

April 17, 2011

## Descendants of the Not-so-great Promise

### Genesis 36:1-43

Review the “promise” but not “blessing” that Isaac gave Esau in Gen 27:39-40

1 & 9 “These are the Generations”- the 9<sup>th</sup> *Toledoth* of Genesis’s 10.

Can you name the first 8?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_



- 2 The names do differ from those in chapter 26, could be alternate names, additional wives, etc.
- 8 “hill country of Seir”- the important point is that it’s outside of Canaan- the Promised Land is Jacob’s

## Joseph: Musicals, Myths, and Mysterious Dreams

### Genesis 37:1-36

#### *Genesis 37:1-4*

- 2 This is the 10<sup>th</sup> *Toledoth*- Jacob has been the focus for a while, but these are his offspring (generations) “with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah”- these sons were closer to Joseph’s age than the older sons of Leah “bad (*evil*) report of them to their father”- Joseph reports on something evil they had done
- 3 “robe of many colors”- not many colors- likely a robe with sleeves down to the hands
- 4 “they ... could not say to him “*shalom*.”- a greeting that gains MUCH theological significance

#### *Genesis 37:5-8*

*What should our reaction to dreams be?*

*Luther: So far as dreams are concerned, there is the well-known rule that such revelations must be scrutinized with respect to their relation to the Word and to faith. If they are not in harmony with the Word or destroy faith, they are of Satan.*

- 7 “bowed down to my sheaf”- this word for “bow down” means complete prostration on the ground
- 8 Jacob’s favoritism and Joseph’s arrogance understandably irritates the other brothers

*Genesis 37:9-11*

This dream REALLY gets under the skin of the brothers and even his father! But is it the same?

- 9 Compare the setting of the first dream with the setting of this dream.  
Compare the characters of the first dream with the characters of this dream.  
Compare the recipients of the actions in the first and second dreams.
- 10-11 “his father rebuked him... but kept the saying in mind”- Jacob will remember this come blessing time  
“your mother”- Rachel is dead, perhaps it refers to Leah or something other-worldly.....  
Does Jacob interpret the dream correctly? Does it ever happen?

*Genesis 37:12-24*

- 14 Valley of Hebron to Shechem is about 50 miles through the rocky hills...very dangerous  
17 Dothan- Another 17 miles from Shechem  
18 “saw him from afar”- his elaborate and beautiful coat would be very recognizable  
19 They said to one another, “Behold! This Master (Baal) of Dreams is coming”- Sarcasm!  
20 “Throw him into one of the pits”- cisterns that catch rain water  
“a fierce animal has devoured him”- Indeed! The brothers themselves with Cain-like malice  
21 Reuben- probably about 30 years old, still on the outs with his father over the Bilhah Incident  
22 Reuben has a great plan! If it had succeeded he may have regained favor with his father  
24 “They took him and threw him into a pit”- this is one of many Death & Resurrection motifs in OT
- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Famine → Food                       | Into the Pit → Out of the Pit        |
| Illness → Restored Health           | Into the River → Up out of the river |
| Drough → Rain                       | Slavery → Release                    |
| Down to Egypt → Up to Promised Land | Prison → Freedom                     |

*Genesis 37:25-36*

- 25 “They sat down to eat”- how callous!  
26 Judah- what number son is Judah?  
28 The distinction between Midianites and Ishmaelites is difficult.  
20 Shekels of silver- the price of males slaves can be tracked through the OT and archaeology  
29 “Reuben returned to the pit”- he had apparently not been around for the lunchtime deal  
32 In other words... identify if this is what you made with your own hands for your precious son  
33 Jacob fills in the details. The sons don’t say the lie they planned in verse 20, Jacob comes up with it  
34 Sackcloth and tearing garments are common means of grief in the Old Testament  
35 “all his daughters”- first time we hear of others besides Dinah  
“I shall go down to Sheol”- here Sheol means grave, other times it can refer to an underworld  
36 “Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard”- a high ranking position

Psalm 148

All: <sup>1</sup>**Praise YHWH!**

N: Praise YHWH from the heavens;

S: Praise him in the heights!

N: <sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels;

S: praise him, all his hosts!

**ALL: <sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon,**

**praise him, all you shining stars!**

N: <sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens,

S: and you waters above the heavens!

N: <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD!

S: For he commanded and they were created.

N: <sup>6</sup>And he established them forever and ever;

S: he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

N: <sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples,

S: princes and all rulers of the earth!

N: <sup>12</sup>Young men and maidens together,

S: old men and children!

N: <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of YHWH,

S: for his name alone is exalted;

N: his majesty is above earth and heaven.

S: <sup>14</sup>He has raised up a horn for his people,

N: praise for all his saints,

S: for the people of Israel who are near to him.

All: **Praise YHWH!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.**