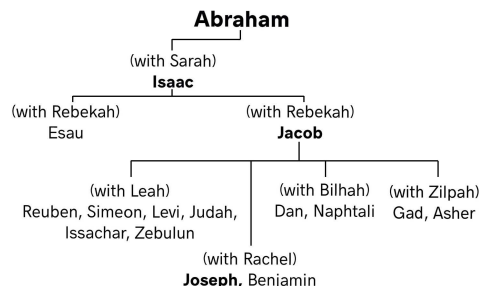


THE DARK & HIDDEN PLACES

GENESIS 37 | ERIC SIMPSON | JANUARY 31, 2021

12 sons of Jacob = 12 tribes of Israel



Genesis 37:2-4

²This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers...and he brought their father a bad report about them. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age and he made a richly ornamented a robe for him. ⁴When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Genesis 37:5-8

⁵Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. ⁶He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." ⁸His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

Genesis 37:9-11

⁹Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" ¹¹His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

- The combination of youthfulness and giftedness can produce foolishness.

"The young have become a model of emulation for the older population, rather than the other way around."
– Dr. Robert Harrison

Genesis 37:12-13

¹²Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, ¹³and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied.

Genesis 37:17-20

¹⁷So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. ¹⁸But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. ¹⁹"Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. ²⁰"Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

Genesis 37:21-24

²¹When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. ²²"Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father. ²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe-- the richly ornamented robe he was wearing--²⁴and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

- God builds maturity through some of our deepest valleys and darkest days.

"How do we know we are in 'the dark night'? Our good feelings of God's presence evaporate. We feel the door of heaven has been shut as we pray. Darkness helplessness, weariness, a sense of failure or defeat, barrenness, emptiness, dryness descend upon us." – Pete Scazzero