

THE TREACHERY OF JOSEPH'S BROTHERS
(Genesis 38:1-30)

- I. The DESTRUCTIVE INTENT of the Brothers (Gen. 37:18-20)
 - A. HATED Joseph for his DREAMS of grandeur
 - B. Wanted to GUARANTEE the dreams could not be FULFILLED

- II. The DARING INTERCESSION of Reuben (Gen. 37:21-24)
 - A. Had most to GAIN if Joseph is REMOVED
 - B. Insisted his brothers NOT KILL Joseph OUTRIGHT
 - C. Convinced them to put him in a PIT to DIE
 - D. SECRETLY wanted to RESTORE Joseph to JACOB
 - E. Took the HATED ROBE that would IDENTIFY Joseph
 - F. Put him in a DRY CISTERN

- III. The DECISIVE INTERVENTION of Judah (Gen. 37:25-28)
 - A. Trying to SAVE Joseph's LIFE
 - 1. If Reuben LEFT him in the PIT, Joseph would DIE
 - 2. If Reuben FAILED to RESCUE him, Joseph would DIE
 - 3. If Reuben SUCCEEDED, there would be future ATTEMPTS
 - B. SOLD Joseph for TWENTY pieces of SILVER (cf. Lev. 27:5; Ex. 21:32)

- IV. The DECEPTIVE INFORMATION to Jacob (Gen. 37:29-33)
 - A. Reuben's ANGUISH was GENUINE

- B. Joseph's TUNIC was MISLEADING
 - 1. Stained it with BLOOD
 - 2. Pretended to be UNSURE if it was JOSEPH'S
 - 3. Led him to think he'd been SLAIN and EATEN by a wild animal

- V. The DESPAIRING INCLINATION of Jacob (Gen. 37:34-35)
 - A. Displayed his GREAT LOVE for Joseph
 - B. Witnessed his sons' HYPOCRISY as they tried to "COMFORT" him
 - C. Declared he would MOURN the rest of his LIFE
 - 1. Continued much LONGER than EXPECTED
 - 2. Indicated belief in LIFE beyond the GRAVE

- VI. The DIVINE INSULATION of Joseph (Gen. 37:36)
 - A. He becomes a SLAVE in EGYPT
 - B. Becomes VITAL to the BROAD purpose of God
 - 1. To SAVE Israel and protect infant nation until STRONG enough for INDEPENDENCE
 - 2. To exercise JUDGMENT upon the CANAANITES
 - C. Also important to the IMMEDIATE purposes of God
 - 1. Joseph needed to be HUMBLED to be USED
 - 2. Brothers needed to learn the CONSEQUENCES of SIN and be brought to REPENTANCE to be used