

JOSEPH THE DREAMER

THIS STORY IS FOUND IN GENESIS 37



The story of Joseph is one of the most exciting tales in all the Bible. As a boy, Joseph lived with his family in the land of Canaan, where they farmed and raised lots of sheep, cattle, donkeys, and camels. When their grain got ripe every spring, they would all work together to cut the grain so that it could dry. Then they tied up the grain in bundles, called sheaves.

Joseph had eleven brothers and one sister, and they didn't get along very well. He was the favorite of his father, Jacob, and that made his brothers very jealous. Jacob gave Joseph all kinds of favors, and when he made him a special coat of many colors, things only got worse.

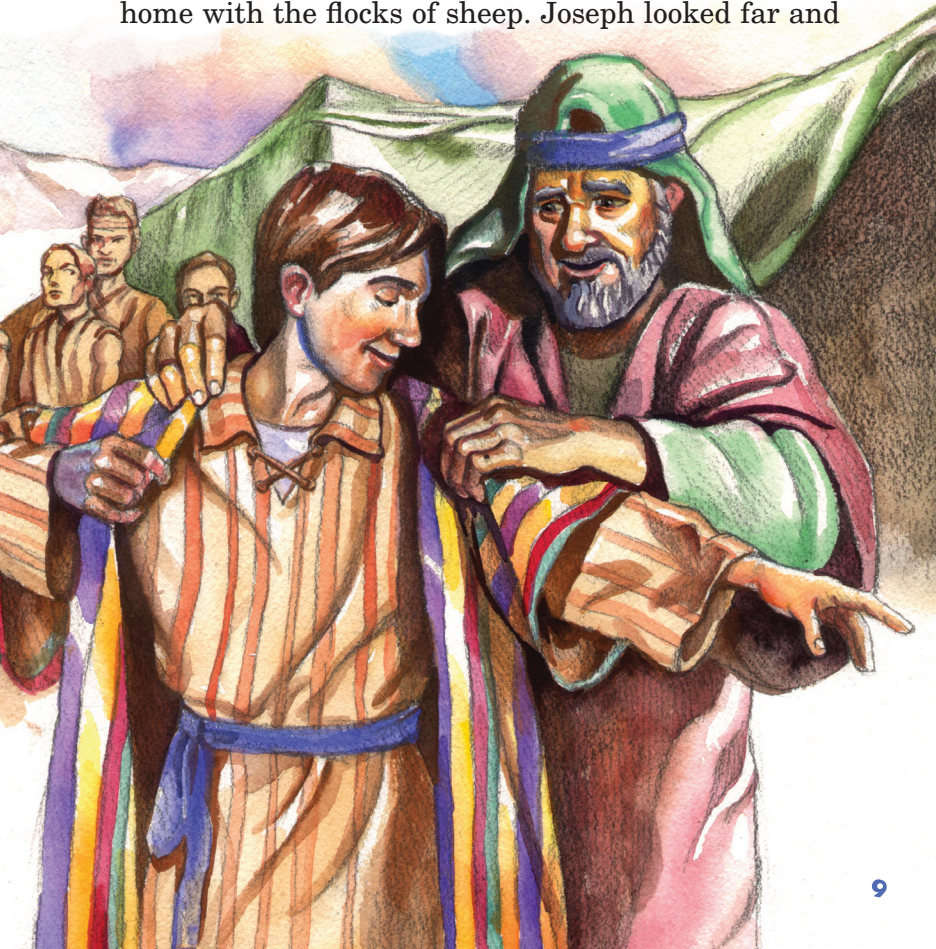
One day Joseph told his brothers he had a dream that they were all harvesting grain in the fields. As they tied up their bundles of grain, his brothers' bundles suddenly bowed down to Joseph's bundle.

This made his brothers angry because in those days people thought dreams were very important. "Are you crazy?" they shouted at him. "We're older than you! You will never be the boss of us!"



Then Joseph had a second dream in which the sun, moon, and twelve stars bowed down to him, and he told this one to his brothers too. "I suppose you think the sun is our father, the moon our mother, and we are the stars!" they growled at him. "This dream of yours is ridiculous and worse than the first dream you had."

Later, Joseph's father sent him on a trip with some food to find his ten older brothers, who were away from home with the flocks of sheep. Joseph looked far and





wide and finally found them near the town of Dothan. Unfortunately, he was wearing the coat of many colors at the time, and that made his brothers angry when they saw him coming.

Two of his brothers, Simeon and Levi, wanted to kill him, but his brother Reuben said they didn't dare. "He's our brother," Reuben argued. As Joseph drew near, they tore off his coat and threw him in a pit.

Joseph was shocked that his brothers would do such a thing and begged them to let him out, but they wouldn't listen. Instead, they sat down to eat the food he had brought.

While they were deciding exactly what to do with Joseph, a caravan of Ishmaelite traders came along, and that gave Joseph's brother Judah an idea. Why not sell Joseph as a slave? So they bargained with the traders and agreed to sell him for twenty pieces of silver.

Joseph was frantic when he realized what they were going to do. "Please, don't sell me as a slave!" he screamed, but they had no compassion and sold him anyway.

Before he knew it, Joseph was walking behind a camel on the road to Egypt. He was only seventeen or eighteen years old and was headed for the life of a slave. The very idea terrified him.

As the caravan traveled south toward Egypt, it passed so near to Joseph's home that he could almost see his father's tents in the distance. He wanted to run

away to be with his father and little brother, Benjamin, but he was tied up and couldn't escape.

To be so near his home made him cry bitterly. Would he ever see his father and little brother again? When he thought of what it would be like to be a slave, it made him want to panic, but he decided to pray instead. He made up his mind to trust God and put himself in his heavenly Father's care.

Keep reading to discover how God watches over those who trust Him. As God was with Joseph, He will be with us too.

