the brothers have then felt?**

*My father thinks I am in Shechem. They'll never tell him the truth about me! I don't know where I'm going! I can't believe this is happening to me!*