**CHAPTER** **37**

*Joseph’s dreams: he is sold by his brethren, and carried into Egypt.*

**1** And Jacob dwelt in the land of Chanaan wherein his father sojourned.

**2** And these are his generations: Joseph, when he was sixteen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren, being but a boy: and he was with the sons of Bala and of Zelpha his father’s wives: and he accused his brethren to his father of a most wicked crime.

**3** Now Israel loved Joseph above all his sons, because he had him in his old age: and he made him a coat of divers colours.

**4** And his brethren seeing that he was loved by his father, more than all his sons, hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

**5** Now it fell out also that he told his brethren a dream, that he had dreamed: which occasioned them to hate him the more.

**6** And he said to them: Hear my dream which I dreamed.

**7** I thought we were binding sheaves in the field: and my sheaf arose as it were, and stood, and your sheaves standing about, bowed down before my sheaf.

**8** His brethren answered: Shalt thou be our king? or shall we be subject to thy dominion? Therefore this matter of his dreams and words ministered nourishment to their envy and hatred.

**9** He dreamed also another dream, which he told his brethren, saying: I saw in a dream, as it were the sun, and the moon, and eleven stars worshipping me.

**10** And when he had told this to his father and brethren, his father rebuked him, and said: What meaneth this dream that thou hast dreamed? shall I and thy mother, and thy brethren worship thee upon the earth?

**11** His brethren therefore envied him: but his father considered the thing with himself.

**12** And when his brethren abode in Sechem feeding their father’s flocks,

**13** Israel said to him: Thy brethren feed the sheep in Sichem: come, I will send thee to them. And when he answered:

**14** I am ready: he said to him: Go, and see if all things be well with thy brethren, and the cattle: and bring me word again what is doing. So being sent from the vale of Hebron, he came to Sichem:

**15** And a man found him there wandering in the field, and asked what he sought.

**16** But he answered: I seek my brethren; tell me where they feed the flocks.

**17** And the man said to him: They are departed from this place: for I heard them say: Let us go to Dothain. And Joseph went forward after his brethren, and found them in Dothain.

**18** And when they saw him afar off, before he came nigh them, they thought to kill him.

**19** And said one to another: Behold the dreamer cometh.

**20** Come, let us kill him, and cast him into some old pit: and we will say: Some evil beast hath devoured him: and then it shall appear what his dreams avail him:

**21** And Ruben hearing this, endeavoured to deliver him out of their hands, and said:

**22** Do not take away his life, nor shed his blood: but cast him into this pit, that is in the wilderness, and keep your hands harmless: now he said this, being desirous to deliver him out of their hands and to restore him to his father.

**23** And as soon as he came to his brethren, they forthwith stript him of his outside coat, that was of divers colours:

**24** And cast him into an old pit, where there was no water.

**25** And sitting down to eat bread, they saw some Ismaelites on their way coming from Galaad, with their camels, carrying spices, and balm, and myrrh to Egypt.

**26** And Juda said to his brethren: What will it profit us to kill our brother, and conceal his blood?

**27** It is better that he be sold to the Ismaelites, and that our hands be not defiled: for he is our brother and our flesh. His brethren agreed to his words.

**28** And when the Madianite merchants passed by, they drew him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ismaelites, for twenty pieces of silver: and they led him into Egypt.

**29** And Ruben, returning to the pit, found not the boy:

**30** And rending his garments he went to his brethren, and said: The boy doth not appear and whither shall I go?

**31** And they took his coat, and dipped it in the blood of a kid, which they had killed:

**32** Sending some to carry it to their father, and to say: This we have found: see whether it be thy son’s coat, or not.

**33** And the father acknowledging it, said: It is my son’s coat, an evil wild beast hath eaten him, a beast hath devoured Joseph.

**34** And tearing his garments, he put on sackcloth, mourning for his son a long time.

**35** And all his children being gathered together to comfort their father in his sorrow, he would not receive comfort, but said: I will go down to my son into hell, mourning. And whilst he continued weeping,

**36** The Madianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Putiphar, an eunuch of Pharao, captain of the soldiers.