

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

BUT GOD

A STUDY OF THE
LIFE OF JOSEPH

"BUT GOD..."
GENESIS 37:1-36

MAY 23, 2021

Introduction: Today, as we begin our study in the life of Joseph, we are going to discover how God uses the dreams and disappointments we experience in childhood to shape our future.

I. **Jacob Leans Toward Joseph** (Genesis 37:1-4)

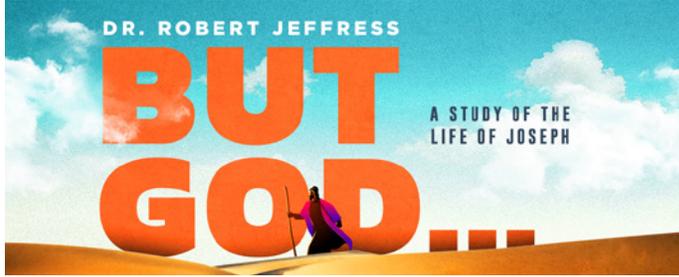
Genesis 37:2 "These are the records of the generations of Jacob. Joseph, when seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers while he was still a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father."

Genesis 37:4 "His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms."

II. **Joseph Dreams Of Greatness** (Genesis 37:5-11)

Genesis 37:6-8 ⁶ "He said to them, 'Please listen to this dream which I have had; ⁷ for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf.' ⁸ Then his brothers said to him, 'Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?' So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words."

Genesis 37:9-10 ⁹ "Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, 'Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars were bowing down to me.' ¹⁰ He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, 'What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?'"



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III. The Brothers Scheme Against Joseph (Genesis 37:12-35)

Genesis 37:23-25 ²³ “So it came about, when Joseph reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the varicolored tunic that was on him; ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it. ²⁵ Then they sat down to eat a meal. And as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and myrrh, on their way to bring them down to Egypt.”

Genesis 37:34-35 ³⁴ “So Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵ Then all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. And he said, ‘Surely I will go down to Sheol in mourning for my son.’ So his father wept for him.”

IV. God Intervenes For Joseph (Genesis 37:36)

Genesis 37:36 “Meanwhile, the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, Pharaoh’s officer, the captain of the bodyguard.”

V. Joseph And Jesus Were Both...

A. Favored Sons (Genesis 37:3; Matthew 3:17)

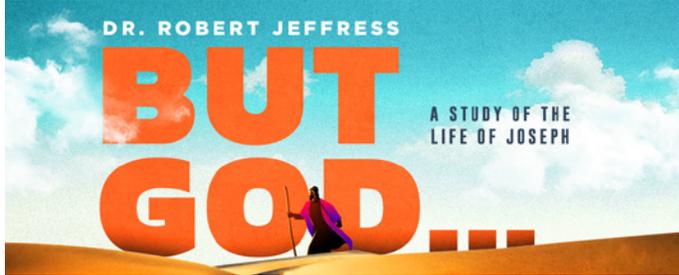
Genesis 37:3 “Now Israel [Jacob] loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic.”

Matthew 3:17 “And behold, a voice out of the heavens [God] said, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.’”

B. Despised Brothers (Genesis 37:4; Matthew 27:18)

Genesis 37:4 “His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.”

Matthew 27:18 “For he [Jesus] knew that because of envy they [people before Pilate] had handed Him over.”



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C. Humiliated Leaders (Genesis 37:23; Matthew 27:28-29)

Genesis 37:23 "So it came about when Joseph reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the varicolored tunic that was on him."

Matthew 27:28-29 ²⁸ "They [Roman soldiers] stripped Him [Jesus] and put a scarlet robe on Him. ²⁹ And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'"

D. Resurrected Leaders (Genesis 37:28; Acts 2:32)

Genesis 37:28 "Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt."

Acts 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses."

VI. Principles About Suffering

Suffering Involves...

A. Surprise

James 1:2 "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials."

B. Loss

C. Disillusionment

D. Deliverance

Psalms 138:8 "The LORD will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O LORD, is everlasting; do not forsake the works of Your hands."

Conclusion