Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 1 – 2

* Oh man…he is a little ***tattletaler!*** HA! Literally, in the Hebrew, Joseph told his father of his brothers’ *evils.* I want to say, *“Not a smart move, Joe,”* but I’m not sure. We’re not told **what** they were doing or **not doing** or *whatever*…it could be that Jacob needed to know but at any rate, Joseph is a tale barer on his brothers. Now, as we follow Joseph from this chapter until basically the end of the Book of Genesis we are going to see quite an honorable man…and so it really could be that they needed to be told on…
* Joseph is going to be ***hated*** by his brothers, hated unto death…only because of his oldest brother will he not be killed…but he will be sold, for 20 pieces of silver into slavery. He’ll be imprisoned and eventually released. He will be tempted and he will resist. He will become the savior of his starving family…**there’s a remarkable picture of Jesus in Joseph** that we’re going to see and I love this, one of the most outstanding attributes that we have to pay attention to as we watch Joseph is this…
* Through all of the junk that happens to Joseph at no fault of his own, through being *hated, sold, imprisoned, wrongly accused and ultimately forgotten*, **we won’t read once of him complaining.** We will not see him harden his heart or character. He doesn’t compromise…he doesn’t stop trusting God…and in the end, **he rules Egypt and saves his family**…***he is the triumph of faith…***
* Folks give up so easy today…***give in and give themselves away***…when God is always wanting to make the history out of you…make you the one they would write 13 chapters on in the 50 chapter story of so many lives…Have you been sold because of hate? Have you been imprisoned due to accusatory erroneous charges? Have you been forgotten and forsaken by everyone who ever loved you? No! **That lady just took your parking spot at the Walmart at you lose your religion REM!!** HA!
* Joseph is a picture of the triumph over any circumstance that we can have as we keep our eyes on God and press forward no matter what….AND…Joseph is a picture of Jesus as he is about his father’s business…taking the loss, taking the hate, taking the fact that He was sold, taking the prison and yet ***rising to become the Savior of His family…***

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 3 – 4

* This *tunic* or *cloak* was more than just a decoration for Joseph. It had cultural meaning and was a clear message to his brothers. You don’t make a fancy cloak for a man destined to work in the fields…this tunic messaged a **blessing**…that Joseph was the next in line, the man of the house, the manager, the boss…even the birthright successor of Jacob…and the situation it created was a mess!
* First we read that Jacob love him the most. *Bad move dad.* I understand that Joseph appears to be more honorable than most of his brothers but I also know that the Biblical truth of *where your treasure is your heart will be also* stands. We cannot favor one kid over the other and if we do then it’s time to invest more in the child that we love less. ***We love less because we are giving less***…spend a little more time with them.
* Maybe this is a hot spot with me because *this was me*…my father despised me when I was younger…my mother had filled my head with hate and lies towards him and I was like Joseph…***big mouth…still am…***and he saw me as a momma’s boy, as weak…and he favored my sister. Who was and in many ways is still very *hardened and strong.*  When I became strong in my teen years, a good wrestler, and broke away from my mom…that’s when he started to show me affection and warm up to me…and when he died we had a great relationship and I forgave him for the years of hurt…but I resented my sister as a little boy for the love she got from dad…
* Notice it says here, *“They COULD not speak peaceably to him.”* Not that they WOULD not…and I can resonate with that…Jacob created a situation in his sons by favoring one over the other…careful that we don’t do the same…

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 5 – 9

* *“They hated him even more,”* is repeated in verses 5 and 8 and so it is getting very bad! *Why tell them?* Is he not perceptive? Does he not see that telling them his dreams is not good for him? Not sure…perhaps it was that the dreams were ***so vivid*** and ***so real*** that they haunted Joseph…and he had to tell them…You and I, outside looking in, can see clearly why he had to tell them his dreams.
* ***Joseph is a clear and remarkable picture of Jesus***…the sheath, the wheat speaks of *earthly resources*…while the sun, moon, and stars (and even *“this time”*) speak of heaven and authority…and as Jesus was rejected by His brothers and hated more and more by them, the Jewish elite, Sadducees and Pharisees…there is a day yet ahead where God will show that *“Heaven is Mine and earth is My footstool”* as, *“Every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father.”*
* These dreams not only speak to what is ahead for Joseph’s family and brothers in Genesis but they also clearly point to what is ahead in the story of **THIS** time…and second, if he hadn’t told them his dreams then they wouldn’t have been recorded as that pointer, that type, that picture of what is to come. But telling his brothers his dreams doesn’t help him become more popular…
* But neither did it for Jesus…as He shared His dreams with the world…, “*If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me…He who believes in Me as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”* His dream that no man would thirst…**And they mocked Him.** *“This is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”* His dream…**and they spat on Him.** Hated Him all the more…

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 10 – 11

* I’m sure because Jacob was a dreamer himself…

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 12 – 17

* Now that’s interesting because it is a bit of an odd scene…Joseph is ***wandering*** a bit…trying to find his way and it makes me think of how ***out of place Jesus was here on earth.*** John 6:38, Jesus says, *“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”* Just like Joseph, Jesus was doing the will of His Father and just like Joseph, he went to a land in which He wandered…well Jesus *wondered*…wondered in grief at what had happened…and wondered in hope at the faith He was able to find in some…
* And Joseph says, *“I am seeking my brothers…”* Jesus said, *“The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost…”*  And he finds them in ***Dothan***…meaning, *“Place of two wells.”* It just can’t be more perfect…as this world is not a place of a *thousand paths*…but a place of ***only two***…one well of water is poisoned…one well of water gives life…there are no other wells on this earth…

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 18 – 22

* Reuben is a type, a picture of *Pontius Pilate*….as Pilate argued for the sake of saving Jesus, finding no fault in Him…but eventually delivered him into a pit…something of punishment and shame but not death just as Pilate ordered Jesus to be publically flogged.

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 23 – 24

* Jesus was also stripped of His robes and the soldiers cast lots for his clothes as was prophesied of the Messiah in Psalm 22:18. Jesus was abandoned by His brothers on the cross and thrown into an empty pit…a tomb that had never been used…

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 25 – 28

* Joseph arises out of the pit, a picture of the resurrection, and as Jesus the Messiah is given to the nation of Israel, He is again rejected and therefore He is sold (if you will) to the gentiles through the ministry of Paul the Apostle…***such a clear parallel***…but this is how Joseph gets to Egypt…

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 29 – 36

* The grief of the father…nothing helps, nothing consoles…and in that we feel **the magnitude** of what it cost the Father to give His only Son to save us…