

Let's Worship God

27th Feb. - 4th March 2023
Genesis



Genesis

YOUR
JOURNEY
STARTS HERE

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Monday - Genesis 37:1-11 - The Dreamer

Jacob has finally returned to the land of his fathers, the land promised him by God, the land of Canaan. Now, the writer of Genesis turns our attention away from Jacob to one of his sons, Joseph. Joseph is one of the only two children that Rachel had. Because of this he is specially loved by his father, but he must also have been greatly loved for his own sake, because Jacob didn't even care for Benjamin (Rachel's other son) as much as he did for Joseph. However, as much as Joseph is loved by his father, he is hated by his brothers. They are jealous and envious of Joseph, and it probably doesn't help that Joseph brings a bad report of them to their father.

Joseph is going to have to go through much trouble in his life, and God gives him these dreams at a young age to be an encouragement to him about the future. God often prepares His people ahead of time for the trials that will come to them. Joseph's first dream has to do with his brother's sheaves bowing down to his sheaf. This looks ahead to when they come to Joseph in Egypt asking for grain. He also dreams that the sun, moon, and stars bow to him. This points to not only his brothers but also his parents bowing to him in the future.

Joseph doesn't seem to tell these dreams because he wants to brag, but because as a young man, he is really amazed and wants to find out what his family thinks. Unfortunately, his brothers don't think too highly of these dreams - it just makes them hate Joseph even more. But God is working, whether they want to accept his prophecy of what will happen or not.

Questions

1. Who was Joseph's mother?
2. What did Jacob give Joseph?
3. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the encouragements God gives us in His Word.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colours. Genesis 37:3

Praise: Psalm 1 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Your JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Tuesday - Genesis 37:12-22 - Ready To Kill

Jacob wants to send Joseph to check up on his brothers. Perhaps this is what happened before when Joseph was forced to bring back a bad report. Joseph is willing to do what his father says even though it must be an awkward situation to be sent by his father as a supervisor to his older brothers.

But when Joseph's brothers see him coming, they can't take it any more. Their hatred has grown so much that they decide to murder him in cold blood. They can't stand his dreams and the thought of bowing to him. They decide to cover up Joseph's murder with a lie. But no matter how much people hate God's plans, they can't thwart them.

God can raise up friends for His people even among their enemies because He holds all hearts in his hand. Reuben has the most reason to be jealous of Joseph because he is the first-born and the one who should be honoured, but he is the one who defends Joseph.

Joseph is a picture of Christ here. Even though Jesus is the beloved Son of His Father and hated by a wicked world, God sends Him from Heaven to visit us in humility and love, to seek and save us. Jesus came to His own people, but they did not receive Him. Instead, they conspired to kill Him. Christ allowed Himself to be killed in order to fulfil God's plan to redeem and save us.

Questions

1. What does Jacob send Joseph to do?
2. What do Joseph's brothers want to do?
3. Who defends Joseph?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would grow as Christians.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colours. Genesis 37:3

Praise: Psalm 2 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Your JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Wednesday - Genesis 37:23-30 - Slavery

Joseph's brothers strip him of his coat and throw him in a pit where they leave him seemingly to starve to death. They are so full of envy and hatred, that they show no remorse, but just sit down and eat after doing this terrible thing. They are pleased to think that they have turned the tables on their brother. But during all this time, everything that happens is following God's plan and being used for His purposes. Whenever men think that they have succeeded in doing evil, they are wrong. They will always reap the consequences sometimes on earth and definitely after death.

Judah, when he sees slave traders passing by, comes up with a better idea than leaving Joseph to die. His motive isn't compassion but greed. Selling Joseph as a slave takes care of the problem of being guilty for murder and leaves them with money to spend. But even this plan shows a careless disregard for the life of their brother. Little do they realise that it is God who is restraining them from killing Joseph, God who is directing the slave traders their way, God who is sending Joseph to slavery in Egypt - all for His purposes of raising Joseph to a position of honour and deliverance. Even Reuben's plans of delivering Joseph are ruined, but this is a good thing because Joseph needs to go to Egypt, so he can one day deliver Reuben and the others from starvation. God takes the evil, the disappointments, and the frustrations of the plans of men and uses them all for His good purposes.

