

Genesis Chapter 37 Commentary Part 2 of 4
Joseph A Portrait of Jesus

5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. 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.

Remember, we demonstrated that Joseph, though he was next to youngest of the children of Israel, was the actual firstborn of Israel? As scripture gives this right to Joseph, this right obligates the rest of Joseph's brethren to bow before his headship, when his father dies or relinquishes his headship. Thus, we see the source of their hatred.

We point out here: this dream is prophetic of what will be fulfilled many years from now, when the famine is sore in Canaan, and Joseph is made the 2nd in power in Egypt, they shall come to buy corn and bow before Joseph, not even knowing who he is.

Did you notice that in the dream they were binding sheaves? Did you know that these sheaves were the gathering of their grain? Grain from which they had bread and sustenance of life. Why did they come to Joseph in Egypt? To buy corn (corn is grain of any kind) that they might make bread and have sustenance of life. Joseph, though unknown to them at first, will be the saviour of the family, by supplying the bread of life to them. Thus, we see that when we are born-again, we answer the call of Jesus to come to him. We come to Jesus seeking the bread of life that we may have sustenance of life.

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. 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? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

This dream is also prophetic, foretelling a time to come; when Joseph will send and call his family to come to him, for sustenance from the great drought on the earth. When they arrive: all the family of Israel will bow to Joseph, who is now the 2nd in command ruler over Egypt.

This dream is emblematic of how every child of grace, who, being born-again, has come to see the greatness of the drought on earth, and the need for a life of salvation. As Joseph's family answered his call to come unto him; God's people will answer the call of Jesus to come to him, and they will bow before their sovereign ruler, and receive the sustaining bread of eternal life, as seen in: ***Mt 11:27-30; 27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. 28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.***" We shall see: Joseph's family was indeed laboring and

heavy laden with the thought of death through starvation, therefore, when the call comes, they will come willing and with gladness.

This dream is a prophetic picture, in the eternal perspective, of how all the family of God's children will bow with preferential love for the preferred Christ, the King eternal, at the end of time. **Ro 14:11** *"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."* God's people will bow in reverence and awe. The lost will bow in submission, realizing at last, when it is too late, that Christ is indeed real, and they have no choice but to suffer God's wrath for their disobedience and rejection, knowing their doom is sure and eternal.

"And his brethren envied him" Why? They understand; the dreams are prophesying of a time to come when Joseph shall take the position, of firstborn ruler of the family. Remember in verse 8; they interpreted the dream correctly that Joseph would one day rule over them. They understand that they will have to bow in submission to his authority, and ruling power over them, as the firstborn of their father. This sovereign right is a power and authority to which they are required to yield.

Their envy is representative of the fleshly nature of mankind. Unsaved mankind desires to be big in the eyes of men, and desires to do it my way. This is picturesque of the warfare of the saved sinner, between the inherit sin nature and the born-again new nature. It is a daily struggle to keep the flesh in subjection to the power and authority of Christ. Just as his brethren, filled with envy and hatred instead of love, could not bear the thought of their younger brother ruling over them. The Scribes and Pharisees envied Jesus so much that they sought to kill him.

"but his father observed the saying." Observed is from the Hebrew word shamar (pronounced; shaw-mar') and means; *to hedge about, guard; to protect, attend to, be aware, be circumspect, take heed, mark, observe, preserve, regard, reserve.* We understand from the definition; Israel kept that dream in his heart and mind. Israel had learned to not dismiss the workings of God, because Israel had experienced that God would perform what he promised, by what God did in his own life. Israel had visitation from God in a dream in: **Ge 28:12-15; 12** *"And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."* Israel understood; dreams were a way that God used to communicate with his servants. Israel understands that God is working in Joseph's life.

What life lesson can we learn from this? In nature, we may have those who are younger in years than we are, yet they are placed in the position of authority, and we must yield to their leadership. In the spiritual realm, We see; it is the Son of God who is put into the position of authority and power. God the Son is the head of the church, and we all must yield our obedience to him, seen in:

- **Eph 1:22** *"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,"*

- ***Eph 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."***
- ***Col 1:18 "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."***

We have no record of sin in Joseph's life in scripture. Joseph will eventually become the saviour and head of his family in Egypt. Comparatively, we have as the head of the church, the Son of God, who is without sin. Jesus is the Saviour of the family of God, as seen in ***Eph 5:23***, above referenced. Praise to God our Father, who gave us the headship of the church, the Saviour, to bring us to the church with humbled hearts and minds, willing to bow in sweet submission to this authority. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

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