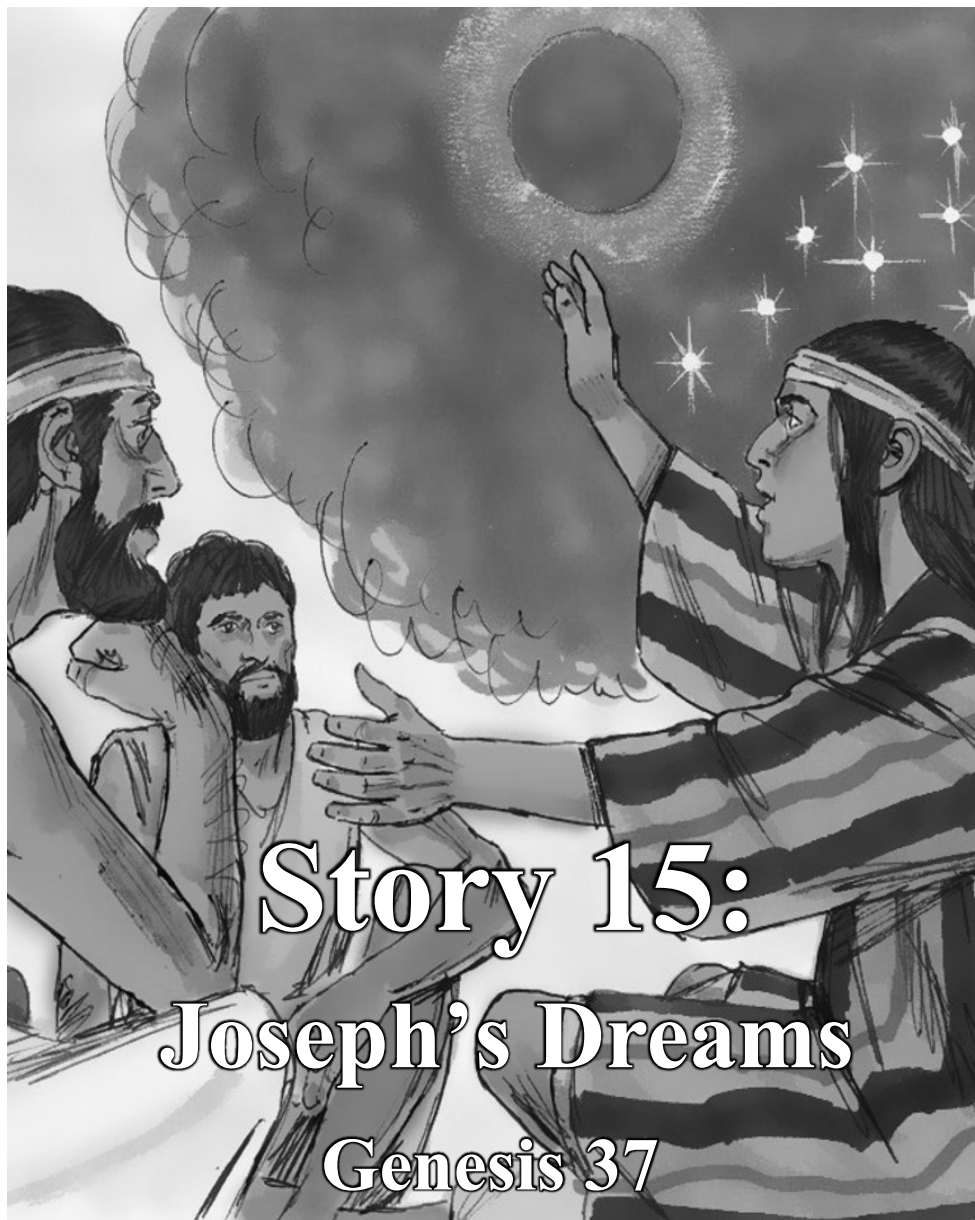


Story 15:
Joseph's Dreams
Genesis 37



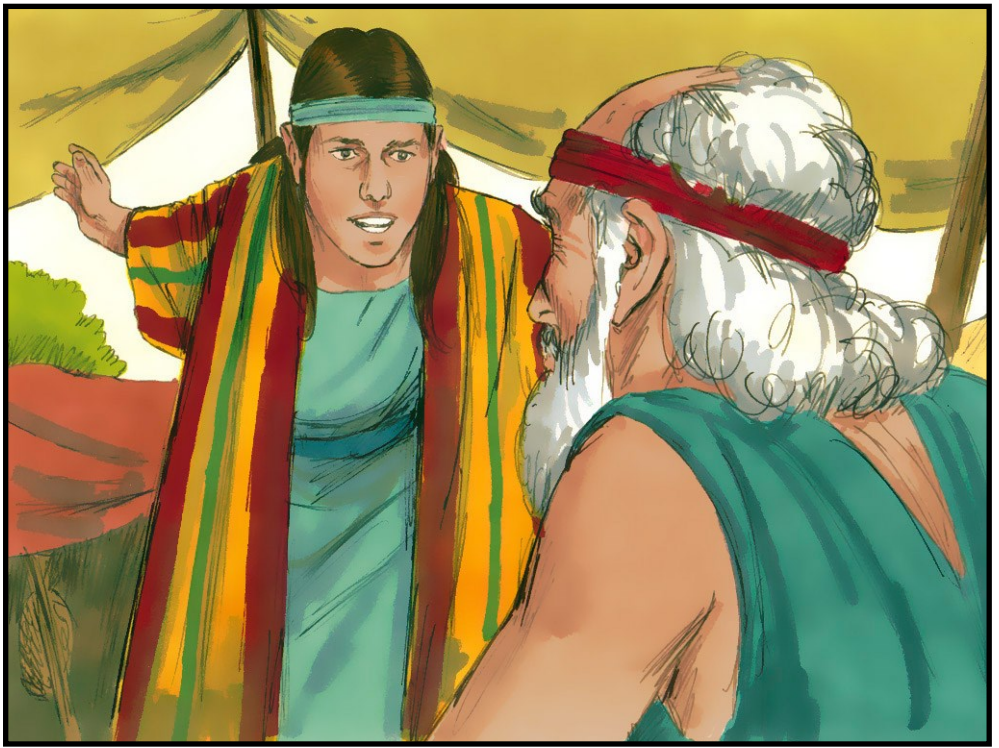
Story 15:

Joseph's Dreams

Genesis 37



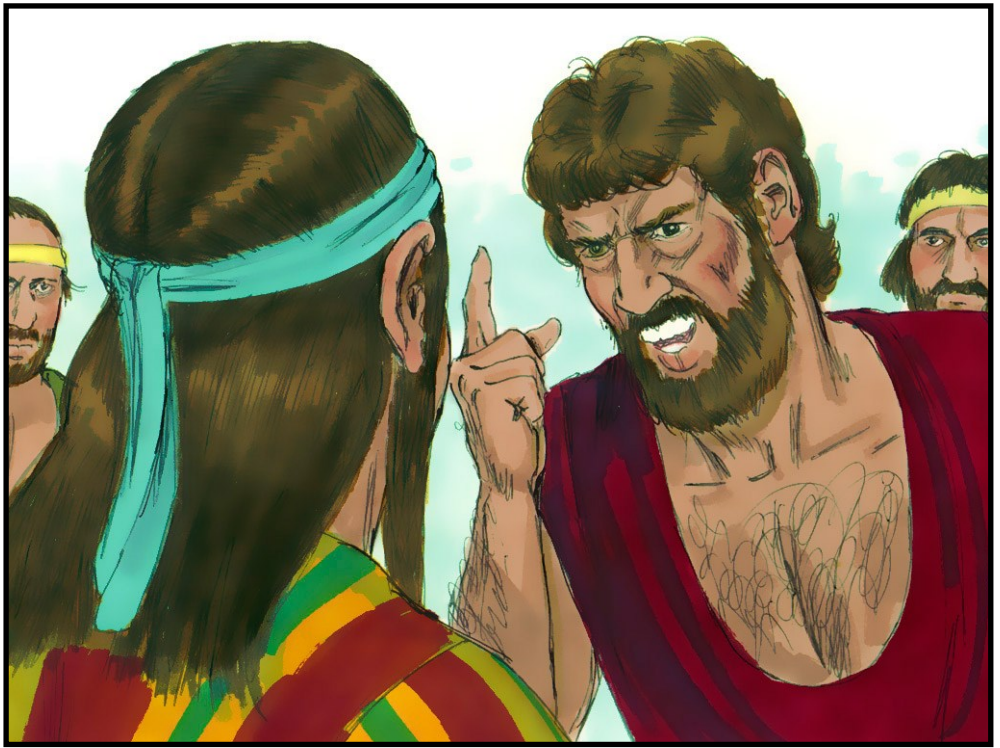
Jacob finally settled down in the land of Canaan where his father Isaac had lived. He had twelve sons. He had **Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar** and **Zebulun** whose mother was Leah. He had **Joseph** and **Benjamin** whose mother Rachel had recently died. He had **Gad** and **Asher** whose mother was Leah's servant Zilpah. And there was **Dan** and **Naphtali** whose mother was Rachel's servant Bilhah. However, Jacob loved Joseph the most.



