

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

Joseph, the Dreamer – Genesis 37

Intro – Edom and the Legacy of Esau: Genesis 36

Why is this chapter here?

- Remember that Esau was not just a _____ in the loss of his birthright. He never _____ it as he should and readily traded it. (25:34)
- Though explicitly commanded to not take _____ wives, Esau did, bringing much trouble to his family. (26:35)
- And though he was covered _____ in the covenant God made with his father (Isaac) and his grandfather (Abraham), Esau was the recipient of a decidedly _____ blessing. (27:38-40)
- And though he graciously _____ his brother and apparently abandoned vengeance, future Scripture doesn't speak well of him:
 - Amos says "... he pursued his brother with the sword, while he stifled his compassion; His anger also tore continually, and he maintained his fury forever." (Amos 1:11)
 - Hebrews calls him "_____". (Hebrews 12:15-17)
- His wives were from some of the tribes that were most challenging to Israel:
 - Hittites (the strongest and biggest of these tribes, possessing a huge empire that stretched from Asia Minor to Palestine, with its capital in what is today central Turkey.)
 - Hivites (In Esau's time, they seem to have had several strongholds in central Canaan, including Shechem.)
 - Ishmaelites (Later called Midianites)
 - Amalekites
- God gave the Edomites an inheritance (Deut. 2:12), and forbid Israel from "hating" them, since the Edomite was their "_____ " (Deut. 23:7)
- God judged them for their participation in Israel's _____ (Obadiah 1:1-4, 10)
- Survivors settled in Hebron and became known as Idumeans.
- And despite the terrible judgments pronounced against Edom, the prophet Amos foresaw the day of Christ when a remnant of Edom would be _____ to the tabernacle of David (Amos 9:12; see Acts 15:15–18).
- In the New Testament we are told that a remnant of the Idumeans (Edomites) sought the mercy of Christ (Mark 3:8) and that Jesus healed Joanna, the wife of Chuza, steward to the Idumean king _____ (Luke 8:3).
- In AD 70, they joined the Jewish revolt against Rome and were annihilated. They no longer exist as a nation or people group.

"For Paul, the election of Jacob and the rejection of Esau is a great example of God's free and unfettered choice (Rom 9:10–12). Yet he too looks for a day of ultimate reconciliation, when those who have long rejected the gospel will find mercy (Rom 11:25–32), a day when, as Rev 7:9 describes it, "a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues" will stand before the throne and the Lamb. And it is these two themes, the present rejection of Esau and his ultimate reincorporation into the people of God, that Gen 36 juxtaposes."

- Gordon J. Wenham, Genesis 16-50, vol. 2, Word Biblical Commentary, 342.

37 Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan.

²These are the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

⁵Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸His brothers said to him, "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.

⁹Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "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?" ¹¹And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

The emergence of **Joseph**:

A great man, though God never _____ to him personally as He did Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob. Also, God never gave the _____ promises to him. (It would be _____, not Joseph through whom the ultimate fulfillment of the Covenant would come.)

Many have categorized Joseph as a "type" of Christ, though the New Testament never speaks of him in those terms.

He would however become Israel's _____ and the means thru whom God would bless many nations.

Intro to the storyline:

Joseph worked alongside his brothers as a shepherd. And as sibling sometimes tend to do, he reported _____ on them to his father.

The passage is clear. His brothers' activity was _____. (If there is one constant in Joseph's life, it seems to be moral uprightness.)

His father received the report in large part because he _____ Joseph over the others. (This was likely due to Joseph's mother, Rachel.)

Jacob, who of all people should have learned the harsh lessons of parental favoritism, nonetheless, clearly chose Joseph and demonstrated his favor with a unique _____.

What is the likely significance of Joseph's coat?

From a very early age there was great resentment between the other brothers and Joseph. We can speculate who was most at fault. Certainly, Jacob bears a portion of the blame. The scripture doesn't speak explicitly of Joseph's attitude, but implicitly arrogance seems to mark him. And of course, the brothers are responsible for their own actions and attitudes.

Whatever the causes, they began to _____ him.

Then, God gives Joseph two _____. These, more than his father's favoritism and more than his brothers' animosity, would mark his future. Apparently, not only did Jacob favor Joseph, but so did God. Through these dreams God confirmed Jacob's choice of his faithful son to be the _____.

"In a dream with both symbolism and verbal communication, the Lord had informed Abraham of the sojourn in Egypt; in a dream the Lord had promised Jacob protection and prosperity with Laban in Paddan Aram; in a dream God spoke to Laban and kept him from harming Jacob; and so here too God used dreams to predict the rule of Joseph over his family."

Dream 1:

Dream 2:

The brothers' response:

Jacob's response:

Joseph will be elevated. His brothers' hatred will escalate.

Several lessons:

God – in His sovereignty and omniscience – chooses whomever He will to _____. Though he was the 2nd youngest, Joseph was already – and would prove to be again and again a _____ man, full of _____. He was – as history proves out – the _____ choice.

It is only by _____ that God's will is carried out and evil men are thwarted. The great testimony of Joseph's life will one day be this: *"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today"* (50:20).

And though God is sovereign in carrying out His purposes, man remains _____ for his choices.

God is always working for _____ ... He has a _____ we do not possess ...

God's way is often a very _____ way, yet God is _____ ...

Next week: Genesis 38 – Joseph and His Brothers