Questions

1. What do Joseph's brothers do to his coat?
2. What plan does Judah suggest?
3. Who is controlling all these circumstances?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is controlling all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colours. Genesis 37:3

Praise: Psalm 3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Your
JOURNEY
STARTS HERE

Thursday - Genesis 37:31-36 - Grief of a Father

Joseph will soon be missed, so his brothers are going to have to come up with a lie to cover up what they have done. Even Reuben, who wanted to deliver Joseph, goes along with this lie. We have all learned from Adam to try to cover up our sin, instead of confessing it to God. Once we commit one sin, we usually try to cover it up with another, but God sees all things, and the one who tries to cover up his sin will not prosper long. Joseph's brothers thought what they had done would never be found out, but it was, and it has been written in the Bible, so that the whole world will know.

Jacob is overwhelmed with grief when he sees Joseph's coat and fears the worst. Perhaps he even feels guilty for sending Joseph out alone to look for his brothers. His sons hypocritically try to comfort him, but if they really wanted to comfort him, they would have told him the truth that Joseph is alive. But instead they just watch their father's misery with hard hearts. Jacob is now determined that he will go to his grave grieving for his son. Jacob has almost made an idol out of his son, Joseph. He is consumed by what has happened to him, and instead of turning to God, he hardens his heart in his grief and bitterness.

Meanwhile, Joseph is brought to Egypt and there sold to Potiphar. He is alive, but he has lost his freedom. We aren't told what thoughts are going through his head or what emotions he is feeling. But God is with him, guiding and protecting him through all of these circumstances and situations for His glory and Joseph's good.

Questions

1. What story do Joseph's brothers come up with?
2. What is Jacob's reaction?
3. What happens to Joseph in Egypt?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put our trust in God and avoid bitterness.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colours. Genesis 37:3

Praise: Psalm 4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Friday - Genesis 38:1-11 - A Contrast to Joseph

Perhaps to show up more clearly the godliness of Joseph, we are given this chapter about his brother Judah's wicked decisions. Judah foolishly becomes friends with one of the Canaanite men, leaving behind his father's family who believe in God and surrounding himself with unbelievers. Perhaps if Jacob had not been so consumed by his thoughts of Joseph's death, he would have put a stop to this. Judah then marries a Canaanite woman, something expressly forbidden by God and a practice that has only brought trouble to those who do it (remember Cain and Esau). Judah's case is no different. He has three sons, two of whom seem to take after their unbelieving mother. There appears to be very little fear of God in the family, and the results are very bad.

Judah's firstborn, Er, is so wicked in God's sight that God removes His mercy from him and kills him. His second son, Onan, is no better refusing to obey both God and his father by not raising up children to his brother's memory. So Judah sends away the young widow, Tamar, to her father's house to wait for his third son to grow up. Many think that Judah never intended to give his third son to Tamar as a husband, but instead lies to keep her a widow for life. If so, it would be very foolish for Judah not to see that it isn't Tamar who has caused the death of his two sons, but their own wicked rebellion against God. But we often blame others when faced with the judgement of God, instead of admitting that it is the just consequence of our actions.

Questions

1. What foolish things does Judah do?
2. What happens to Judah's first son?
3. Who is the widow of these two sons?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that our children would marry godly spouses.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colours. Genesis 37:3

Praise: Psalm 5 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Your JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Saturday - Genesis 38:12-23 - Taking Matters Into Her Own Hands

Judah's wife dies, and he has not kept his word to Tamar and given her his third son. When she sees this she decides to take matters into her own hands. If she can't have a child by the son, she will have it by the father. She pretends to be a prostitute in order to trap her father-in-law. But if Judah had tried to live in a godly way, he would not have been trapped. But he is quick to turn to a prostitute, and this sin will have many consequences he just doesn't see at the time. If we are conscientious about doing what we say we will do and living in a godly way, we can avoid many of the snares and traps of others. Our sins often have unseen consequences that we only discover later.

Judah tries to send his payment to the prostitute, but she has disappeared, and he doesn't push the matter. He doesn't want his actions to become public knowledge and be talked over by others. He also doesn't want others to laugh at him for entrusting his seal and staff to a prostitute. He is not worried about his sin or need for forgiveness. The only thing that concerns him is the potential for embarrassment in the situation. There are many people who care more about having a good reputation with men than they do about having a good reputation with God. They care more about being embarrassed than about the fact that their sins are condemning them in the eyes of God.

Questions

1. What plan does Tamar come up with and why?
2. What did Judah give Tamar?
3. Why did Judah give up trying to find the prostitute?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colours. Genesis 37:3

Praise: Psalm 6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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