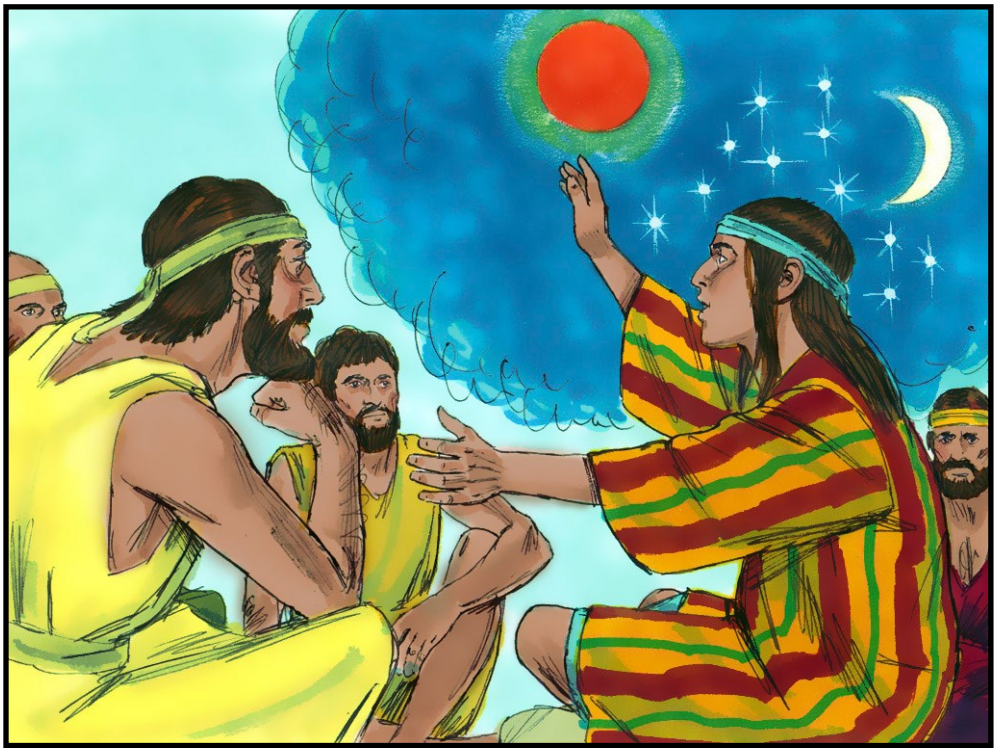
Jacob made a coat of many colors for Joseph because of his great love for him. At seventeen years old, Joseph would work the sheep with his brothers, but he would often tell on them to their father Jacob. When the other brothers saw how much their father loved him, they were jealous and began to hate Joseph. They got to where they wouldn't say anything nice to him.



