

Joseph's Trials and Triumphs

Quote:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 2:15-17

Hatred and Envy of Joseph's Brothers - *Colour the Circled Phrases RED, and mark the meanings and comments in your margin*

Genesis 37:4

"they hated him"

TWOT - means "Theological Word Book of the Old Testament"

"**hated**" - Heb 'sane' - means "an emotional attitude toward persons and things which are opposed, detested, despised, and with which one wishes to have no contact or relationship" (TWOT) Same word is used in vv5, 8 See this attitude in the Jews towards Jesus - Jn 15:25.

"could not speak peaceably unto him" - NIV has "could not speak a kind word to him".

Genesis 37:5

"hated him yet the more"

Genesis 37:8

"hated him yet the more for his dreams and for his words"

Genesis 37:11

"his brethren envied him"

"**envied**" - Heb 'qana' - means "a very strong emotion whereby some quality or possession of another is desired"

Genesis 37:18

"**they conspired against him to slay him**" - The Jews did the same with the Lord - Mk 12:7; Matt 27:1; Jn 11:49-51.

Genesis 37 - Joseph's Youth

37:1-4 - Joseph loved of his father - hated of his brethren

37:5-11 - Joseph's dreams

37:12-14 - Joseph seeks his brethren at Shechem

37:15-17 - Joseph finds them at Dothan

37:18-24 - Joseph is cast into a pit

37:25-28 - Joseph is sold to Ishmaelites

37:29-35 - Jacob's grief

37:36 - Joseph sold to Potiphar

Genesis 38 - Birth of Pharez: Predecessor of Jesus

38:1-5 - Judah begets Er, Onan and Shelah

38:6 - Er marries Tamar

38:7-10 - Judicial deaths of Er and Onan

38:11 - Judah promises Shelah to Tamar

38:12-23 - Tamar's stratagem to win her husband

38:24-26 - Judah vindicates Tamar's action

38:27-30 - Tamar gives birth to Pharez and Zarah

Genesis 39-41 - Joseph's Elevation in Egypt

39:1-6 - Joseph made overseer in Potiphar's house

39:7-12 - Joseph's integrity in face of temptation

39:13-18 - Joseph falsely accused of fornication

39:19-20 - Joseph imprisoned

39:21-23 - God prospers Joseph in prison

40:1-4 - Pharaoh's butler and baker imprisoned

40:5-19 - Their dreams interpreted by Joseph

40:20-22 - Joseph's interpretation is vindicated

40:23 - Joseph's plea is forgotten by the butler

41:1-8 - Pharaoh's two dreams

41:9-13 - The butler recommends Joseph to Pharaoh

41:14-24 - Joseph before Pharaoh

41:25-32 - Joseph interprets the dreams

41:33-36 - Joseph recommends a national policy

41:37-40 - Joseph is appointed in charge

41:41-45 - Joseph's high authority and marriage

41:46-52 - Joseph's age, administration and family

41:53-57 - Plenty followed by famine

Genesis 42:1-45:15 - Joseph's Brethren Humbled Before Him

42:1-5 - Joseph's brethren sent to purchase corn

42:6-17 - They are imprisoned as spies

42:18-28 - Released on condition of returning with Benjamin

42:29-38 - Jacob's deep concern

43:1-14 - Judah offers to be security for Benjamin

43:15-25 - The brethren's fear of Joseph

43:26-34 - Joseph entertains his brethren

44:1-13 - Joseph's plan to delay his brethren

44:14-34 - Judah pleads for Benjamin

45:1-15 - Joseph reveals himself to his brethren

Flee From Temptation - *Mark above or below Genesis 39*

Joseph provided a powerful example of how to overcome temptation.

1. He clearly identified Potiphar's wife's request for what it was - 'wickedness' (**Gen 39:9**). He had come to know the laws and ways of Yahweh, and understood them to be righteous and the ways of the world to be wicked. See **Psa 119:97-104**.
2. He recognised the presence of God (**Gen 39:9**), against whom he would be sinning if he accepted her request - see the example of Christ - **Psa 16:8**. Joseph here showed his love for God, his fear to offend Him by refusing to sin against Him (**Isa 66:2**), and his faith in God and the promises. These gave him courage to overcome (**1 Jn 5:4**).
3. He avoided situations that gave her opportunity - "he hearkened not unto her to lie by her, or to be with her" (**Gen 39:10**). He understood the weakness of the flesh, and therefore gave it no opportunity. (**Prov 5:3-4; 6:23-29; 7:4-5,13; 22:14**).
4. When he was taken by surprise he fled (**Gen 39:11-12**). He fled youthful lusts and followed righteousness (**2 Tim 2:22**); making no provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof (**Rom 13:14**). See also **1 Cor 6:15-18; 10:14**.