

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH (PART ONE)

“Joseph dreamed a dream” – Genesis 37:5

HIS FAMILY

His father was the legendary figure who saw God’s ladder, wrestled with an angel until the day broke, and was the man whose name was changed from Jacob (the deceiver) to Israel (Prince with God (Genesis 28:12, 32:24, 28). His eleven brothers were the legendary progenitors of the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 49:28). His great-grandfather Abraham was the Friend of God. Few could match his lineage.

HIS MOTHER

Her mother was Rachel. Even though she died when he was a youngster, she had a tremendous impact on his life’s journey (Genesis 35:19). This was because of her relationship with his father, Jacob. It was love at first sight for Jacob (Genesis 29:1-11). Within thirty days, he had agreed to work for her father, Laban, for seven years with her hand in marriage for his wages (Genesis 29:14-18). Those years passed so rapidly that to Jacob, they seemed like a few days (Genesis 29:20). When Laban deceived him and forced Jacob to marry her elder sister, Leah unwittingly, he quickly agreed to work seven more years for Rachel (Genesis 29:21-28). Joseph was the first son of their union (Genesis 30:22-24).

HIS FATHER’S FAVORITE

This was undoubtedly at the heart of his father's deep love for him. Scripture also credits his affection for him *"because he was the son of his old age"* (Genesis 37:3). Jacob made no attempt to hide his love for Joseph, epitomized by the unique gift of a coat of many colors (Genesis 37:3). His brothers were so jealous they couldn’t speak a peaceable word to Joseph (Genesis 37:4).

JACOB’S DREAMS

Joseph's prideful boasting of dreams that showed his brothers and even his parents bowing to him provoked further rage (Genesis 37:5-11). Their envy drove them to distraction.

A SPECIAL, HORRIBLE, YET DIVINELY APPOINTED DAY

All of this is the back story to the terrible day Joseph was sent by his father to his sheep-watching brethren in Dothan (Genesis 37:12-17). They saw their opportunity and seized it (Genesis 37:18). His brother Reuben intervened and saved Joseph’s life but did not see him safely home (Genesis 37:19-21). With Reuben distracted, his brothers ripped the coat off him. They cast him into a pit and sold him as a slave to traders (Genesis 37:23-28). Can you imagine what that day felt like to Joseph as he was forcibly taken to a foreign land? Hard times are hard to endure and understand. But this horrible day was also divinely appointed. It was a day that would eventually result in many being blessed. Remember that in your hard times. God has a purpose. Trust Him.