One night Joseph had a dream that he later told to his brothers. He said, “I dreamed that we were all working in the field binding up sheaves of grain. All of a sudden, my sheaf stood up and all of your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to it.”



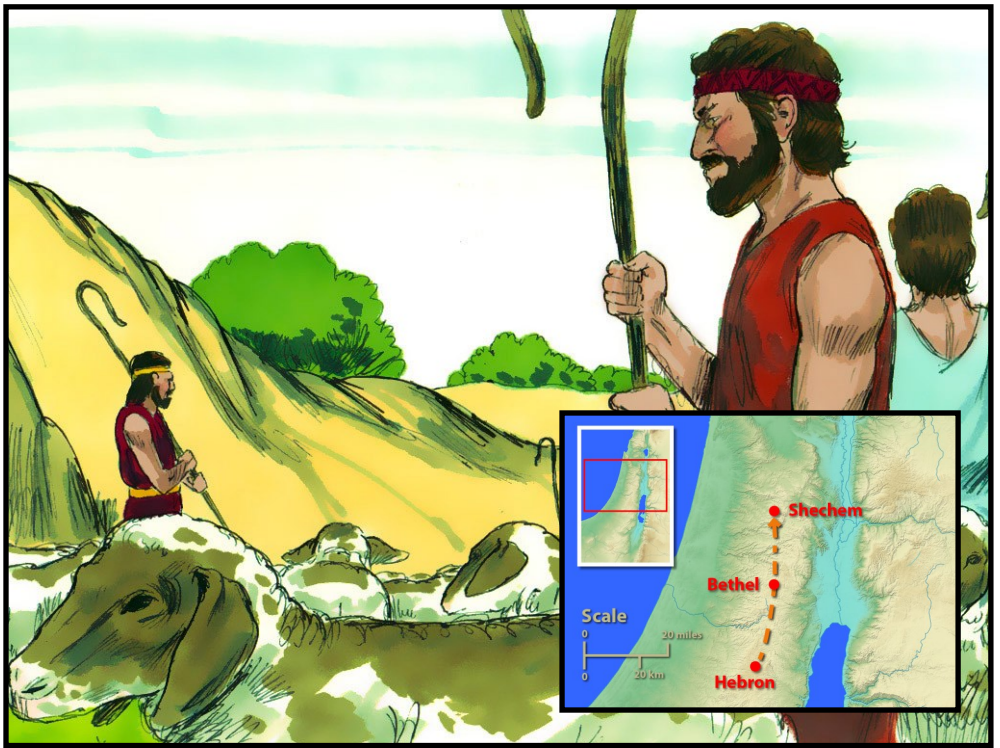
When his brothers heard the dream, they hated him even more. They said, “Who do you think you are? Do you think you are better than us and that one day you are going to rule over us?”



