

The Highwaymen

MARCH 2006

www.encouragementonline.com

The Amazing Life Of JOSEPH, on Adventure with GOD

We begin the Adventure of the Life of JOSEPH with his Miraculous birth to Rachel, beloved Wife of Jacob/Israel:

Genesis 30:22 And God remembereth Rachel, and God hearkeneth unto her, and openeth her womb, and she conceiveth and beareth a son, and saith, `God hath gathered up my reproach;` (of barrenness). and she called his name **JOSEPH**, saying, `Jehovah is adding to me another son.` (beside the sons (Dan & Naphtali of her maid Servant Bilhah) (**JOSEPH WAS RACHEL'S VERY FIRST SON BORN BY HER**). And it cometh to pass, when Rachel hath borne **Joseph**, that Jacob saith unto Laban, `Send me away, and I go unto my place, and to **my land**;... Ge 30:43 And the man (Jacob) increaseth very exceedingly, and hath many flocks, and maid-servants, and men-servants, and camels, and asses. (Young Trans)

Genesis 31:3 **And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.**

But in leaving to return to **The Promised Land, Jacob's Beloved Wife Rachel stole her father Laban's foreign god Idols.** A sad event in the early days of a Son's life. A son with so much promise, a mother with such great insecurity that it would cost her future blessings of long life before the Holy GOD. (Ge 31:32 With whomsoever thou (Laban) findest thy gods, **let him not live:** before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob knew not that (wife) Rachel (ewe) had stolen them.)

Yet she would live to bear one more son, and name him Benoni, son of my sorrow, before dying in childbirth. (which Jacob renamed Benjamin, son of my right hand).

But JOSEPH'S father Jacob had much family conflict from the past with his brother Esau -still to face. When Joseph was only a young son, Jacob, encountered Esau with his 400 men. Jacob protected Rachel and Joseph by placing him in the back of the traveling band.

But Jacob's brother Esau approached without violent intent, and embraced his brother and all his family.

When Joseph's father Jacob arrived back in The Promised Land he bought a piece of land and built an Altar upon it. Ge 33:20 And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel. Which means = the Mighty GOD of Israel.

Later GOD would call Jacob back to Bethel: Ge 35:1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: **and make there an Altar unto GOD**, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Ge 35:2 **Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: (And we shall go up before the Holy GOD).** Ge 35:3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; **and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.** (K.J.V.)

THE LIFE OF BLESSING AND SADNESS IN THE FAMILY OF YOUNG JOSEPH

If I appear to be laying a lot of family background around the life of young JOSEPH, it is on purpose. No man is an Island, we are all part of a Larger Family

with consequent blessings and sometimes sadness as well. All these working together to Build Character in our Lives. In the life of Joseph we see a very De-

vout Father, dedicated to the Holy GOD, and a mother who collects strange gods along the way; gods that have to be carried and hidden and protected, yet they cannot SAVE THE LIFE OF THEIR WORSHIPPER.

The Purification of Family, and Jacob becomes Israel

Ge 35:4 And they gave unto Jacob **all the strange gods** which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem. Ge 35:5 **And they journeyed: and the terror of GOD was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.** Ge 35:6 So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the **land of Canaan**, that is, Bethel, he and all the people that were with him. Ge 35:7 And **he built there an Altar**, and called the place **Elbethel**: because there God

appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother. Ge 35:10 And God said unto him, *THY NAME IS JACOB: THY NAME SHALL NOT BE CALLED ANY MORE JACOB, BUT ISRAEL SHALL BE THY NAME: AND HE CALLED HIS NAME ISRAEL.*

WHEN JACOB RESPONDED TO THE HOLY GOD, PURIFIED HIS FAMILY, BUILT HIS ALTAR, THEN GOD GAVE HIM HIS NEW NAME, ISRAEL. NOW HIS NATION WOULD HAVE A NAME. HIS 12 SONS WOULD BECOME THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL. FROM THE SEED OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB WOULD COME A NATION INTO A PROMISED LAND, AFTER A TIME.

Ge 35:11-15 **And GOD said unto him, I am GOD Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins; And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.** And GOD went up from him in the place where he talked with Him. And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with Him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon. And Jacob called the name of the place where GOD spake with him, **Bethel.**



Joseph loses his mother but gains a brother

Genesis 35:16-19. And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that

the midwife said unto her, **Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.** And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him

Benjamin. And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is **Bethlehem.** JOSEPH would grow up to be very protective and careful of his little brother. (Gen 43:16-34)

It is a sad fact that many lose life prematurely as a result of neglect of wise moral conduct. This is a hardship of grief to family members who have loved them so dearly!

