

“When Dreams Turn Into Nightmares”

Genesis 37:1-36

Introduction

I The Account of Joseph, Jacob’s Son

- A. Joseph was Jacob's **17** year old son
 1. He was tending sheep with his brothers
 2. He brought his father a **bad** report - Jn 7:7
- B. Jacob's favoritism surfaces again
 1. He **loved** Joseph more than his other sons
 2. He made Joseph a richly ornamented **robe** - James 2:1, 9
- C. Joseph's brothers' response:
 1. They **hated** Joseph - Jn 15:18-19
 2. They could not **speak** a kind word to him

II The Dreams Of Joseph

- A. The dream of the **sheaves** - 2 Tim 3:16-17; Jl 2:28; Jer 23:28
 1. The details of the story:
 - a. The brothers were all binding sheaves
 - b. Suddenly, their sheaves **bowed** to his
 2. The brother's response:
 - a. They were **indignant** - Gen 42:6; 43:26,28; 44:14; 50:18
 - b. They hated him all the more - Jn 17:14
- B. The dream of the sun, moon and **stars** - Gen 41:32
 1. The details of the story:
 - a. The sun, moon and stars **bowed** to Joseph - Rev 12:1
 2. The response of Jacob and his sons:
 - a. Jacob was indignant
 - b. His sons were **jealous** - Acts 7:9-10; James 3:16
 - c. Jacob kept the matter in mind - Lk 2:16-19

III The Nightmares Of Joseph

- A. Jacob sent Joseph to **check** on his brothers
 1. Initially, they were in Shechem grazing their flocks
 2. But Joseph eventually found his brothers in Dothan
- B. The diabolical plan unfolds
 1. The brothers **plotted** to kill Joseph - Prov 27:4; Mt 5:21-22

2. Reuben attempted to rescue Joseph - Prov 29:25
 - a. They stripped him of his robe
 - b. They threw him into an empty cistern - Ps 40:1-3
 - c. They sat down to **eat** their meal - Gen 42:21
3. The brothers refine their plan
 - a. They sell Joseph to Midianite traders
 1. For **20** shekels of silver - Lev 27:5; Ex 21:16
 2. They fabricate a story for their father - Lev 19:11
4. Jacob falls for the **deception** - Gen 27:9,16-17, 19
 - a. He is convinced that Joseph has been torn to pieces
 - b. He **mourned** for his son - Job 1:20-21
 - c. He refused to be comforted - 1 Thess 4:13-14
5. The Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar
 - a. He was one of Pharaoh’s officials - Gen 39:1
 - b. He was the **captain** of the guard

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take time this week to consider the following:

1. Were you ever jealous of a sibling growing up? What were the circumstances? How’s your relationship with that person now?
2. Jot down the role Jacob, Joseph and Joseph’s brothers each played in the ungodly events recorded in Gen 37. Who do you think was most responsible and why? What should they have done? How can you personally apply what you have learned?
3. What does this chapter teach you about the sovereignty of God? What value do you think Jacob’s 23-year “nightmare” had in his future role as deliverer of Israel? In light of what you have learned, how should you respond when “dreams go bad” in your life? [Hint: Read Rom 5:1-5; 1 Pet 1:3-7 and James 1:2-4]
4. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Take a few moments to pray back to God the scriptures in question #3 and thank God by faith for His wonderful plan for your life.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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