

**Series "In The Beginning...God"**  
**"Sold Into Slavery"**  
**Genesis 37:12-36**  
**Study-65**

**Genesis 37:12-14, 18-20, 23-24, 28, 31-36**

**Contrast - Obedience of Joseph and hatred of the brothers!**

**Bitterness Is A Sin: Hebrews 12:14-15; Ephesians 4:31-32**

**The Root of the Bitterness of Jacob's brothers comes to full blossom.**

***Joseph's story will show how God's hidden providence works through men's evil for their ultimate good.***

**Genesis 37-50 Joseph 1/3 of Genesis records great details about Joseph.**

**Genesis 37:1-11 Introduces us to Joseph:**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "The Root Of Bitterness Will Blossom Into Anger And Malice That Will Result In Destruction."

- 1. Verses 12-17 Sent To His Brothers**
- 2. Verses 18-28 Sold By His Brothers**
- 3. Verses 29-36 Suffering By His Brothers**

**1. Verses 12-17 Sent To His Brothers:**

**Genesis 37:12 Then Context - Genesis 37:1-11 Introduces us to Joseph:**  
Joseph's Faithfulness, (Jacob's) father's Love for Joseph, & The Lord's Choice:  
**11 His brothers were jealous of him,**  
**(Faithfulness of Joseph Versus The Treachery of His Brothers)**

**his brothers went to pasture their father's flock in Shechem.**

**We can come up with all sorts of excuses for being in the world.**  
The **brothers** were not doing well spiritually. **(NLT) Genesis 37:2**

**Verses 13-14 Father Sent The Son:**

**"Are not your brothers pasturing the flock in Shechem?"**

**Genesis 37:17** tells us they were in **Dothan**. **Shechem** – 60 miles north,  
**Dothan** – 20 miles further north. Total of about 80 miles north.

**Come, and I will send you to them." And he said to him, "I will go."**  
What a beautiful picture this is—a Father's love for his way-word sons.

**Genesis 37:2;**  
**John 3:16**

**Genesis 37:14 "Go now and see about the welfare of your brothers**

Who better to check the status of the family than Joseph?  
Joseph doomed from the start - **Genesis 37:4**

It was God's plan to get Joseph down into Egypt. **Psalm 105:17**

**So he sent him from the valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.**  
Joseph was living in **Hebron** – "*Fellowship*" 20 miles South of Jerusalem.

**Genesis 37:15 A man found him,**  
A possible picture of the Holy Spirit.  
He does not call attention to Himself; He points the direction to go.

**Genesis 37:16-17 I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'**  
Notice how this man gave the direction to Joseph. **John 16:13**

**So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.**  
**Hebrews 10:7;**  
**John 1:11**

When you look at the cities, you begin to see the names speak about where the sons went wrong:

**Hebron** – *Fellowship*  
This is where the boys should have stayed.

**Shechem** – *Strength*  
When we leave fellowship with God, we lose the strength

**Dothan** – *Two wells*  
This city was the promise of two wells of water, not.

## **2. Verses 18-28 Sold By His Brothers:**

**Genesis 37:18 they plotted against him to put him to death.**  
**(Envy & Hatred is lethal)** Bitterness now leads to a desire to murder.

**Jesus Warned Of The Dangers Of Anger: Matthew 5:21-22**

**Apostle Paul While In Prison Had Critics Motivated Through Envy:**  
**Philippians 1:15-17**

**Genesis 37:19 "Here comes this dreamer!**  
Or literally, "*Here comes the dream expert or specialist of dreams. The master of dreams:*" **Later, dreams would deliver Joseph!**

**The Key - they would not bow their knee to him!**  
**(Rejected God's Choice)**  
This was the root cause of Israel's rejection of Jesus.

**Genesis 37:20 let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits;**

**Jesus told a parable of vine growers/sharecroppers that refused to pay the owner rent: Matthew 21:37-38**

**'A wild beast devoured him.'**

The deception that bitterness brings into the family.

**Then let us see what will become of his dreams!"**

Like Isaac wanting the blessing for Esau! Instead of Jacob  
**(Genesis 27:2-4) Proverbs 14:9**

**Verses 21-22 Reuben's Intervention:**

**Reuben** was the oldest son that had committed fornication with Jacob's concubine **Genesis 35:22**

**Let us not take his life."**

Literally, *"We shall not take his life!"* or *"Shed no blood!"*

Reuben was half-hearted, and he was afraid to speak out on behalf of Joseph.

**Pilate (Too Little Too Late)**

**Genesis 37:22 "Shed no blood.**

*"You shed no blood!"*

Ruben attempted to help.

**Genesis 42:24** Joseph held Simeon in prison instead of Ruben.

**Verses 23-24 Joseph Abused:**

**Genesis 37:23 stripped Joseph of his tunic,**  
*"skinning an animal" bruised and beaten*

**Twenty years later, the brothers remembered what Joseph went through:**

**Genesis 42:21** Guilt for 20 years.

**Genesis 37:24** Possibly one of the empty wells of **Dothan**.

**Genesis 37:25 Then they sat down to eat a meal.**

**1 Timothy 4:2; Jeremiah 17:9**

**Ishmaelites** were the descendants of Ishmael—Abraham's son through Hagar.

**and balm and myrrh, on their way to bring them down to Egypt.**

This was going to be used by God to get Joseph into the palace of Egypt.

**Myrrh** - Used to embalm the dead. Gifted to Jesus by the wise men,

**Matthew 2:11**

**Genesis 37:26 Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood?"**

**Judah** now comes to the rescue of Joseph.

Judah is the tribe that Jesus came through.

**Genesis 37:27 Great plan:**  
**not likely to be set free, make some money out of it!**

**Genesis 37:28 Midianite traders passed by,**  
God wanted Joseph down in Egypt.

**Midianites** descendants of Abraham from his concubine **Keturah**  
**Genesis 25:1-2 Midianites were Ishmaelites)**  
**Ishmaelites (Genesis 16:15; 25:2)**

**sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver.**  
**Leviticus 27:5; Proverbs 27:4**

**Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt.**  
It appears now that all is lost for Joseph.

### **3. Verses 29-36 Suffering By His Brothers:**

**Genesis 37:29-30** Too little too late!

**Genesis 37:31** Jacob had used goats to deceive Isaac  
**Galatians 6:7-8**

**Genesis 37:32-33** deceiving their own father.

**Genesis 37:33-34** The Brothers' bitterness affects Jacob's life.

**Genesis 37:35** The term **Sheol** – "*the nether world*" grave. After death, the soul/spirit was in God's hand. This is not fully understood until the resurrection.  
**2 Timothy 1:10**

**So his father wept for him.**  
Jacob grieved for 20 years. **Genesis 42:36**

**Genesis 37:36 Potiphar, Pharaoh's officer, the captain of the bodyguard.**  
Official of executions, slaughterers, or executioners for Pharaoh. **Romans 8:28**

### **Application:**

1. Sin May Hinder God's Plans, But It Cannot Ultimately Defeat His Purposes.  
Sin Is Never Necessary, Though It May Be Used And Overruled By God:
2. It Is Impossible To Bring Good "Out Of" Evil; For There Never Has Been Any Good In Evil, But Good Can Be Brought About In Spite Of Evil. Joseph And His Brothers Are An Example Of This: **Genesis 50:20**