

Character Study: Joseph

Part 1 – Joseph Faces Trouble

Genesis 37

What's happening?

- Joseph was the son of Jacob. Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children and gave him a coat of many colors. (37:1-3)
- Joseph's brothers grew very jealous of him. Joseph told his brothers about some dreams he had that implied they would one day bow down to him. This fueled their jealousy and they sought to kill him. (37:4-18)
- Reuben (one of the brothers) spared his life by convincing his brothers not to kill him. Instead, they threw Joseph into a pit and shortly later sold him to some merchants for twenty shekels of silver. (37:19-28)
- Joseph's brothers kept the coat of many colors and took it back to their father. They made it appear that Joseph had been attacked and killed by a wild beast. Jacob mourned for many days. (37:29-35)
- Joseph was taken to Egypt where he was sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. (37:36)

What's God doing?

- > Though not revealing exactly how or when it would happen, God did reveal His plan to have Joseph rule over his family one day.
- > Knowing the hearts and intentions of the brothers, God continued to sovereignly carry out His plan for Joseph's life.

What's to learn?

- Jealousy and bitterness lead to hate. Hatred will give us evil thoughts which lead to evil actions. Is there any jealousy, bitterness or hatred in your heart of which you need to repent? (Note [James 3:14-16](#))
- Because God is sovereign, we can trust Him when things seem hopeless. Despite the situations we find ourselves in and the actions of others, God is in control and actively working out His plan.
- God often takes us through difficult times in order to accomplish a great purpose. Can you think of examples from your life that show this is true?