

Genesis 37:3, 4, 13 (to 1st .), 18, 23, 24 (to :), 28 (to :)

Joseph and coat and being sold into slavery

3Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

“He was the son of his old age.—Jacob was ninety-one when Joseph was born; but at Benjamin’s birth he was eight or nine years older; and according to the common belief that Jacob was only twenty years in Padan-aram, the four sons of the handmaids must have been about Joseph’s age, and Leah’s last two sons even younger. But the epithet is intelligible if Jacob had waited twenty-seven years after his marriage with Rachel, before Joseph was born. There would then be a considerable interval between him and the other sons; and though Rachel had a second son some years afterwards, yet Joseph would continue to be the son long looked for, whose birth had given him so great happiness; whereas his joy at Benjamin’s coming was bought at the terrible price of the mother’s death.

“A coat of many colours.—Two explanations are given of this phrase; the first, that it was a long garment with sleeves or fringes; the other, that it was composed of patchwork of various colours. The latter is the more probable interpretation; for from the tomb at Beni-Hassan we learn that such dresses were worn in Palestine, as a train of captive Jebusites is represented upon it clad in rich robes, the patterns of which seem to have been produced by sewing together small pieces of different colors.” (Ellicott;s Commentary”)

4And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

“Their hatred was so deep and keen, that they could not smother it, as for their own interest they should have done, but discovered it by their churlish words and carriage to him.” (Matthew Poole’s Commentary)

“And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren,.... Which they perceived by various things in his behaviour to him, by his words, his looks, his gestures, and particularly by the coat he had made him, which distinguished him from the rest: they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him; they not only inwardly hated him, but they could not conceal their hatred, but betrayed it by their speech unto him; they could not speak to him on any occasion, but in a cross, surly, ill natured manner; they could not salute him, or give him the common salutation, Peace be to thee” (Gill’s Exposition).

13And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them.

18And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

23And it came to pass when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

24And they took him, and cast him into a pit: Intended to kill him or put him into a pit and sell him

28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver:

Genesis 39:1, 3

1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

NOTES:

11th son of Jacob and Rachel

Not listed as one of the 12 tribes: given a double portion:
Ephraim and Manasseh

Joseph is bought by Potiphar, a captain of the guard, an officer of Pharaoh, and brought to his house.

he met this situation with a courage and fidelity

Joseph- no human help to depend upon,
he must to rely completely on God for his safety and well being. “

3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

Joseph stood quite alone in a heathen land and house. He was surrounded only by what would blunt his moral sense, and render the temptation all the more powerful” (Edersheim 150).

How easy it would be to let go and succumb to her advances

No one would know

Only Joseph’s inner moral compass could guide him in this situation