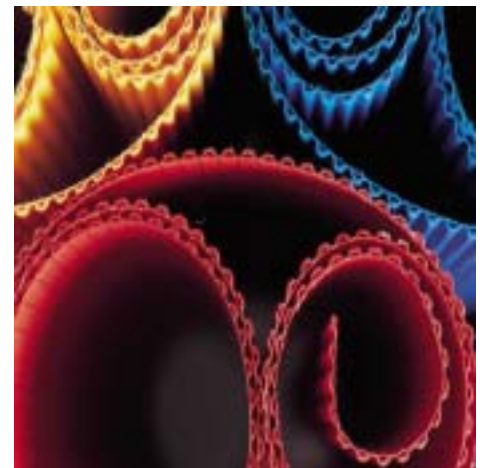
JOSEPH AT 17, Clothed in many Colors, feeding the flock

Ge 37:1 And (Jacob) Israel dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

Ge 37:2 These are the generations of (Jacob) Israel. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and **Joseph** brought unto his father their evil report Ge 37:3 Now

Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a **COAT OF MANY COLORS.** Ge 37:4 And when his brethren saw that **their father loved him** more than all his brethren, **they hated him**, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

JOSEPH'S LIFE WITH GOD WAS FULL AND COLORFUL!



A DREAMER Experiences **love/hate** in the family

In the life story of Joseph we see the effects of both Love and hatred upon a family member.

Ge 37:5 **AND JOSEPH DREAMED A DREAM, AND HE TOLD IT HIS BRETHREN: AND THEY HATED HIM YET THE MORE.**



Ge 37:8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed **reign over us?** or shalt thou indeed **have dominion over us?** And they hated him yet the more **FOR HIS DREAMS, AND FOR HIS WORDS.** Ge 37:9 **And he dreamed yet another dream,** and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, **I have dreamed a dream more;** and, behold, the

sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. Ge 37:10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, **What is this dream that thou hast dreamed?** Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed **come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?** Ge 37:11 And his brethren envied him; **BUT HIS FATHER OBSERVED THE SAYING.**

JOSEPH WANDERS THE FIELD IN SEARCH OF THE FLOCKS

Ge 37:13-17 And **Israel** said unto **Joseph**, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? **come,** and I will **send** thee unto them. And he said to him, **Here am I.** And he said to him, **Go,** I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and

well with the flocks; and bring me word again. **So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron,** and he came to Shechem. And a certain man found him, and, behold, **HE WAS WANDERING IN THE FIELD:** and the man asked him, **What seekest**

thou? And he said, **I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.** And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to **Dothan (two wells).** And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

**EVEN SHEPHERDS
WHEN THEY ARE
YOUNG, FIND
THEMSELVES
WANDERING IN
SEARCH OF THE
FATHER'S FLOCKS!**

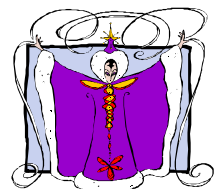
THE YOUNG SHEPHERD MEETS UP WITH TROUBLE IN DOTHAN

Ge 37:18-24. (KJV) "And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his

father again. And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that **they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;** And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it."

Now we will show the similarities between the experience of JOSEPH and that OF JESUS CHRIST: Mt 26:3 Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtlety, and kill Him... Mt 27:1 When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had

bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Mt 27:11 And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, **Art thou the King of the Jews?** And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest. And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?.. Mt 27:28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. (later they stripped the scarlet robe off Jesus).



This Man of Dreams, Sold like a Slave, Misunderstood, Accused, cast into a Dungeon

Ge 37:25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt... Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up **Joseph** out of the pit, and **sold Joseph** to the Ishmeelites **FOR TWENTY PIECES OF SILVER:** and **they brought Joseph into Egypt.** Ge 37:31 And they took **Joseph's coat**, and killed a kid of the goats, and **dipped the coat in the blood;** And they sent the coat of many colors, and they brought it to their father;.. Thus his father wept for him. Ge 37:36 And the Midianites **sold him** into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard. Ge 39:2 **AND THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH, AND HE WAS A PROSPEROUS MAN;** and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian... Ge 39:7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. Ge 39:8- But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master cares not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? **And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.** she called unto the men of her house, and spoke (lied) unto them, saying, See, he (Potiphar) hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: Ge 39:20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: **AND HE WAS THERE IN THE PRISON.** (Verses KJV, Definitions from *Strong* Greek/Hebrew).



THE DREAMER RULES, The Family gather before him (70 in all).

The road to leadership and rule is not an easy path to walk down.

Ge 39:21- But the LORD was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper... Ge 41:14- Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it... Ge 41:25 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The

dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath showed Pharaoh what he is about to do... Ge 41:29- Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;.... Ge 41:39-43 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And he made

him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. Ge 41:46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. Ge 46:26 All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six; And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten (70 souls would be the seedbed of Nation Israel).