

- 1 Now Jacob was settled in the land where his father had sojourned, the land of Canaan.
- 2 This, then, is the line of Jacob: At seventeen years of age, Joseph tended the flocks with his brothers, as a helper to the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. And Joseph brought bad reports of them to their father.
- 3 Now Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons—he was his “child of old age”; (he was his “child of old age” NJPS “he was the child of his old age.” The expression ben zequnim is used here as a category label; it seems to denote a special, favored status. Cf. 44.20.) and he had made him an ornamented tunic. (ornamented tunic Or “a coat of many colors”; meaning of Heb. uncertain.)
- 4 And when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him so that they could not speak a friendly word to him.
- 5 Once Joseph had a dream which he told to his brothers; and they hated him even more.
- 6 He said to them, “Hear this dream which I have dreamed:
- 7 There we were binding sheaves in the field, when suddenly my sheaf stood up and remained upright; then your sheaves gathered around and bowed low to my sheaf.”
- 8 His brothers answered, “Do you mean to reign over us? Do you mean to rule over us?” And they hated him even more for his talk about his dreams.
- 9 He dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers, saying, “Look, I have had another dream: And this time, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”
- 10 And when he told it to his father and brothers, his father berated him. “What,” he said to him, “is this dream you have dreamed? Are we to come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow low to you to the ground?”
- 11 So his brothers were wrought up at him, and his father kept the matter in mind.
- 12 One time, when his brothers had gone to pasture their father's flock at Shechem,
- וַיָּשֶׁב יַעֲקֹב בְּאֶרֶץ מִגְרִי אָבִיו בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן:
- אֵלֶּה ׀ תְּלִדֹת יַעֲקֹב יוֹסֵף בֶּרֶשֶׁבַע־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה הָיָה רֹעֶה אֶת־אֶחָיו בְּצֹאן וְהָיָא זָעַר אֶת־בְּנֵי בְלָהָה וְאֶת־בְּנֵי זִלְפָּה נְשֵׁי אָבִיו וַיִּבְא יוֹסֵף אֶת־דִּבְתָּם רָעָה אֶל־אֲבִיתָם:
- וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל אֶהָב אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִכָּל־בָּנָיו כִּי־בְרֹךְ־קָנִים הָיָא לוֹ וַעֲשָׂה לוֹ כֶּתֶנֶת פָּסִים:
- וַיֵּרְאוּ אֶחָיו כִּי־אַתָּה אֶהָב אֲבִיהֶם מִכָּל־אֶחָיו וַיִּשְׁנְאוּ אֹתוֹ וְלֹא יָכְלוּ הִבְרֹו לְשָׁלָם:
- וַיְחַלֵּם יוֹסֵף חֲלוֹם וַיַּגֵּד לְאֶחָיו וַיּוֹסְפוּ עוֹד שֹׁנְא אֹתוֹ:
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם שִׁמְעוּ־נָא הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חֲלַמְתִּי:
- וְהִנֵּה אֲנֹחֲנוּ מֹאֲלָמִים אֲלֵמִים בְּתוֹךְ הַשָּׂדֶה וְהִנֵּה קִמָּה אֲלַמְתִּי וְגַם־נִצָּבָה וְהִנֵּה תִסָּבִינָה אֲלַמְתִּי־לָם וְחִשְׁתַּחֲוִינִי לְאֲלַמְתִּי:
- וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אֶחָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ תִּמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ אִם־יִשְׁׁוּל תִּמְשָׁל בָּנוּ וַיּוֹסְפוּ עוֹד שֹׁנְא אֹתוֹ עַל־חֲלַמְתּוֹ וְעַל־דִּבְרֵיו:
- וַיְחַלֵּם עוֹד חֲלוֹם אֲחֵר וַיִּסְפֹּר אֹתוֹ לְאֶחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה חֲלַמְתִּי חֲלוֹם עוֹד וְהִנֵּה הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וְהַיָּרֵיחַ וְאֶחָד עֶשֶׂר כּוֹכָבִים מִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לִי:
- וַיִּסְפֹּר אֶל־אֲבִיו וְאֶל־אֶחָיו וַיִּגְעֲרֻבוּ אֲבָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מָה הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חֲלַמְתָּ הֲבֹא נִבְּוֹא אֲנִי וְאִמְךָ וְאֶחָיֶךָ לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת לָךְ אֶרְצָה:
- וַיִּקְנָדֻרְבוּ אֶחָיו וְאָבִיו שָׁמַר אֶת־הַדָּבָר:
- וַיֵּלְכוּ אֶחָיו לְרֹעוֹת אֶת־צֹאן אֲבִיהֶם בְּשֶׁחֶם:

