



Genesis Lesson 29 Chapter 37

The torch has officially been passed. Isaac is dead and Esau has moved southeast from the land of promise to Edom. Jacob, now designated Israel, has renewed the covenant with the Lord at Bethel and has taken his place as the next heir to the promise of God. Abraham had been told that his descendants would be enslaved and mistreated for 400 years, but God would deliver them and punish the nation they had served (Genesis 15:13-14). This

prophecy would be fulfilled through the mistreatment of Joseph and his exaltation in Egypt. Because of Jacob's firstborn Reuben's treachery, Joseph would receive Reuben's firstborn double portion from Jacob (Genesis 48; Hebrews 11:20-21). Therefore, the remaining chapters of Genesis will focus on Joseph, Israel's oldest of the two sons born to him by his beloved wife, Rachel.

READ CHAPTER 37

- 1. The Hebrew used in the phrase "evil report" or "bad report" may be used in several ways, but in this passage it is meant to express the idea that the report given by Joseph was accurate information regarding evil behavior on behalf of his brothers in contrast to Joseph himself giving a false or misleading (evil) report. Although this could have influenced his brothers' disdain for Joseph, what was the actual reason for their contempt?*
- 2. Read James 3:14-16. How does what James has to say about jealousy apply to the events happening between Joseph and his brothers?*

8. *What caused the brothers to change their mind about leaving Joseph in the pit?*

9. *Why do you think Reuben had such an emotional reaction to Joseph being gone?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