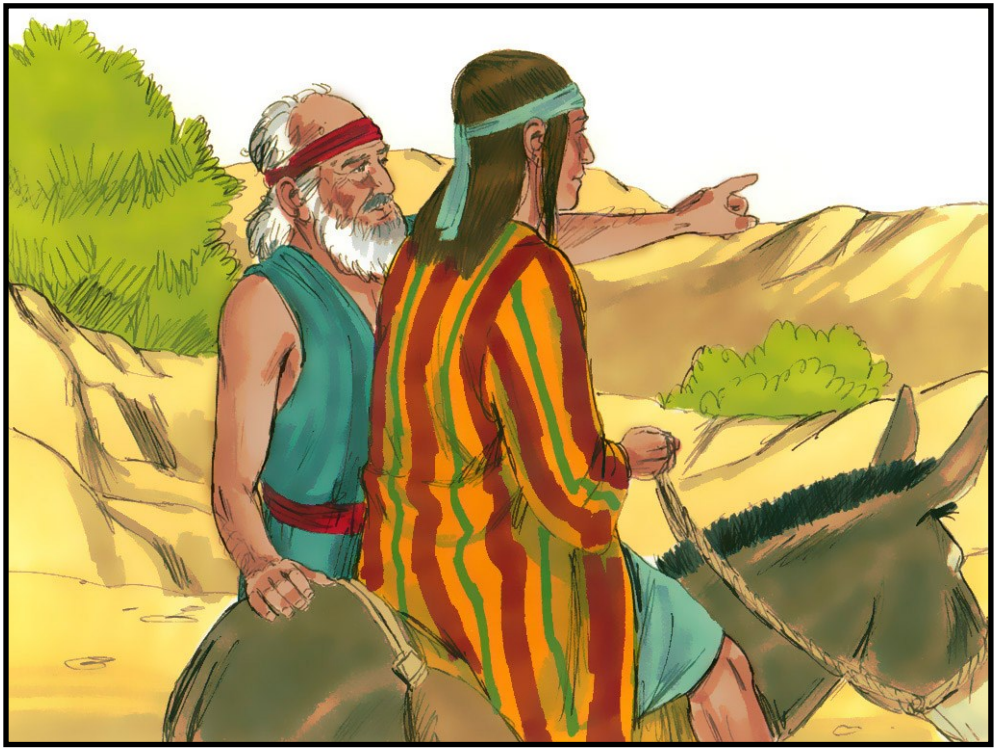
Then, Jacob had another dream that he also told to his brothers. He said, “This time I dreamed that the sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”



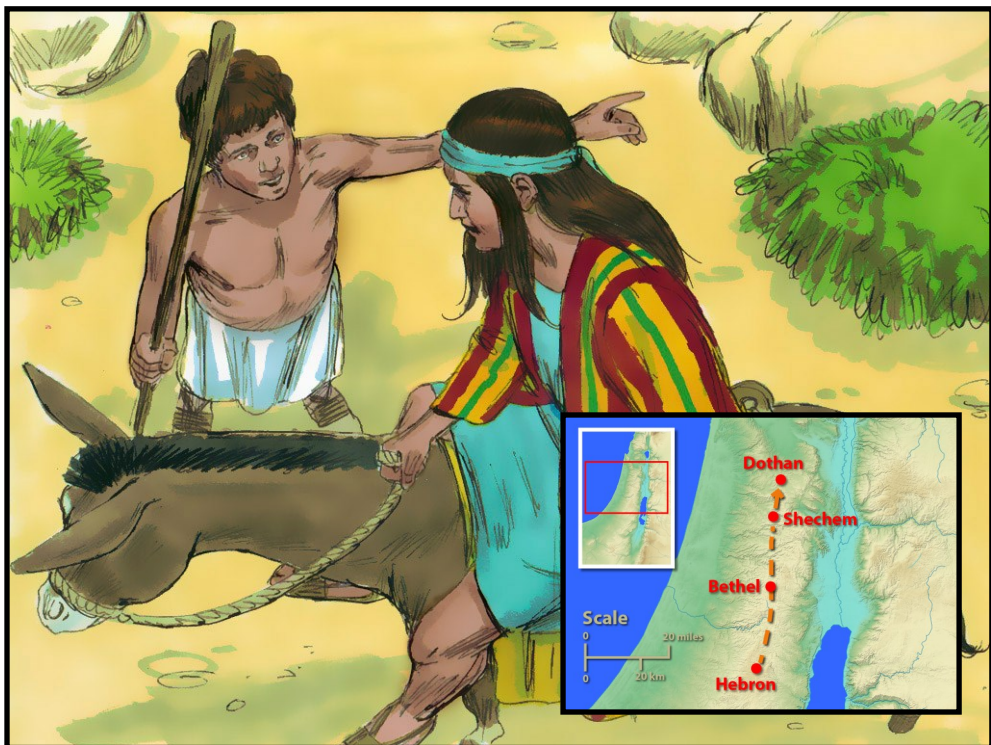
When his father heard the dream he got on to Joseph. Jacob said, “What kind of dream is this that you’ve had? Do you really think that your brothers, their mothers, and I are going to bow down on the ground before you?” Jacob thought about what Joseph’s dreams could mean, while Joseph’s brothers became even more jealous of him.



