

FROM A DREAM TO A NIGHTMARE (Genesis 37:5-36)

- **James 1:2-5 ... Trials are ...** _____ in life (1:2a), _____ (1:2b), designed for your _____ (1:2c-4), needed to _____ (1:3), _____ to with a _____ by embracing God's _____ or _____ to after the flesh with unbelief, self-pity, becoming bitter or anxious or losing hope, etc.

F. The Key PERSON and PLOT of this Chapter: **JOSEPH & GOD'S PROVIDENCE (37:2a)**

9. **His 1st dream and his brother's reaction:** *Now Joseph had a _____, and he told it to his brothers {probably out of naivety or youthful enthusiasm}; and they _____.* 6 *So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: 7 "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright {erect}; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and _____ to my sheaf." (37:5-7) Why use "grain" in this dream? This symbolic dream would be literally & prophetically fulfilled. The means of fulfilling these dreams, however, was a mystery. How should we understand God speaking in dreams then & today?*
10. **His brother's understanding and reaction to his dream:** *And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed _____ us? Or shall you indeed have **dominion over us**?" So they _____ {why?} for {1} his dreams and for {2} his words. (37:8) Did they understand the dream? If so, why did they not welcome them as God's revealed will? How does God view "hatred"?*
11. **His 2nd dream & he told it again to his brothers and also to his father and we observe their reactions:** *Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars _____." So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father **rebuked him** and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother {probably Leah} and I and your brothers indeed come to **bow down to the earth before you**?" 11 *And his brothers _____ him, but his father **kept the matter in mind**. (37:9-11) Consider Rev. 12:1-6. Why a 2nd dream? What is envy? What did they envy? Who also was envied & mistreated?**
12. **His faithful obedience to his father.** *Then his brothers went {from Hebron north} to feed their father's flock in Shechem. 13 *And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem {remember Gen. 34}? Come, I will send you to them." So he said to him, " _____." 14 Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is {1} well with your brothers and {2} well with the flocks, and **bring back word to me**." {Remember 37:3!} So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and _____ {observe the immediate response} to Shechem {3-4 day walk, 60 miles}. (37:12-14) What do we observe about Joseph's attitude and actions toward his father? What was Jacob thinking?**
13. **His faithful, persistent seeking of his brothers:** *Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?" 16 So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks." 17 And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph _____ his brothers and found them in Dothan {10-12 miles north, close to the east-west trade route}. (37:15-17) What stands out regarding this?*
14. **His brothers' conspiracy to murder Joseph:** *Now when they **saw him afar off** {how did they recognize him?}, even before he came near them, they _____ against him to _____ {deliberately & violently kill, murder} him. 19 Then they said to one another, "Look, this _____ {his sarcastic, derisive nickname*

meaning 'master of dreams' } *is coming!* 20 "Come therefore, let us {as a group} now **kill him and cast him into some pit**; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his _____ {the underlying bitter irritation; preemptive move to thwart his dreams}!" (37:18-20) How is this different than Luke 15:20? If unchecked, what happens to mental attitude sins? What can you expect if you are faithful to the Lord's will & Word?

15. **His brother Reuben's intercession for Joseph:** *But _____* {Jacob's biological firstborn & the one who had the most to lose if the dreams came true} *heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands* {so they didn't murder him}, *and said, "Let us not kill him."* 22 *And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood* {idiom for murder}, *but* {alternative stalling plan} **cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness** {and let nature do the rest}, *and do not lay a hand on him"--* {why did he say this?} *that he might deliver* {rescue} *him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.* (37:21-22) What can we learn from this?
16. **His brothers captured Joseph and cast him in a pit:** *So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they _____* {forceful removal} *Joseph of his _____, the tunic of many colors that was on him.* 24 *Then they took him and cast him into a pit* {cistern}. *And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.* 25 *And they sat down to eat a meal.* (37:23-25) How is the callousness of the brothers revealed? What does Gen. 42:21 tell us? Is it wrong to have emotions? Does this mean we're not walking by faith?
17. **His brother Judah's proposal about Joseph:** *Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to _____.* So **Judah** {who would be part of the Messianic line by God's sovereign grace} *said to his brothers, "What profit* {financially through dishonest gain} *is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?* 27 "Come and **let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh.**" *And his brothers listened.* (37:26-27) Was it an accident?
18. **His being sold into slavery to Egypt:** *Then Midianite* {Arabian} *traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him* {probably using ropes} **out of the pit, and _____ him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver.** *And they took Joseph to Egypt.* (37:28) Where is the Lord in all this?
19. **His brother Reuben's surprise and grief at these events:** *Then Reuben returned to the pit* {as he was not present when the transaction occurred}, *and indeed Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes* {sign of grieving}. 30 *And he returned to his brothers and said, "The lad is no more; and I, where shall I go?"* {Reuben thought he would be blamed for not preserving Joseph.} (37:29-30)
20. **His brothers' deception of Jacob:** *So they took Joseph's _____, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood.* {Remember 27:15-16} 32 *Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?"* 33 *And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured* {eaten} *him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces* {the projected means of death}." (37:31-33) What happens when we cover our sins?
21. **His father, Jacob's, grieving for Joseph:** *Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist* {signs of deep grief}, *and mourned for his son many days.* 35 *And all his sons and all his daughters* {this word can mean daughters and/or daughters-in-laws} *arose to comfort him; but he _____, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus, his father wept for him.* (37:34-35) Is grief / sorrow appropriate when a loved one dies? {1 Thess. 4:13-14} What does God want to do in all our tribulations? {2 Cor. 1:3-4} Did Jacob react or respond to this trial?
22. **His plight and master in Egypt:** *Now* {meanwhile} *the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.* (37:36) Was God still in control & working out His will? How about in your life? React or respond - which is it?