



Lesson 28

JOSEPH'S DREAMS

Story Elements

- **TEXT:** Gen. 37:1-36
- **Setting:** circa 1730 B.C. in Hebron.
- **Main Characters:** God, Jacob, Joseph, and his brothers
- **Plot:** Joseph has dreams that prophesy of future exaltation; his jealous brothers conspire against him.
- **Key word(s):** “ _____ ” (vv 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 20)
- **Climax:** *Genesis 37:20 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.*

Coat of Many Colors

- 1) (v 1) Jacob and his family continued to dwell in Canaan – specifically in Hebron. The Bible emphasizes Jacob’s status as a sojourner by describing his surroundings as the same place where “his father was a _____.”
- 2) (vv 2-3) This story takes place when Joseph was 17 years of age.
 - a) Joseph was the firstborn son of _____, Jacob’s favorite wife; Joseph was also born when Jacob was old - naturally, he became Jacob’s favorite son.
 - b) Jacob showered affection on Joseph by making him a coat of many colors, i.e. a brightly colored _____, and by giving him responsibilities like a chief shepherd. (Gen. 37:2)
- 3) (v 4) Joseph’s preferential treatment caused his brothers to despise him and to continually _____ him.

Clairvoyant Dreams

- 4) (vv 5-11) Joseph was given two prophetic dreams:
 - a) The first pictured _____ (bundles of grain) representing each member of the family. Joseph’s sheaf stood upright while the other sheaves bowed down to his.
 - b) The second pictured 11 stars (representing his brothers) and the _____ and the moon (representing his father and mother) doing obeisance to him.
- 5) Joseph’s dreams worsened his brothers’ animosity – “they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his _____.” (v 8)
- 6) (v 11) While the brothers rejected Joseph’s dreams, Jacob “observed the saying.” What do you think this means? _____

Conspiracy to Kill

- 7) (vv 12-14) Jacob sent Joseph to check on the flocks his brothers were pasturing in _____.
- 8) (vv 15-17) Joseph finally caught up with his brothers in _____ – about 65 miles north of Hebron.
- 9) (vv 18-20) When they saw Joseph approaching from afar, one of the brothers suggested they murder Joseph and make his death look like an animal attack.
 - a) (vv 21-22) Reuben, the eldest son, pleaded for his brothers to spare the child's life; his plan was to _____ Joseph out of the pit and return him safely to his father.
 - b) (vv 23-24) When Joseph drew close, the brothers attacked him, stripped him of his coat, and threw him into a _____.
- 10) (vv 26-28) Later, as the brothers dined, a band of Ishmaelite traders approached. _____ suggested selling Joseph into slavery – thereby avoiding murder and making a quick buck.
- 11) (v 29-30) Reuben was absent when Joseph was sold to the traders, and his sincere sorrow for Joseph was evidenced in the rending of his clothes. He expressed his desperation when he asked, “_____ shall I go?” But because Reuben was the eldest and therefore responsible for Joseph's wellbeing, he played along with the coverup.
- 12) (vv 30-32) The brothers ripped up Joseph's coat and soaked it in the blood of a _____ to make it look as if he was attacked by a wild animal. Then they took it to Jacob as evidence of Joseph's “accidental” demise. Jacob, who had deceived his own father, was now deceived by his sons.
- 13) (vv 33-36) Jacob was devastated and vowed to mourn Joseph's death until his own. Meanwhile, Joseph ended up a slave in _____ house, a high-ranking Egyptian.

Application

- 14) Joseph is one of the most vivid pictures of Christ in the Old Testament. Notice the parallels in this story:
 - a) Both Jesus and Joseph were their father's _____ (Matt. 3:17)
 - b) Both were sent by their fathers to their _____ (Heb. 2:12)
 - c) Both were _____ by their brethren (John 1:11)
 - d) Both were _____ against by their brethren (John 11:53)

Answer Key

Key word(s): dream | 1) stranger | 2) a) Rachel; b) tunic | 3) harass | 4 a) sheaves; b) sun | 5) words | 6) Jacob began to believe that Joseph was receiving divine revelations. | 7) Shechem | 8) Dothan | 9) a) rescue; b) pit | 10) Judah | 11) Whither | 12) goat | 13) Potiphar's | 14) a) beloved son; b) brethren; c) hated; d) conspired