- 19 When his master heard the story that his wife told him, namely, “Thus and so your slave did to me,” he was furious.
- 20 So Joseph’s master had him put in prison, where the king’s prisoners were confined. But even while he was there in prison,
- 21 יהוה was with Joseph—extending kindness to him and disposing the chief jailer favorably toward him.
- 22 The chief jailer put in Joseph’s charge all the prisoners who were in that prison, and he was the one to carry out everything that was done there.
- 23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything that was in Joseph’s (Joseph’s Lit. “his.”) charge, because יהוה was with him, and whatever he did יהוה made successful.

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- 1 Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt gave offense to their lord the king of Egypt.
- 2 Pharaoh was angry with his two courtiers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,
- 3 and put them in custody, in the house of the prefect, (prefect See note at 37.36.) in the same prison house where Joseph was confined.
- 4 The prefect assigned Joseph to them, and he attended them. When they had been in custody for some time,
- 5 both of them—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—dreamed in the same night, each his own dream and each dream with its own meaning.
- 6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were distraught.
- 7 He asked Pharaoh’s courtiers, who were with him in custody in his master’s house, saying, “Why do you appear downcast today?”
- 8 And they said to him, “We had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them.” So Joseph said to them, “Surely God can interpret! Tell me [your dreams].”
- 9 Then the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph. He said to him, “In my dream, there was a vine in front of me.

- 27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, but let us not do away with him ourselves. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh.” His brothers agreed.
- 28 When Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph up out of the pit. They sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who brought Joseph to Egypt.
- 29 When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he rent his clothes.
- 30 Returning to his brothers, he said, “The boy is gone! Now, what am I to do?”
- 31 Then they took Joseph’s tunic, slaughtered a kid, and dipped the tunic in the blood.
- 32 They had the ornamented tunic taken to their father, and they said, “We found this. Please examine it; is it your son’s tunic or not?”
- 33 He recognized it, and said, “My son’s tunic! A savage beast devoured him! Joseph was torn by a beast!”
- 34 Jacob rent his clothes, put sackcloth on his loins, and observed mourning for his son many days.
- 35 All his sons and daughters sought to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, saying, “No, I will go down mourning to my son in Sheol.” Thus his father bewailed him.
- 36 The Midianites, (Midianites Heb. “Medanites.”) meanwhile, sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, a courtier of Pharaoh and his prefect. (prefect Precise force of Heb. sar haabaim uncertain; cf. Jer. 52.12; 2 Kings 25.8ff. and Jer. 39–40; Gen. 39.20; 40.3. Apparently the office was obscure even to the text’s original audience (cf. 39.1). NJPS “chief steward,” trad. “captain of the guard.”)

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- 1 About that time Judah left his brothers and camped near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah.
- 2 There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua, and he took her [into his household as wife] and cohabited with her.

לכו ונמכרנו לישמעאלים ויזנו אליהם יבן כייאחינו בשקנו הוא נישמעו אחיו:

ועברו אנשים מדנילים סחרים נמשכו ויגלו אתיוסף מרהבור וימכרו אתיוסף לישמעאלים בעשרים כסף ויביאו אתיוסף מצרימה:

ונשב ראובן אליהבור והנה אדיריוסף בבור ויקרע אתבגדיו:

ונשב אליאחיו ויאמר הילד איננו ואני אנה אניבא:

ויקחו אתכתנת יוסף וישחטו שעיר עזים ויטבלו אתהכתנת בהם:

וישלחו אתכתנת הפסים ויביאו אליאביהם ויאמרו זאת מצאנו הקרנא הכתנת בנך הוא אסילא:

ויכירה ויאמר כתנת בלי חזה רעה אכלתהו טרף טרף יוסף:

ויקרע יעקב שמלתיו וישם שק במתניו ויתאבל עליבנו ימים רבים:

ויקמו כלבניו וכלבנותיו לנחמו ויקמו להנחם ויאמר כייאחד אליבני אכל שאלה ויבן אתו אביו:

והמדנים מכרו אתו אלימצרים לפוטפח סרים פרעה שר הטבחים:

