

Joseph

"HOPE AMIDST HATRED"

Scripture Passage: Genesis 37:1-11
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 1.4.2023

Joseph's Dreams

Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan. These are the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

(Genesis 37:1-11 ESV)

OUTLINE/NOTES:

Introduction:

- Joseph is one of (if not) the greatest model in the Old Testament of a godly man. He is a man who both in public & in private has a steadfast and devoted commitment to God (even though God will never once appear to him).
- The life of Joseph will teach us how to forgive, he will teach us how to be free from bitterness, how to live through hardship, how to be sexually pure, how to be humble, how to trust God's Word, and how to rest in God's sovereignty.

1. The Favoritism of Joseph's Father (v. 1-3)

- Joseph has been through a lot in the first 17 years of his life (Genesis 30-36), but things are only going to get harder for him.
- Favoritism was a common thing in this family - see Genesis 25
- "*robe of many colors*" - a robe with long sleeves, meaning, this is a garment you would not do physical labor in.

2. The Hatred of Joseph's Brothers (v. 4-11)

- They hate him because of the coat, because of Dad's favoritism, because of the bad report, and now even more because of these dreams
- Jealousy (common in Scripture) - it's a sin, it does you no good, & it just eats you up inside.

3. The Word from Joseph's God (v. 7, 9)

- "Why did God at this time give Joseph these dreams?"

1. To fan the flame of his brother's hatred for him.

- If there's no dreams, there's no family conflict...if there's no family conflict, then Joseph never gets to Egypt...If Joseph doesn't go to Egypt, then everyone dies.
- We need to learn to receive God's truth from anyone about anything. Beware of rejecting God's Word just because you don't like the one who is bringing it. Beware of rejecting God's Word because you don't like what it says.

2. They will be an anchor for the coming storms.

- They are going to help Joseph be devoted to God in the midst of great difficulty.
- We too need to hold on to the promises of God's Word...especially in the midst of difficult times.