

## Joseph: The Purposes of God Fulfilled

*Genesis 37 - 50*

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## Early Life: Rejection by His Brethren, His Slavery

*Genesis 37*

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## Favoritism and Its Results, the Coat of

## Many Colors (37:1-4)

### CHAPTER 37

**1** And Jacob dwelt in the land where his father sojourned — in the land of Canaan.

**2** These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, fed the flock with his brethren; and he was doing service with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought to his father an evil report of them. **3** And Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was son of his old age; and he made him a vest of many colours. **4** And his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, and they hated him, and could not greet him with friendliness. **vv.1-4** This is one of ten generations mentioned in Genesis, all beginning with the words "*the generations of*", etc. [Read more...](#)

## Joseph's dreams (37:5-11)

**5** And Joseph dreamed a dream, and told *it* to his brethren, and they hated him yet the more. **6** And he said to them, Hear, I pray you, this dream, which I have dreamt: **7** Behold, we were binding sheaves in the fields, and lo, my sheaf rose up, and remained standing; and behold, your sheaves came round about and bowed down to my sheaf. **8** And his brethren said to him, Wilt thou indeed be a king over us? wilt thou indeed rule over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams and for his words. **9** And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it to his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamt another dream, and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to me. **10** And he told *it* to his father and to his brethren. And his father rebuked him, and said to him, What is this dream which thou hast dreamt? Shall we indeed come, I and thy mother and thy brethren, to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? **11** And his brethren envied him; but his father kept the saying.

## Seeking the Welfare of His Brethren

## (37:12-14)

**12** And his brethren went to feed their father's flock at Shechem. **13** And Israel said to Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed *the flock* at Shechem? Come, that I may send thee to them. And he said to him, Here am I. **14** And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see after the welfare of thy brethren, and after the welfare of the flock; and bring me word again. And he sent him out of the vale of Hebron; and he came towards Shechem.

## The Plot (37:15-22)

**15** And a man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the country; and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou? **16** And he said, I am seeking my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed *their flocks*. **17** And the man said, They have removed from this; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them at Dothan. **18** And when they saw him from afar, and before he came near to them, they conspired against him to put him to death. **19** And they said one to another, Behold, there comes that dreamer! **20** And now come and let us kill him, and cast him into one of the pits, and we will say, An evil beast has devoured him; and we will see what becomes of his dreams. **21** And Reuben heard *it*, and delivered him out of their hand, and said, Let us not take his life. **22** And Reuben said to them, Shed no blood: cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness; but lay no hand upon him — in order that he might deliver him out of their hand, to bring him to his father again.

## Joseph's Capture and Enslavement (37:23-36)

**23** And it came to pass when Joseph came to his brethren, that they stripped Joseph of his vest, the vest of many colours, which he had on; **24** and they took him and cast him into the pit; now the pit was empty — there was no water in it. **25** And they sat down to eat bread; and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites came from Gilead; and their camels bore tragacanth, and balsam, and ladanum — going to carry *it* down to Egypt. **26** And Judah said to his brethren, What profit is it that we kill our

brother and secrete his blood? **27** Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites; but let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother, our flesh. And his brethren hearkened *to him*. **28** And Midianitish men, merchants, passed by; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty silver-pieces; and they brought Joseph to Egypt. **29** And Reuben returned to the pit, and behold, Joseph *was not* in the pit; and he rent his garments, **30** and returned to his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, where shall I go? **31** And they took Joseph's vest, and slaughtered a buck of the goats, and dipped the vest in the blood; **32** and they sent the vest of many colours and had it carried to their father, and said, This have we found: discern now whether it is thy son's vest or not. **33** And he discerned it, and said, *It is my son's vest!* an evil beast has devoured him: Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces! **34** And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins, and mourned for his son many days. **35** And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted, and said, For I will go down to my son into Sheol mourning. Thus his father wept for him. **36** And the Midianites sold him into Egypt, to Potiphar, a chamberlain of Pharaoh, the captain of the life-guard.