

10. Joseph - A Son of Jacob

Introduction: In the previous story we learned how Jacob stole the blessing of the first born from his older brother. After his brother found out about it, he wanted to kill Jacob so Jacob fled to his uncle's place. With God's blessing, Jacob had twelve sons.

At last, Jacob and his household went back to his father's place. (Genesis 27:41–44; 28:13–15)

Among Jacob's twelve sons, Joseph was the one he loved the most. He made a very beautiful coat for Joseph. But Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved their little brother best, so they hated this brother. (Genesis 37:3–4)

Joseph had two dreams. These two dreams were about his family members kneeling on the ground bowing down to him. Joseph told his father and his brothers about these two dreams. His brothers were even angrier with him after listening to the dreams. (Genesis 37:5–11)

One day while Joseph's brothers were taking care of the sheep, Jacob asked him to go look for his brothers to see if they were safe or not. (Genesis 37:12–14)

As the brothers saw Joseph coming, they decided to kill him. But in the end they sold him as a slave to traders headed for Egypt. (Genesis 37:18, 28)

They covered Joseph's coat with sheep's blood and brought it back to their father in order to convince him that Joseph had been eaten by a tiger. Jacob looked at the coat and was very, very sad. He believed that his most beloved son was dead. (Genesis 37:31–35)

After Joseph was sold to traders going to Egypt, he worked in the household of a high Egyptian government official. The official saw that Joseph was a man who had God's blessing since things turned out well for everything Joseph did. So the official liked Joseph, and let Joseph manage everything in his household. (Genesis 39:1–6)

One day, the official's wife wrongly accused Joseph, and had him put in jail. (Genesis 39:12–20)

Even though Joseph was in jail, God did not forget him but continued to help him. The one who was in charge of the jail liked Joseph as well, and let him manage all the activities in the jail and even the other prisoners. (Genesis 39:21–23)

There were two prisoners who each had a dream. One had been in charge of the Egyptian king's drinks while the other had been in charge of the king's baking. God gave wisdom to Joseph so that he could interpret their dreams. Later, just as Joseph

had predicted, the one in charge of the king's drink got back his job of serving the king. (Genesis 40:1–21)

The one in charge of the king's drink had promised to help Joseph if he got back his job serving the king. He was to help him by telling the king the truth about Joseph so Joseph could get out of jail. However, he forgot his promise. (Genesis 40:14, 23)

Two years later, the king had a dream which nobody could interpret. At this moment, the one in charge of king's drink remembered Joseph, so he had him brought out of the jail to interpret the dream for the king. (Genesis 41:1, 8–9, 14)

When they put Joseph in front of the king, Joseph told the king, "My king, I cannot interpret dreams, but God wants you to know the meaning of this dream." (Genesis 41:16)

After Joseph listened as the king told him the dream, he said, "Egypt will have seven good years, follow by seven drought years. My king, I was thinking about this; you should find a wise man to help you manage, store the grains from those good years, so that we will not starve to death during the next seven years of drought." (Genesis 41:29–30; 41:33–36)

After the king heard about this, he said, "Since God has given you understanding about this matter, it proves that nobody is as wise as you. Now I am going to make you the prime minister of this country and let you manage all of Egypt. All the people and officials have to obey you. Your authority is over everyone but me." (Genesis 41:39–43)

The king gave all of that authority to Joseph. This was how Joseph became the prime minister of Egypt. (Genesis 41:44)