

## Timeline of Truth – Joseph Is Sold by His Brothers (Gen 37:12-36)

<p>12 Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.</p>	<p><b>1. Brothers (10) Take the Flock to <u>Shechem</u></b></p>
<p>13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding <i>the flock</i> 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."</p>	<p><b>2. Israel Sends Joseph to <u>Check</u> on His Brothers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph is <u>listening</u></li> <li>• Joseph is <u>willing</u></li> <li>• Joseph receives instructions from his father             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Check on your brothers</i></li> <li>– <i>Check on the flocks</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>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 <i>their flocks</i>."          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.</p>	<p><b>3. Joseph <u>Obeys</u> His Father</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph obeys his father's <u>words</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>He goes to Shechem</i></li> <li>– <i>He does not find his brothers or the flocks</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Joseph obeys his father's <u>intent</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>He asks and finds out where they moved to</i></li> <li>– <i>He travels to where they moved to</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>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!"</p>	<p><b>4. Joseph's Brothers Plot to <u>Kill</u> Him</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph's brothers originally planned to kill him</li> <li>• Hatred and murder are directly related (1 John)</li> <li>• Hatred is evidence of a darkness lifestyle</li> <li>• Hatred leads to more pronounced sin             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Deceit</i></li> <li>– <i>Injury</i></li> <li>– <i>Murder</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>21 But <b>Reuben</b> heard <i>it</i>, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him."          22 And <b>Reuben</b> said to them, "Shed no blood, <i>but</i> cast him into this pit which <i>is</i> 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.</p>	<p><b>5. Reuben <u>Delivers</u> Joseph from Death</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reuben was the oldest (and most responsible) son</li> <li>• Reuben gave them an alternative plan</li> <li>• Reuben sought to deliver Joseph &amp; send him back</li> </ul>
<p>23 So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of <i>many</i> colors that <i>was</i> on him.          24 Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit <i>was</i> empty; <i>there was</i> no water in it.</p>	<p><b>6. Joseph's Brothers Throw Him into a <u>Pit</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Followed Reuben's modified plan</li> <li>• Stripped Joseph of his tunic of many colors</li> <li>• Cast him into a pit</li> </ul>
<p>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 <i>them</i> down to Egypt.</p>	<p><b>7. Joseph's Brothers See Some <u>Traveling Traders</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descendants of Ishmael</li> <li>• Caravan of camels</li> <li>• Heading to Egypt to Sell Products</li> </ul>
<p>26 So <b>Judah</b> said to his brothers, "What profit <i>is</i> 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 <i>is</i> our brother <i>and</i> our flesh." And his brothers listened.</p>	<p><b>8. Judah Proposes <u>Selling</u> Joseph</b></p>

<p><sup>28</sup> Then Midianite traders passed by; so <i>the brothers</i> pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty <i>shekels</i> of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.</p> <p>Gen 42:21 Then they said to one another, "We <i>are</i> truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."</p> <p>Psalms 105:17-18 He sent a man before them-- Joseph-- <i>who</i> was sold as a slave. <sup>18</sup> They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.</p>	<p><b>9. Joseph's Brothers (9) <u>Sell</u> Him to the Traders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They pull Joseph up out of the pit</li> <li>• They sell him for 20 shekels of silver</li> <li>• Joseph is now property heading to Egypt</li> </ul>
<p><sup>29</sup> Then <b>Reuben</b> returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes.</p> <p><sup>30</sup> And he returned to his brothers and said, "The lad <i>is</i> no more; and I, where shall I go?"</p>	<p><b>10. Reuben Returns to Find Joseph <u>Missing</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reuben must have been out working</li> <li>• Reuben is the most responsible (accountability)</li> </ul>
<p><sup>31</sup> So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood.</p> <p><sup>32</sup> Then they sent the tunic of <i>many</i> colors, and they brought <i>it</i> to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it <i>is</i> your son's tunic or not?"</p>	<p><b>11. Joseph's Brothers <u>Devise</u> a <u>Lie</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They took Joseph's tunic</li> <li>• They killed a young goat</li> <li>• They dipped the tunic in the goat's blood</li> <li>• They brought it to their father to lead him to an obvious conclusion</li> </ul>
<p><sup>33</sup> And he recognized it and said, "<i>It is</i> my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces."</p> <p><sup>34</sup> Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.</p> <p><sup>35</sup> 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.</p>	<p><b>12. Israel <u>Believes</u> the Lie, and <u>Mourns</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Israel (Jacob) recognizes the bloody tunic</li> <li>• Israel draws the deceptive conclusion</li> <li>• Israel mourns</li> <li>• Israel's family try to comfort him (how awkward!)</li> </ul>
<p><sup>36</sup> Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh <i>and</i> captain of the guard. (cf. v.28)</p>	<p><b>13. Joseph Ends Up in Egypt and Is <u>Sold</u> Again</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ishmaelites arrive in Egypt</li> <li>• Ismaelites sell Joseph to Potiphar</li> <li>• Potiphar is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>An officer of Pharaoh</i></li> <li>– <i>Captain of the Guard</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Lesson Summary Thoughts:**

**1. Hatred Is Blinding, and If Not Addressed, It Leads to More Sin**

1 John 2:9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

2:11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

3:11-15 <sup>11</sup> For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, <sup>12</sup> not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. <sup>13</sup> Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. <sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death. <sup>15</sup> **Whoever hates his brother is a murderer**, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

**2. God's Plan for Our Lives Often Involves Great Suffering and Loss**

**3. God Is Working In Us and Through Us By Means of Our Sufferings**

**4. Our Responsibility Is to Trust God and Obey What He Has Revealed to Us in His Word (Ps 105:17-21)**