



Joseph's Dreams

Sept 18

INTRODUCTION: Having considered Esau's descendants we resume the main story of Genesis considering the elect line from Gen 3:15. It is about what Jacob produced (v. 2a). While he is largely featured in the section on Isaac, Genesis ends by focusing upon his sons, specifically Joseph (a type of Christ). His sons advance the story of the Bible and prepare us for Exodus. Today we're introduced into the family dynamics.

REVIEW: [Genesis, pt. II](#) (be cautious with other videos)

KEY POINT: pride,

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Gen 36, Esau's Descendants)

- Why is a whole chapter dedicated to Esau?
- Who was Esau/the nation of Edom?
- What lessons can be gleaned from this chapter?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Andrew Patterson)

- What was the sermon about?
- What were the key points?
- Key takeaways...? Questions to keep considering?

READ: Gen 37:1-11

QUESTIONS:

1. Remember, Jacob had sons from Leah, Rachel, Bilhah and Zilpah. Joseph is the oldest son by Rachel but the second youngest overall.
2. V. 2- Joseph is 17. **What were you like at 17? What can be typical, though not necessarily so, amongst 17-year-old males?**
3. **Even when he may be right, how does youthful pride span this passage?**
4. *He is the youth helping his older brothers and 'brings a bad report of them to their father.'* This is Joseph's first act of alienation. Given his later righteousness it is probable he is in the right. **However, what is a tattle-tale, why aren't they liked and**

how can we avoid being one while still remaining truthful?

5. V. 3- Given the troubles amongst his parents and with His wives, mightn't Jacob had learned a thing or two about the dangers of favouritism?
6. *Jacob's favouritism is already present in Gen 33:2.* **While it is understandable to relate to one child more than another, how does partiality cause family troubles? More broadly, how is partiality a sin? (c.f. Ja 2).**
7. What value would such a coat have had? How would it have singled Joseph out and been a constant reminder?
8. V.4- What was the consequence of the bad report+the coat?
9. **V. 5- If your brothers already hate you, is Joseph's action the wisest? Did he show discretion? How do you gain it? (Mt 10:16).** V. 5 and 8- note the double hatred.
10. **How can we discern if a dream is from the Lord or us/Satan? The Bible lists many dreams by which God communicates with us. Biblical examples? Personal examples? Why must subjective forms of revelation be tested against God's Word?**
11. **Vv. 6-8a- What was dream # 1 about and what did the brothers discern it meant?**
12. **Vv. 9 & 10-What was dream # 2 about and what did his father and brothers discern it meant?**
13. *Again, discretion and even youthful pride.* However, what pride were the brothers exhibiting?
14. *A double dream is meant to convey certainty of fulfilment.* **How were these dreams fulfilled? If it hadn't been prophesied, it could have all been taken as chance.**
15. Also, because it happened twice, did Joseph discern these were from God? Even if God is calling us to do something, how must we still exercise discretion/humility?
16. *This time Joseph also told it to his father who rebukes him (v. 10); Joseph was after all the second youngest son of 17!*
17. *While he rebuked Joseph, having experienced God enough, he also kept it in mind.* **How is this like Lk 2:19?**
18. The brothers first hate Joseph. Now they are jealous of him, why?

19. How do we see God's providence in this passage/ending of Genesis? How is His providence seen in our own lives?
20. *God uses this family turmoil to lead to salvation. The story prepares us for Joseph's sale into slavery.*

NEXT WEEK: Sept 25- Members' Meeting, no LGs