Time went by, and Joseph's brothers took the family's sheep to the pastures of Shechem to graze.



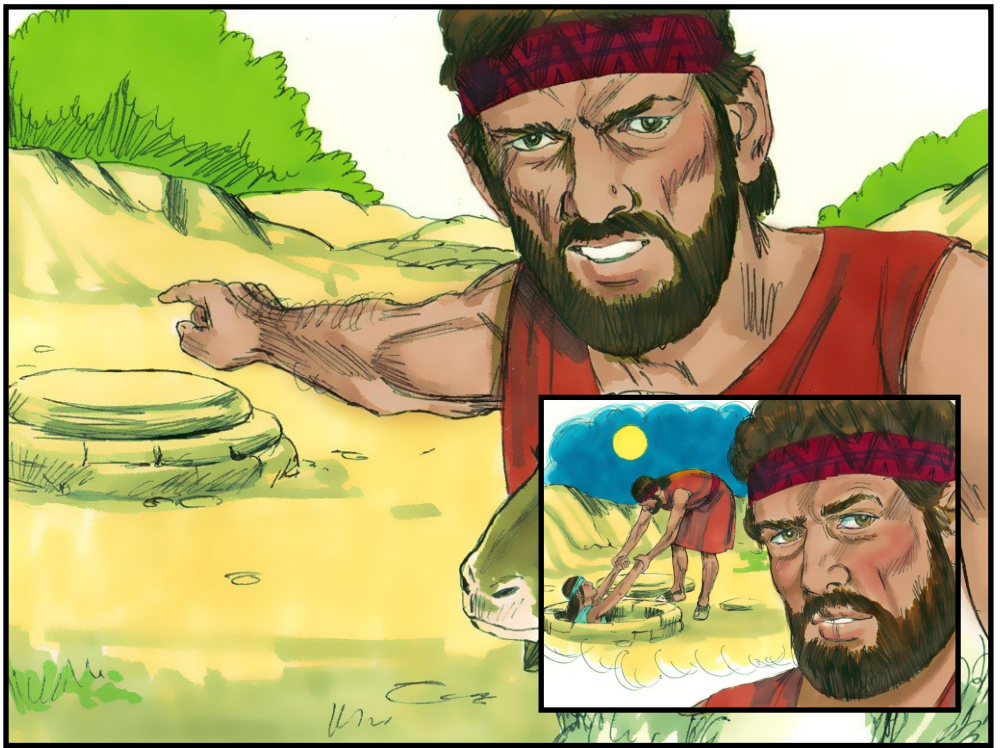
Jacob wanted to know how his sons were, so he called Joseph and said, “Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are doing. Bring me back word once you find out.”



Jacob traveled all the way to Shechem, but when he got there he couldn't find his brothers. He spoke to a man in one of the fields who said, "They have moved on from here. I heard them talking to one another. They said, 'Let's take the sheep a little further to Dothan.'" "



Joseph set out for Dothan. As he approached, his brothers could see him in the distance. They said to one another, “Look, here comes that dreamer. Let’s kill him already and throw his body into one of the pits. Then we’ll see what becomes of his dreams!”

