

Walk Through the Bible

GENESIS 36-37

OVERVIEW

In Genesis chapter 36, we are briefly given a description of the generations of Esau, Jacob's twin brother. The chapter is comprised of a listing of Esau's sons, grandsons, and the kings of Edom, the nation that came from Esau's descendants.

Genesis chapter 37 begins the story of Jacob's favored son Joseph. Hatred for Joseph sprang up quickly among his brothers when Jacob gives Joseph a special coat that signified his status over his brothers. Joseph tells both his brothers and his father of the powerful prophetic dreams God gave him - dreams that suggest all of them will one day bow down to him. Allowing jealousy to overtake them, Joseph's brothers hatch a plan to murder him. After interjection from Joseph's oldest brother, Reuben, the brothers decide to sell Joseph into slavery with the Ishmaelites. Upon arriving in Egypt, Joseph is sold once again into slavery with the Egyptians and ends up serving in the house of an officer of Pharaoh, named Potiphar.

DISCUSSION

- Why was Joseph's coat a reason for his brothers to hate him (**Genesis 37:3-4**)?
- What caused Joseph's brothers to go from hating him to being jealous of him (**Genesis 37:11**)?
- How do you avoid the dream killers in your life? Why is it dangerous to be a dream killer (**Genesis 37:19**)?
- Jacob (Israel) sent his son to Shechem to check on his brothers (**Genesis 37:12-14**) What bad things happened in Shechem?
- In what ways does the selling of Joseph echo the binding of Isaac?
- Jacob believed his son Joseph was dead, but he was very much alive (**Genesis 37:35**). How does our belief affect our behavior?
- In what ways can the life of Joseph point toward the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?

