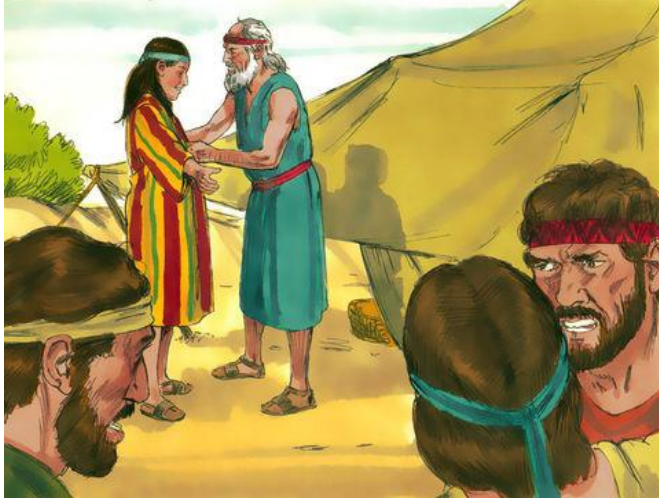


Joseph's Dreams

Genesis 37:1-11

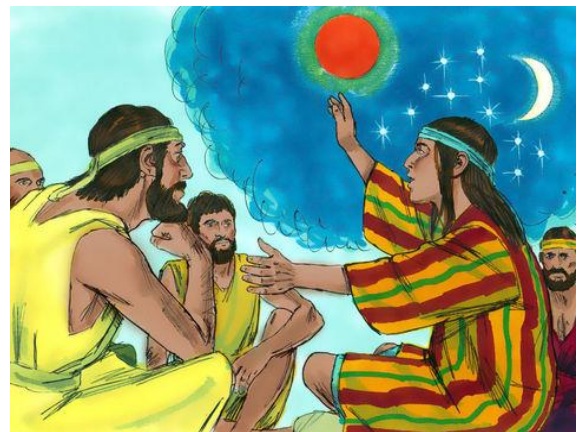


Jacob, whom God renamed Israel, returned to Canaan and lived there with his twelve sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Napthali, Gad, Asher, Joseph, and Benjamin. One day, Joseph, the second youngest son, was tending the flocks with his brothers. He was seventeen years old. When they all returned, Joseph brought his father a bad report about his brothers. I'm sure they didn't like that very much. On top of that, Israel loved Joseph more than his brothers because

he was Rachel's son. He gave Joseph a multicolored robe as a gift, but he didn't give any to his other sons. When Joseph's older brothers saw that their father loved him more, they became angry. They hated him and said bad things about him.

One day, Joseph had a dream that he told to his brothers. He said that in his dream, they were all in a field tying up bundles of grain called sheaves. Then the bundle that Joseph was tying stood up tall. His brothers' sheaves gathered around and bowed down to Joseph's sheaf. When they heard the dream, Joseph's brothers said, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words." (Genesis 37:8)

Then Joseph had a second dream. This time, eleven stars and the sun and the moon were bowing down to Joseph. When Joseph told this dream to his father, he corrected him saying, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" (Genesis 37:10). Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, but his father wondered about the dreams.



God gave Joseph his dreams, which seemed wonderful at first. But if Joseph had known all the hard times that lay ahead, he might have talked about the dreams in a more humble way. God was going to take Joseph through slavery and prison before he would finally make him a great ruler in Egypt. There, God would use Joseph to save his family from a terrible famine. God would use Joseph to save Israel so that one day, Jesus would come from Israel's line to save us all.

Excerpted from The Gospel Story by Marty Machowski (Gospel Bible Story 22)

Follow Up Questions

1. What special gift does Jacob give to Joseph?
2. What were Joseph's dreams?
3. How do Joseph's brothers feel about him? Why do they feel that way?
4. How would you feel if someone did something mean to you?



Joseph dreamed that his brothers would bow down to him.