

Joseph Sold Into Slavery

Genesis 37

YOUR MISSION:

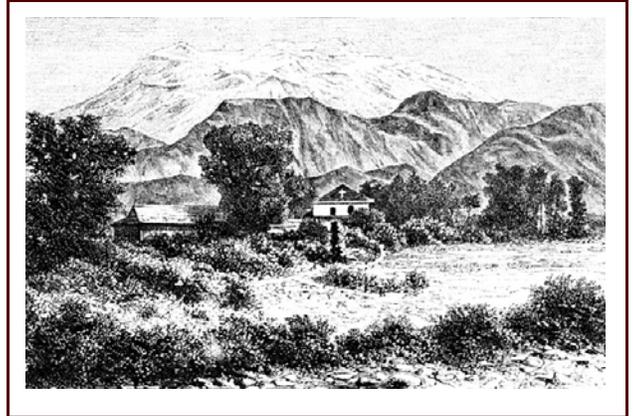
Find your way to Ecbatana.

Restrictions: You may not use a map, compass, or travel agency. You may take only one person with you to help you in your journey. No one else may be contacted.

Time limit: One lifetime

Reward if completed: Beyond belief

1. How would you get there?
2. Who would you take with you?
3. Would you trust that person to make the right decisions for you?



In today's story Joseph is uprooted from his home, taken to a foreign land and forced to work as a slave. Who was making the decisions for him? Did you choose that person to go with you?

Prayer

Dear Lord,

As we study today about Joseph's frightening experience of being sold by his own brothers into slavery, help us to understand Your reason for it by seeing how Joseph and all of Your children benefitted from his situation. Help us also remember that You are constantly our guide. Amen.

The Story - Genesis 37

Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

{2} This is the history of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.

{3} Now Israel loved Joseph more

than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. {4} But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

{5} Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. {6} So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: {7} "There we were, binding



sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

{8} And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

{9} Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

{10} So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" {11} And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

{12} Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. {13} And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them."

So he said to him, "Here I am."

{14} Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me."

So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem. {15} Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"

{16} So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks."

{17} And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan. {18} Now when they saw him afar off, even before he

came near them, they conspired against him to kill him.

{19} Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! {20} "Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"

{21} But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him." {22} And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"; that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

{23} So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. {24} Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

{25} And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt.

{26} So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? {27} "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." And his brothers listened.

{28} Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

{29} Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes. {30} And he returned to his brothers and said, "The lad is no more; and I, where shall I go?"

{31} So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood. {32} Then they sent

the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?"

{33} And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces."

{34} Then Jacob tore his clothes, put

sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days. {35} And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

{36} Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

Outer Aim

Joseph is envied by his brothers and sold into slavery in Egypt.

What the Story Tells Us - Draw a line to match the actions with the people who did them. You may use the name more than once.

had a dream about the sun, moon and stars +	+ brothers
grieved for Joseph +	
threw Joseph into the pit +	+ Jacob
lied to Jacob +	
were envious of Joseph +	+ Joseph
went to check on his brothers +	
gave Joseph a beautiful coat +	+ God
wanted Joseph in Egypt +	
loved all of his children +	+ Reuben
wanted to send Joseph back home +	+ Judah
wanted to kill Joseph +	
suggested selling Joseph to the Midianites +	

What the Bible Tells Us - What would you say? Look up the following Bible passages and match them to the situation in which they would be most helpful.

A. Psalm 27:14

C. Matthew 5 :44

B. Colossians 3:9

D. Isaiah 40:31

- _____ 1. Peter's sister had just told their mom she was going to the library. Peter knew she was going to see a movie with her friends.
- _____ 2. Timothy's mother had been sick for many years. It was getting very hard for him to watch her suffer.
- _____ 3. It made Sue sad to see how tired her father was each night after a long day at work. She wished she knew a passage that would help him feel better.
- _____ 4. Paul didn't want to go to school. He was angry about being teased so much.

Inner Aim God begins His plan to rescue the family of Israel and keep His promise to send the Savior through their descendants.

Passages

Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.

Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Matthew 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

Hymn/Prayer - TLH #424, v. 1, 3

My God, my Father, make me strong,
When tasks of life seem hard and long,
To greet them with this triumph song:
Thy will be done.

With confident and humble mind
Freedom in service I would find,
Praying thro' ev'ry toil assigned:
Thy will be done. Amen.