

JOSEPH ROSE & STOOD UPRIGHT

(No. 1097 – 8/2/15 - NLC)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Gen. 37:2-11:** ²*This is the account of Jacob's family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and **he brought their father a bad report about them.*** ³*Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him.* ⁴*When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, **they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.*** ⁵*Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.* ⁶*He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly **my sheaf rose and stood upright**, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."* ⁸*His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they **hated him all the more** because of his dream and what he had said.* ⁹*Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."* ¹⁰*When he told his father as well as his brothers, **his father rebuked him** and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?"* ¹¹*His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.*

- B. The story of Joseph is part of a much larger story with very complex plots & subplots (**Gen. 50:20**):

*You **intended** to harm me, but God **intended** it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

1. "Intended" = to weave, plot, connive, plan
2. Used in Jer. 29:11 – "thoughts or plans"
3. In Gen. 15, God revealed the "big picture" to Abraham about his descendants in slavery in Egypt, the exodus, and the Promised Land
4. God knows the end from the beginning—He planned or "intended" every part of this very complex story to

eventually bring forth the Messiah & salvation for the world!!!

- C. Jacob's family was very dysfunctional—it was more messed up than most modern families: THERE'S HOPE FOR US!
1. Jacob's sibling rivalry with Esau, deceiving him for the birthright & blessing
 2. Jacob tricked by Laban, marries Leah instead of Rachel
 3. Ultimately he has 12 children by 4 different mothers!
 4. Jacob's daughter Dinah is raped by a Hivite, Simeon & Levi slaughtered every male in their city
 5. Reuben (firstborn) slept with Jacob's concubine Bilhah
 6. Judah left home, married a Canaanite woman, his 2 sons were killed by God, & he ended up getting his daughter-in-law pregnant thinking she was a prostitute!
 7. Jacob favored Joseph & Benjamin, and the other 10 were jealous

II. JOSEPH'S DREAMS

- A. God didn't reveal any of the bad stuff that Joseph would have to go through—rejection, sold as a slave, Egypt, prison!
- B. They wanted to kill him *and* his dreams (**Gen. 37:17-20**): ¹⁷*So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan.* ¹⁸*But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.* ¹⁹***“Here comes that dreamer!”*** *they said to each other.* ²⁰***“Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams.”***
1. When God's favor is on you & He begins to reveal His dream for you, there will be people who are jealous, threatened by you
 2. They will try to destroy you and your dream
 3. Note: The good news from Joseph's story is: THEY CAN'T!
- C. Dream of the sheaves: Joseph's sheaf ROSE & STOOD UPRIGHT

D. **ROSE:** Joseph never tried to exalt or promote himself— everyone tried to squash him, but it was God who kept promoting him

1. **Ps. 75:5-7 (KJV):** ⁵*Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck. ⁶For **promotion** cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. ⁷But God is the judge: **He putteth down one, and setteth up another.***
2. **Promoted in Potiphar's house (Gen. 39:1-5):** ¹*Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. ²The **LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered**, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. ³When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, ⁴Joseph found **FAVOR** in his eyes and became his attendant. **Potiphar put him in charge of his household**, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. ⁵From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.*
3. **Promoted in prison (Gen. 39:20-23):** ²⁰*Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, ²¹the LORD was with him; He showed him kindness and granted him **FAVOR** in the eyes of the prison warden. ²²So the **warden put Joseph in charge** of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. ²³The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.*
4. **Promoted to Pharaoh's prime minister (Gen. 41:33-46):** ³³*[Joseph] "And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt... ³⁵They should collect all the food of these good years... ³⁶...to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine." ³⁷The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. ³⁸So Pharaoh asked them, "**Can we find***

anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"

³⁹Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰**You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.**" ⁴¹So **Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."** ⁴²Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. ⁴⁴Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt..." ⁴⁶Joseph was **thirty years old** when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt... [Note: In 13 years, God promoted him from slave to second-in-command!]

E. **STOOD UPRIGHT:** Not in pride, arrogance, lording over other, but in character & integrity

1. Joseph was wronged repeatedly, but he kept standing for what was right
2. He stood firm against temptation (**Gen. 39:6-12**): ⁶...Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" ⁸But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ⁹**No one is greater in this house than I am.** My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. **How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"** ¹⁰And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her **or even be with her.** ¹¹One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. ¹²She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and **ran out** of the house.
 - a) This is a more powerful victory than that of David slaying Goliath or the 3 Hebrews being delivered out of the fiery furnace!

- b) Standing for what was right led once again to Joseph being wronged—falsely accused and put in prison
 - c) Once again Joseph’s coat is used as false witness against him (his father was deceived by the bloodied coat)
3. He stood upright in his dealings with his brothers, taking the high road & never stooping low to seek revenge or harbor bitterness
 4. They would, however, bow before him on several occasions in fulfillment of his 1st dream (Gen. 42:6; 43:26,28; 44:14; 50:18)
 5. **Gen. 45:1-8:** *¹Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵And now, **do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.** ⁶For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷But **God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.** ⁸“So then, **IT WAS NOT YOU WHO SENT ME HERE, BUT GOD.** He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.”*

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Let God raise (promote) you—He has plans
- B. Stand upright—character & integrity matter!