### Genesis

## Chapter 37

1Now, Jacob lived in the land where his father stayed, the land of CanaAn.  
  
2And these are the origins of Jacob:  
  
When JoSeph was 17 years old (and because he was so young), he was accompanied by his brothers (the sons of his father’s women BalLa and ZelPha) as he grazed the sheep. And [at the time], they’d been speaking about their father IsraEl in an evil way because of JoSeph, 3since Jacob loved JoSeph more than the rest of his sons (he was the son of his old age).  
  
And because [Jacob] had just made a multi-colored coat for him, 4his brothers could see that their father loved him more, so they hated [Jacob] and they never spoke to him in a peaceful way.  
  
5Then JoSeph had a dream, and he told his brothers about it.  
  
6He said:  
  
 ‘Listen to what I dreamed:  
  
 7‘I saw you bundling stalks of grain in the middle of the field; and then suddenly my bundle stood straight up, and your bundles turned around and bowed low before mine.’  
  
8So his brothers asked:  
  
 ‘[Does this mean] that you’re going to rule over us and you’re going to be our master?’  
  
Well, this dream and the things he said made them hate him even more!  
  
9Then [JoSeph] had another dream, and he told his father and brothers about it, saying:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I had another dream in which the sun, the moon, and 11 stars bowed low before me.’  
  
10Well, his father scolded him over this, and he asked:  
  
 ‘What kind of a dream is that? Do you think that your mother, brothers, and I are going to come and bow to the ground before you?’  
  
11Nevertheless, although his brothers were jealous of him, his father still paid attention to the things that he was saying.  
  
12Well, one day, JoSeph’s brothers went to SheChem to graze their father’s sheep.  
  
13And IsraEl said to JoSeph:  
  
 ‘Your brothers are grazing the flocks at SheChem and I want you to go to them.’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘Look, here I am.’  
  
14So IsraEl said:  
  
 ‘Go there to see if your brothers and the sheep are doing well, then come back and report to me.’  
  
So he sent him from the HebRon Valley to SheChem.  
  
15Well, a man later found JoSeph wandering in the fields and asked him:  
  
 ‘What are you looking for?’  
  
16And he said:  
  
 ‘I’m looking for my brothers. Tell me where they’re grazing [their flocks].’  
  
17And the man said:  
  
 ‘They’ve left here. I heard them say, Let’s go to Dothaim.’  
  
So JoSeph went after his brothers, and he found them in Dothaim. 18However, they had spotted him in the distance before he got there, so they got together and wickedly started talking about killing him!  
  
19They were saying to each other:  
  
 ‘Look, here comes the dreamer! 20Come on, let’s kill him and then throw his [body] into a ravine. We can say, An evil wild animal ate him… Then let’s see what his dreams amount to!’  
  
21But when ReuBen heard this, he saved [JoSeph] from them by saying:  
  
 ‘Let’s not kill him.’  
  
22Then [he suggested]:  
  
 ‘Don’t shed [his] blood; let’s throw him into one of these deep crevices in the desert… But don’t lay a hand on him.’  
  
([ReuBen] said this so that he could save [JoSeph] from them and return him safely to his father).  
  
  
23Well, when JoSeph reached his brothers, they took off the multi-colored coat that he was wearing, 24then they threw him into a deep crevice that was empty and didn’t have any water.  
  
25And after that, they sat down to eat some bread.  
  
Thereafter, when they looked up, they noticed {Look!} an IshMaElite caravan that was coming from GileAd (their camels were loaded down with spices, resin, and myrrh that they were carrying to Egypt).  
  
26And Judah said to his brothers:  
  
 ‘What profit would it bring us if we kill our brother and just cover it up? 27Let’s sell him to these IshMaElites instead. We don’t want to lay a hand on him, because he’s our brother and our own flesh.’  
  
Well, his brothers listened to this. 28So, as the merchants of MidiAn were traveling by, [his brothers] pulled JoSeph out of the crevice and sold him to the IshMaElites for 20 gold coins… And [the IshMaElites] took JoSeph [with them] down to Egypt.  
  
  
29Then when ReuBen later returned to the crevice and saw that JoSeph wasn’t there, he started ripping his clothes!  
  
30So he went to his brothers and said:  
  
 ‘The boy isn’t [there]… Where do I have to go [to find him]?’  
  
31Well after that, the men killed a young goat and dipped JoSeph’s coat in its blood. 32Then they took JoSeph’s multi-colored coat to their father and said:  
  
 ‘We found this… Do you recognize it as your son’s coat or not?’  
  
33Well, he recognized it and said:  
  
 ‘It’s my son’s coat! An evil wild animal has surely eaten him… A wild animal has carried off JoSeph!’  
  
34Then Jacob tore his clothes and covered the lower part of his body with sackcloth; and thereafter, he spent a long time mourning over his son. 35Although all of his sons and daughters went there to comfort him, he didn’t want to be comforted. He said:  
  
 ‘I’ll go to my grave mourning my son!’  
  
And his father kept crying over him.  
  
36Well, when they got to Egypt, the MidiAnites sold JoSeph to Potiphar, PharaOh’s councilor and captain of the guard.