

Joseph Sold by His Brothers

Genesis 37:12-36

by Don Falkos

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Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing the sheep near Shechem. Go and see how they're doing. Then come back and tell me."

When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they said, "Here comes the Dreamer." One of them suggested, "Let's kill him; see what comes of his dreams then."

But Reuben said, "No, we can't kill him. Let's throw him into this empty cistern. That'll teach him a lesson." So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off his beautiful robe and threw him into the cistern. Reuben went off to run an errand while his brothers sat down to a meal.

While they were eating a caravan of merchants came by on their way to Egypt. Judah had an idea, "We probably shouldn't kill Joseph. He is our brother after all. Instead, let's sell him." So they sold Joseph to those passing merchants.

When Reuben came back, he went to the cistern. All along he had intended to rescue his brother and send him home to his father. But he found the cistern empty. Joseph was gone.

The brothers devised a plan to cover what they had done. They took Joseph's beautiful robe and dipped it in sheep's blood. When Jacob saw it he cried out, "Oh, no! My son has been killed by a wild animal. I will mourn for him for the rest of my life." And he was inconsolable.

Meanwhile, Joseph had been taken to Egypt and sold to a man named Potiphar, Pharaoh's captain of the palace guard.