

## Dreamer: The Life of Joseph A Study in Genesis 37-50

Sold Into Egypt  
Genesis 37:12-36  
May 30, 2021

Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

- Genesis 37:36

### I. OBEDIENCE AND BETRAYAL

- Joseph is commanded by his father to go, and he goes. He is not perfect, but he is clearly different than his older brothers.
- His brothers see him from afar and they demonstrate their character quality. They decide to lie in wait to kill him. Only Reuben, the firstborn, seems to have the desire to spare Joseph (Vss. 18-24; Prov. 1:10-16).
- Joseph is attacked, stripped, abused, and thrown into a dry cistern. Then the brothers sit down for lunch.
- Judah advises that the brothers at least profit from Joseph's demise. Conveniently, a Ishmaelite caravan is passing by on its way to Egypt (Vss. 25-28).
- Reuben returns to find his brother gone. His despair is real, but it appears to be a despair for himself, not his brother (Vss. 29-30).
- A plan is concocted. Jacob will be deceived with clothing and goat's blood, in a similar fashion to the manner in which he deceived his own father (Gen. 27:1-29).
- Joseph ends up in Egypt, where the people of Israel will remain for generations (Gen. 15:12-16).

### II. DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

- God had a plan for Joseph. That plan included emotional stress, psychological pressure, physical discomfort and humiliation. Only after...exaltation (Rom. 8:16-17, 12:3; James 4:10).
- Is God truly the potter? Are we truly the clay? (Isa. 29: 15-16, 64:8; Jer. 18:1-10; Rom. 9:19-21).
- God is not a distant, detached deity. He is intimately involved in the life of nations and individuals (Acts 17:24-28).
- God is shaping and molding us. In this world, he grants us "the dignity of causality." But he is building us for eternity (Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:3-10).

**KNOW:** Where we struggle to see with any accuracy past today, God sees from beginning to end. He is molding us and using even pain and suffering in the process. Our character flaws, given over to Christ, serve as building blocks for God.

**DO:** Submit to God. He will do the molding, and you, and oftentimes those around you, will be better for it.

#### Suggested Reading:

*The Providence of God: Contours of Christian Theology* by Paul Helm  
(LifePoint Library #

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### **Please Read Genesis 37:12-36**

1. What has caused Joseph's brothers to despise him so much?
2. What are they hoping for? How will their plan bring about what they hope for?
3. Why does Reuben intercede for Joseph, do you think?
4. Where in this story do you see the providence of God (his overarching control of events)?
5. Talk about the despair that is both evident and assumed in this story. Joseph's fear, Jacob's lament, the brother's lack of empathy. How do we account for this if God is controlling the events?
6. How can we submit to God in such a way as to trust him completely, even if it leads to pain and suffering for us?
7. What application for yourself do you find in this story?