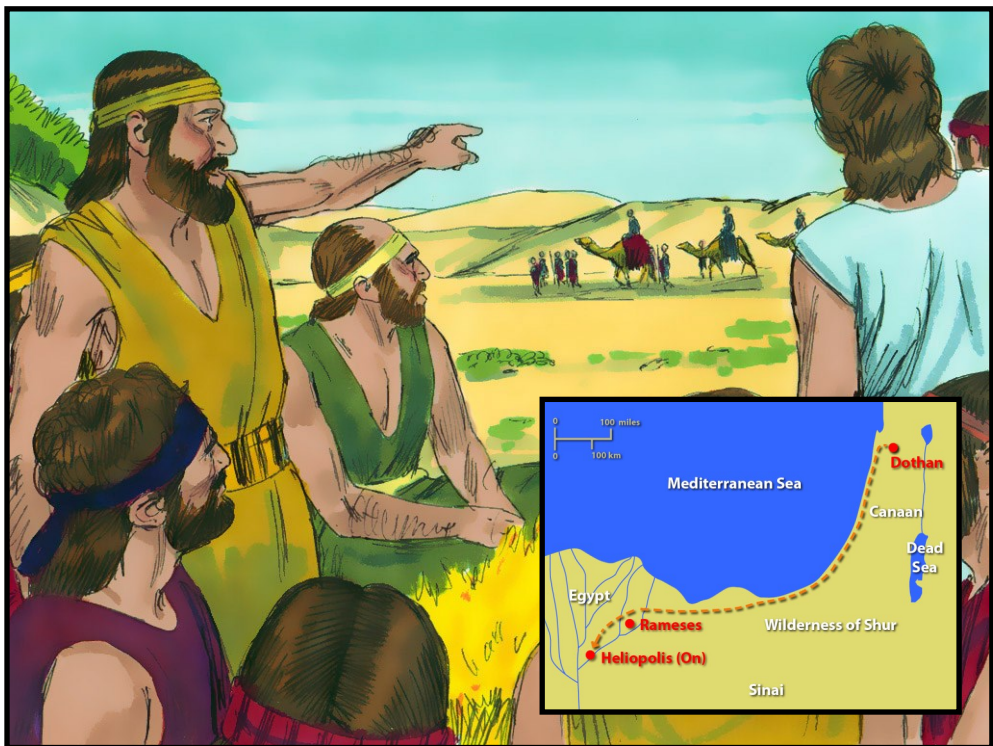


When Joseph's oldest brother Reuben heard what the others were saying he wanted to save Joseph. He said, "Let's not take his life. Instead, let's throw him into this pit that doesn't have any water in it."

Reuben thought to himself, "I'll come back later and rescue Joseph and return him to our father."



When Joseph reached his brothers, they stripped off his colorful robe and threw him down into the pit.



Reuben went off by himself while the rest of the brothers sat down to eat a meal. All of a sudden, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelite traders who were traveling to Egypt.

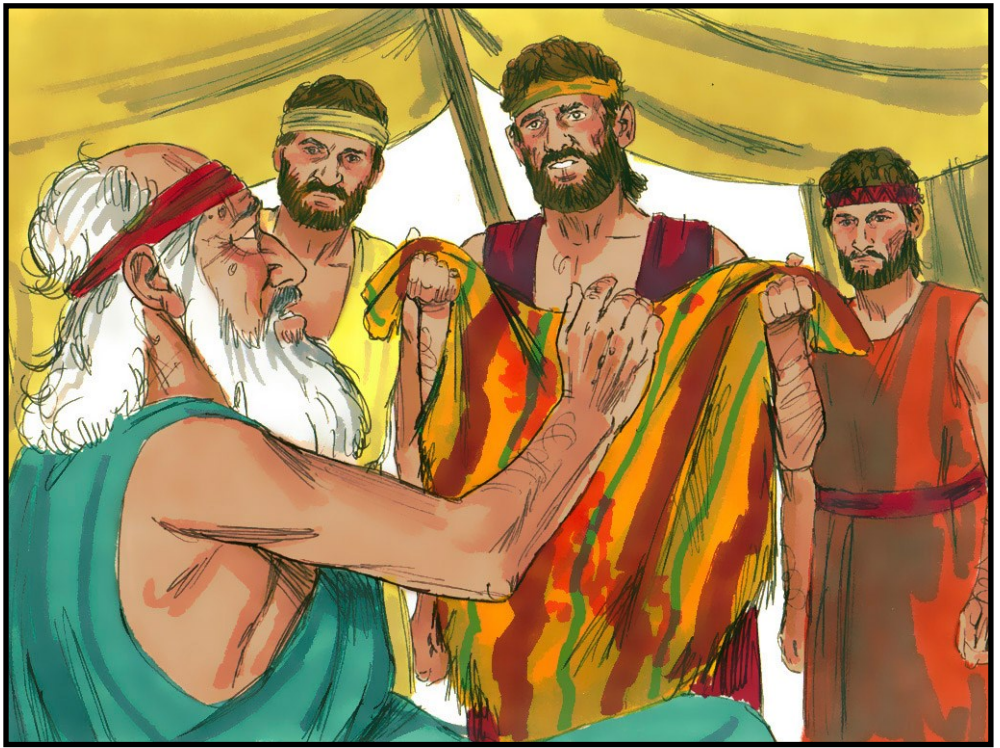
Judah said, “What do we gain if we kill Joseph and try to hide it? After all, he is our brother. Instead, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites.”

