## **Lesson 6: Joseph - From Favored Son to Slave**

**Reading:** Genesis 37:1-39:23

Jacob returns to Canaan as God keeps the promises He made to Jacob at Bethel (28:13-15). However, Jacob's life in Canaan is not without incident. In chapter 34, Jacob's daughter, Dinah, is defiled by Shechem, a prince of the city. Shechem's father enters into negotiations with Jacob to allow Dinah to marry his son; he proposes an accord that includes Jacob's family intermarrying with the people of Shechem and trading in the land. In an act of deceit, Jacob's sons require all the men of Shechem to be circumcised as a condition of the pact. On the third day, Simeon and Levi attack the town, killing all the males, plundering its wealth, and taking the wives and children captive. The incident causes Jacob to worry that the inhabitants of Canaan will unite against his family. In chapter 35, God tells Jacob to return to Bethel, and Jacob commands his household to purify themselves and remove the foreign gods from among them. As Jacob and his family travel to Bethel, the terror of God falls upon the surrounding cities, and Jacob is protected from attack. Jacob builds another altar at Bethel and offers a drink offering as God appears to Jacob again, repeating his new name of Israel and the Abrahamic promises. Jacob continues his journey south toward Ephrath where Rachel dies while giving birth to Benjamin. Jacob and Esau reunite again in Hebron to bury Isaac who dies after 180 years. Chapter 36 provides a genealogy of the family of Esau and the nation of Edom.

## Joseph's dreams (37:1-11)

1. What familial habit does Jacob repeat with his sons? What is the effect (37:3-4)?

2. What were the two dreams that Joseph had, and why would Joseph's brothers find his dreams to be so unbelievable (37:5-11)?

## Joseph is sold into slavery (37:12-36)

3. What is the motivation of Reuben in 37:21-22 (37:29-30)?

## Genesis Part II (Chapters 25-50)

4.	How do Joseph's brothers demonstrate their hatred for Joseph (37:23-28)?
	dah and Tamar (38:1-26) What agreement does Judah make with Tamar (38:6-11)?
6.	What was Judah's reaction when he learns that Tamar is pregnant by harlotry and how does he acknowledge his sin (38:24-26)?
Ju	dah's Messianic lineage (38:27-30)
	seph in Potiphar's house (39:1-20) What position did Joseph hold in Potiphar's house, and how strong was the trust that Potiphar placed in Joseph (39:1-6)?
8.	What lessons can be learned from the way Joseph handled the temptation offered by Potiphar's wife (39:7-20)?
Joseph in prison (39:21-23)	