

Chapter 37 opens with the final generational heading of Genesis. In the remaining portion of the book, the entire focus is on the life of one man and the events of his life leading up to the establishment of God's people in Egypt.

Genesis 37:1-36

Joseph

Goes to

Egypt

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

It can be fairly easy to look back and see God's hand in events that put us in blessed places. It generally comes easy, in hindsight, that we can recognize the good providence of God, but what about the hard times? Seeing God work through trials and even pain often requires greater faith than when He works through the blessing.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW have you seen God work through particular details recently?

DESCRIBE a time when you saw God work through a painful trial in your life in order to bring about His good outcome.

WHY does it require more faith to trust God in trials as opposed to times of blessing?

WHAT might be a way to see/trust the Lord and His work in *all* circumstances and not merely the ones that are most "comfortable"?

Genesis 37:1-36 Read Genesis 37:1-36

Joseph Goes to Egypt

OBSERVATION

As the passage opens, what do you observe regarding Jacob's (Israel's) feelings about Joseph? How did Joseph's brothers feel about him? Describe Joseph's dreams in vs. 5-11 and his family's responded. According to vs. 12, where do Joseph's brothers go to pasture their flock? Where does Joseph eventually find them (vs. 17) and how? What plan does Joseph's brothers devise against him in vs. 18-24? How does Reuben respond to this plan (vs. 21-22)? Who happens to pass by Joseph and his brothers in vs. 25 and where are they going? Upon the shift of plans in vs. 28, what is Reuben's response (vs. 29-30)? What story to Jacob's son share with him when they return home? How does he respond in vs. 34-35?

INTERPRETATION

Why does Jacob love Joseph the most (see Gen. 30:22)? How has playing favorites impacted the family previously (consider Gen 24:27-28)?

Why were Joseph's dream so upsetting to his brothers and his dad? What family/societal norms were dishonored in what Joseph dreamed?

Why might Jacob have sent Joseph to check on his brothers in Shechem? What previous events took place in Shechem that would possibly put Jacob on edge (see Gen. 34:30)?

How premeditated was this plan to kill Joseph (see vs. 18-19)? What seems to be Reuben's motivation for an alternate plan (vs 29-30)?

The weight of Jacob's grief is clear in vs. 34-35. Why is it so extreme? Consider Joseph's mother and birth order. How might these factors contribute to the favoritism and even "idolatry" Jacob is experiencing?

What is the significance of the location Joseph arrives at in vs. 36 and what do you make of all the details that took place to get him here? How does this particular narrative relate to the promise we see in Romans 8:28?

APPLICATION

Do you believe God is in the details of your life, whether trial or celebration? How does a proper view of God's hand in the details bring us hope in every situation?