So, as the traders came by, the brothers pulled him out and sold him for twenty pieces of silver.



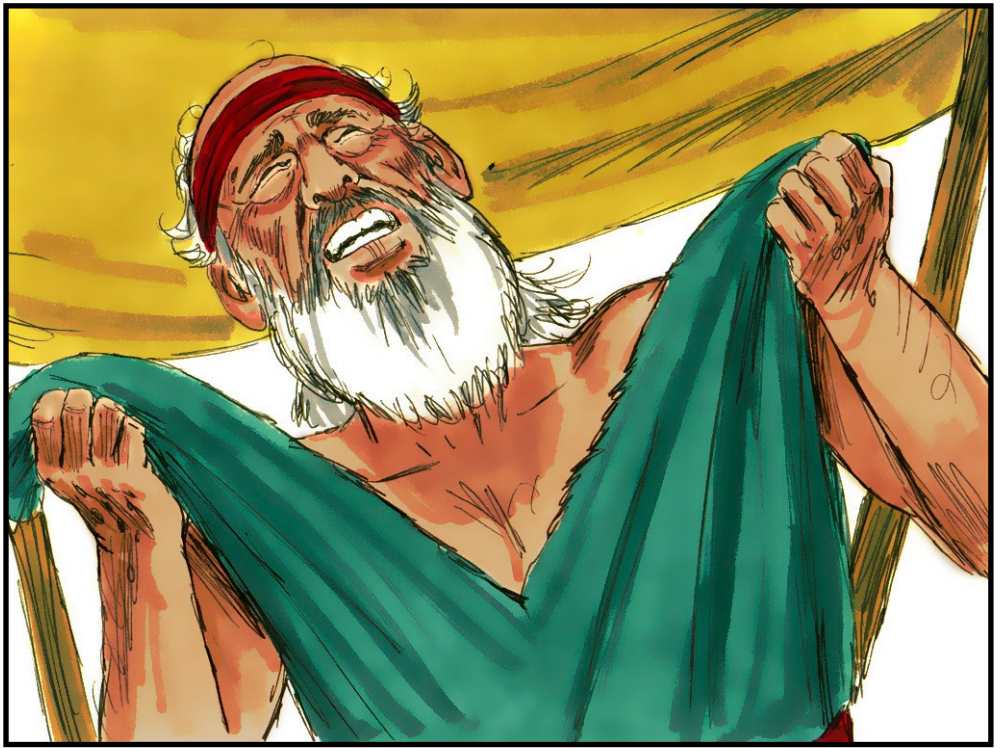
When Reuben returned to rescue Joseph from the pit, he saw that he wasn't there. He said to his brothers, "Our brother is gone! Now what are we going to do?"

So, they took Joseph's colorful robe and tore it. Then, they killed a goat and put its blood on it.



They took the coat covered in blood back to their father and said, “We found this while we were on our journey. Does this belong to Joseph?”

Jacob recognized the tattered robe and said, “This does belong to Joseph. A wild animal must have attacked and killed him.”



Then Jacob tore his clothes, which was a sign of great heartache. He cried for many days. All of his sons and daughters tried to comfort him, but he said, “No, I don’t want to be comforted! I feel like I could die.”

Meanwhile, though, the Ishmaelite traders sold Joseph as a slave to a man named Potiphar down in Egypt. Potiphar worked for Pharaoh and had a high position as the captain of the guard.

M

kids

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