

## Genesis 36-37 – Life Of Joseph I.

### I. Esau's Family

The wives, sons, and daughters of Esau are mentioned here. Notable are two; The Edomites and Amalekites who hated the Israelites. The Edomites refused the Israelites passage through their land in [Numbers 20:21](#) on their journey to the Promised Land. Herod the Great - the one who tried to kill the young child Jesus - was an Edomite.

### II. Joseph's Dreams.

Jacob is at fault as a father loving Joseph more than the others, making him a tunic of many colours; which signified a position of favor, princely standing and birthright. Since he was the favoured, his brothers were stumbled into hatred.

Joseph narrates his two dreams; his brothers sheaves bowing to his and the sun, moon and eleven stars too, which he may not have understood, yet it became a source of more hatred. The brothers and father seem to understand perfectly the meaning of the dreams: one day Joseph would **reign over** them and **have dominion over** them.

Joseph was obedient to his father's sending and caring to go see the welfare of his brothers. Joseph was hated, envied and eventually wanted dead, on account of his dreams. Rueben tried to save him in vain.

The sinful character of these brothers is clear - they could sit down and enjoy food while their hearts were bent on murdering their brother. This is a demonstration of the depravity of the human heart.

They considered that their brother was only worth **twenty shekels of silver**, cheap. He was sold to the Ishmaelites, then to the Midianites, descendants of Abraham, then to Potiphar in Egypt.

They cover their through deception to Jacob concerning Joseph's fate. We see the sinful progression from hatred, to envy, to murder and then to deception. This shows the cruelty of the sons of Israel was not directed only towards the favored son, but also towards the father who favored him.

Remember Jacob tricked his father by killing a goat purporting to be Esua, not his sons killed a goat to cover up their sin.

i. Parenting:

**Ephesians 6:4** - *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

**Colossians 3:21** - *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

- Love all children equally.
- Priest - leading them to know God.
- Protector - watching over them against any dangers.
- Provider – looking out for their needs.
- Teacher and trainer – helping them learn and develop skills.
- Play mate – having fun together.
- Best friend – the closest companion.

ii. Hatred...a strong sinful dislike.

**Leviticus 19:17** - *'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.*

**1 John 4:20** - *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.*

iii. Envy...a resentful longing for someone else's position or possessions.

**Proverbs 14:30** - *A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones.*

**James 3:16** - *For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*

Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ;

**John 7:5** - *For even His brothers did not believe in Him.*

**Mark 15:10** - *For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.*

In some ways the story will get worse. This is going a long test of character and faith but also preparation for greater thing. Will Joseph pass? How about us?