

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JUNE 28, 2023

GENESIS 37:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

1. We read about Esau frequently up to Genesis 36. Afterward, we will only read his name in reference to the nation that came from him. (cf. Ex. 15.15; Deut. 2.4)
2. After following the life of Jacob, Biblical history transitions to the life of Joseph.
 - a) Joseph is the first biological son of Jacob and Rachel. (Gen. 30.24)
 - b) Joseph (yosep): “to add.” Joseph’s birth gave Rachel hope of another. (Gen. 30.24)

I. THE LIFE OF JOSEPH LIFE IS THE HISTORY OF JACOB

- A. **GENESIS 37.1:** “*Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.*” At some point, Jacob made it back to Hebron. (Gen. 35.27)
- B. **GENESIS 37.2:** “*This is the history of Jacob.*”
 1. History (toledot): Literally, the genealogy of Jacob. (cf. Gen. 36.1)
 - a) The life of Joseph records the development of the nation of Israel.
 - b) For the rest of the book of Genesis, Joseph endures great adversity that came from being mistreated by his brothers, Potiphar’s wife, and the prisoners.
 2. Everything that Joseph suffered was in keeping with the will of God.
 - a) The promises of God concerning Abraham. (Gen. 12.1-4)
 - b) Israel would be enslaved for four centuries before their fulfillment. (Gen. 15.13,14)
 - c) **GENESIS 45.5-8:** “*God sent me here to preserve life.*” (cf. Gen. 50.20)

II. JOSEPH WAS HATED BY HIS BROTHERS

- A. Joseph was hated because he was the favorite.
 1. **GENESIS 37.2:** Joseph was a tattletell.
 2. **GENESIS 37.3:** Joseph was loved more than the other children. Why?
 - a) **GENESIS 37.3:** “*because he was the son of his old age.*”
 - b) Joseph was actually the second youngest. (Gen. 44.20)
 3. **GENESIS 37.3:** Joseph received special gifts.
 4. **GENESIS 37.4:** “*They hated him.*” (Gen. 4.5; 1 John 3.4; Gen. 27.41)
 5. **GENESIS 37.4:** “*could not speak peaceably to him.*” (cf. Gen. 43.23; 1 Sam. 25.6)
- B. Joseph was hated because he was exalted.
 1. The two dreams that Joseph dreamed.
 - a) Dream #1: The sheaves of his brothers bowed down to his sheave. (Gen. 37.6,7)
 - b) Dream #2: The sun, moon, and stars bowed down to him. (Gen. 37.9)
 2. How did his brothers react to his dreams?
 - a) **GENESIS 36.5:** “*They hated him even more.*”
 - b) **GENESIS 36.8:** “*Shall you reign over us? Have dominion over us?*”
 - c) **GENESIS 36.11:** “*And his brothers envied him*”
 3. How did his father react to his dreams?
 - a) **GENESIS 36.10:** “*His father rebuked him*”
 - b) **GENESIS 36.11:** “*His father kept the matter in mind.*” (Gen. 28.12,13,16,17)