

Study #3 Bible Reading: Genesis 37:2-8, 14-28

37:2 This is a record of Jacob's family. Joseph was 17 and watching the flocks with his brothers, just a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought bad reports about them to their father.

3 Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons because he was born when Israel was old. He made Joseph a tunic reaching to the wrists and ankles. 4 When his brothers saw their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him and couldn't talk friendly to him. 5 Joseph had a dream he told his brothers, and so they hated him all the more. 6 "Please listen to this dream I had," he told them. 7 "We were tying bundles in the field, and there my bundle stood up, yes, and kept standing while your bundles gathered around and bowed down to my bundle." 8 "Do you really mean to be king over us?" his brothers asked him. "Or are you going to rule over us?" So they hated him all the more for his dreams and what he said.

14 "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are," he [Joseph's father] told him [Joseph], "and bring me a report." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. 15 A man found him wandering around in the open country. "What are you looking for?" the man asked him. 16 "I'm looking for my brothers," he said; "could you tell me where they're watching their flocks?" 17 "They moved away from here," the man said. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph followed his brothers and found them at Dothan.

18 They saw him coming in the distance, but before he reached them, they plotted against him to kill him. 19 "Look, here comes the master of dreams!" they said to one another. 20 "And now come, let's kill him, throw him into one of the cisterns, and say, 'A wild animal has devoured him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams."

21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to save him from them. "Let's not kill him," he said. 22 Reuben also told them, "Don't shed blood. Throw him into that cistern in the wilderness, but don't hurt him." He wanted to rescue him from them and bring him back to his father. 23 When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped off Joseph's long tunic with sleeves that he was wearing. 24 Then they took him and threw him into an empty cistern; there was no water in it.

25 Then they sat down to eat. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, their camels carrying resinous gum, balm, and myrrh; they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

26 "What can we gain by killing our brother," Judah asked his brothers, "and covering up his blood? 27 Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, because he is our brother, our flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. 28 And so, as the Midianite traders were passing by, the brothers pulled Joseph out of the cistern, and they sold Joseph for ten ounces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took Joseph to Egypt.