



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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I think one of the great failures of Jacob as a father was that he blatantly and openly played favoritism. This was already seen when he and Esau met and now with the special coat that Jacob made for Joseph.

Joseph, if we attempt to look at him from his brother's point of view, probably came across as arrogant and proud. From their point, he may have come across as spiritually superior and looking down on them. We must always be careful that we do not project this attitude to others. The critics of Christ are quick to point out and even manufacture this as a cause to hate Him and us.

Listen to the verses in *1 Peter 3:15-17* ***But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.***

III- Joseph First Dream:

Now we move to the prophetic dreams of Joseph. God used Joseph throughout his life to interpret dreams. This is the first of two dreams recorded for us in *Genesis 37*. I called these prophetic dreams because they literally come true as we will see I a few Way Points.

Genesis 37:5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? Or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

The dream of Joseph is that his brothers would come and bow before him. They understood that in his dream he was ruling over them. This increased the hatred they had for him.

IV- Joseph Second Dream:

The second dream of Joseph is similar yet expanded. *Genesis 37:9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his*



Coordinates:
Gen 37:1-36

Sights to See:

- 1- We need to guard our words carefully and make sure, as *Colossians 4:6* says, *Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*
- 2- Playing favoritism among siblings is a cruel thing that can have many undesirable consequences.
- 3- God was prophetic in the giving of the dreams to Joseph.
- 4- If we are not careful with our emotions they will capture us and take us a long way of the highway of God's perfect will.
- 5- The protection of God toward Joseph is seen in several of the events that took place. First Reuben persuading them not to kill Joseph, second, the camel train arriving timely, then the selling of Joseph to be taken to Egypt.
- 6- When we love someone we will do what we can within our power to protect them from hurts.
- 7- The lies told to cover up almost always lead to other lies and then to inconsistency in the story. Even allowing Jacob to come to the conclusion that an animal had killed Joseph was a lie thought it was not spoken.
- 8- We must always remember that God is ultimately in control of the affairs of man.



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brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Joseph now dreams that his parents, represented by the sun and moon, would come and bow before him. Jacob rebukes him for this dream. The stars represent the eleven brothers. John, in the book of Revelation, is given the same symbol for the twelve sons of Jacob in **Revelation 12:1** *And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:* This woman is the nation of Israel and the twelve sons.

Even though Jacob rebuked Joseph for the dream we see he also noticed and filed it away in his memory, so to speak. The NASB says in **Genesis 37:11** *His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.*

Regardless we know that Joseph was hated by his brethren. We cannot be sure if Joseph was aware of this anger nor if Jacob was at all aware.

V- Checking on the Flocks:

The shepherds were a very nomadic people out of necessity. They had to constantly move to have grass for their flocks. The brothers of Joseph were away from home tending the sheep and Jacob sends Joseph to check on them to make sure they are doing well.

Genesis 37:12 And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. 13 And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I. 14 And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. 15 And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou? 16 And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks. 17 And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

They were not where they were supposed to have gone. He wonders around until a man tells him where his brother was. He follows them on to Dothan.

VI- The Dreamer Comes and the Plot:

Under the stars and having time to think about all that was wrong in their lives, perhaps the brothers of Joseph really began to stew about him. They see him approaching and conspired to do him harm as he approached. They had developed such a hatred that they had murder in their heart.

Genesis 37:18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. 19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. 20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

