

### **The Generations of Jacob: Joseph the Christ-type**

Gn 37.1 Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. 2 [These are the generations] 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.

► Our text announces a major new section in Genesis: The Generations of \_\_\_\_\_ (2). The patriarchs' generations refer to their children, and specifically the \_\_\_\_\_-type God raises up among them. God keeps repeating the message that his covenant and promises are not about normal human descent and inheritance, but about \_\_\_\_\_ in the inheritance of the Promised One Jesus Christ.

Gal 3.29 [I]f you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Rom 8.16 [W]e are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

► As background, we need to recognize that the events of ch37 overlap with the events of chs 33-35. We know this because Sarah died in 3518-19 giving birth to Ben., but in ch37 Sarah is still \_\_\_\_\_ (10) and Ben. is not yet \_\_\_\_\_ (3; cf. 42.8-15; 49.7). Placing the events of 37 in a separate section is necessary to tell story of \_\_\_\_\_, the new Christ-type.

► At first blush, Joseph seems like he is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. It is important that we interpret Scripture with Scripture, rather than by our own sentiments and stereotypes. We've already learned this lesson with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

► “Israel loved Joseph more than all his children” is explained by “because [Joseph] was the son of his old age” (3). When Jo. was born, J. was \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. 45.6; 47.9). When they returned to Canaan, Jo. was \_\_\_\_ and J. was \_\_\_\_\_. Reuben was ~\_\_\_\_\_, and the youngest of Jo.’s older bros. was ~\_\_\_\_\_ or early teens. The relative ages of J. and Jo. were more like \_\_\_\_\_ grandfather to \_\_\_\_\_ grandson. We know the natural affinity of that relationship. J. was not playing favorites, for when he assigns blessings on his death-bed, the scepter goes to \_\_\_\_\_, the son of \_\_\_\_\_.

► When Jo. brings back a bad report (2), we must remember what Scripture shows us re the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jo. vs that of his bros. (cf. 35.22; 34.25-29). Jo. is the only son J. can \_\_\_\_\_ to tell the truth and to know and do the \_\_\_\_\_ thing. It is in that \_\_\_\_\_ that we should view Jo.’s bad report and the special tunic made for him (2-3).

► Jo.’s sharing of his dreams makes it seem that he is \_\_\_\_\_ of himself with \_\_\_\_\_ thought for others. Let’s compare that notion with Scripture (cf. 45.4-8; 50.15-21).

Gn 45.4 And Joseph said to his brothers, “Please come near to me.” So they came near. Then he said: “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it

was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.” ... 50.15 When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him.” ... 18 Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, “Behold, we are your servants.” 19 Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

► Jo. and his story are pictures of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, and his dreams are \_\_\_\_\_ of that gospel story (cf. Dan 7.13-14). Jo.’s bros. hated those dreams, but those dreams are going to \_\_\_\_\_ their lives. God intended them to be \_\_\_\_\_.

Mt 16.13 “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

Dan 7.13 I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

► Jo. along with \_\_\_\_\_ are unique in that, while we know they were \_\_\_\_\_, we have no obvious \_\_\_\_\_ recorded in Scripture as we do with virtually all the other great men of God.