

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

## Genesis 37

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

C. The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—36:43

Tonight, we begin looking at the next patriarch, Joseph. He is one of the most prolific “types of Christ” in all of the Old Testament.

*“Typology is a method of biblical interpretation whereby an element found in the Old Testament is seen to prefigure one found in the New Testament. The initial one is called the type and the fulfillment is designated the antitype. Either type or antitype may be a person, thing, or event, but often the type is messianic and frequently related to the idea of salvation.”*

*“Typological interpretation is specifically the interpretation of the Old Testament based on the fundamental theological unity of the two Testaments whereby something in the Old shadows, prefigures, adumbrates something in the New. Hence, what is interpreted in the Old is not foreign or peculiar or hidden, but arises naturally out of the text due to the relationship of the two Testaments.”*

<https://www.bibleword.org/wp/joseph-a-type-of-christ/9682#:~:text=There%20are%20several%20ways%20at%20that%20Joseph%20is,they%20were%20doing%2C%20and%20report%20back%20to%20Him>

## D. The Provider: Joseph, 37:1—47:26

### 1. Joseph's Background, 30:24-25

Gen. 30:24 And she called his name Joseph; and said,  
**The LORD shall add to me another son.**

25 And it came to pass, when Rachel had born Joseph, that Jacob said unto Laban, Send me away, that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country.

❖ Joseph = "Jehovah has added"

## 2. Joseph's Boyhood, 37:1-11

### a. Joseph's Spiritual Drive, 37:1-2

Gen. 37:1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

2 These *are* the generations of Jacob. **Joseph, being seventeen years old**, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad *was* with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

(1) Tempted to Conform – “...the lad *was* with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives...”

- ❖ With the birth of Benjamin, Joseph’s place of attention would be challenged. He needed somewhere to “belong.”
- ❖ Away from home and with peer pressure abounding, Joseph was confronted with the carnal temptations of youth, and apparently did not acquiesce to the desires of the flesh.
- ❖ Joseph’s resolve to resist temptation would be challenged again in Egypt.



(2) Tempted to Conceal – “...and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.”

❖ Joseph, as a good steward, gave his father an honest report of his brothers.

### b. Joseph's Splendid Dress, 37:3-4

Gen. 37:3 Now 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.

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



❖ Joseph was born into a very dysfunctional family:

- Jacob showed favoritism toward Rachel, then Joseph;
- Leah desired to rise in favoritism with Jacob, but didn't attain it;
- Bilhah and Zilpah were always “second class” servant/concubines and so were their children;
- Joseph lost his mother, and then sold into bondage as a teenager.

## (1) The Robe of Priesthood – “...a coat of *many* colours.”

- ❖ The birthright of the firstborn included the position of priesthood that was Reuben's, but was forfeited by his infidelity.

## (2) The Robe of Progenitorship

- ❖ The birthright of the firstborn included the patriarchal blessing that was Reuben's, but was also forfeited by his infidelity.

### (3) The Robe of Priority

- ❖ The robe itself declared that the double-portion in the birthright was also Joseph's, as well as his place as Jacob's favorite in the eyes of his brothers.

#### c. Joseph's Spectacular Dreams, 37:5-11

##### (1) Sheaves: Control Over World Resources, 37:5-8

Gen. 37:5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told *it* his brethren: and **they hated him yet the more.**

6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

7 For, behold, we *were* binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And **they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.**

- ❖ The words of the dream were cutting to Joseph's brothers.
- ❖ Joseph's brothers recognized the obvious implications of domination by Joseph over them.
- ❖ The dream foreshadowed the future events in Egypt.

(2) Stars: Control Over World Rulers,  
37:9-11

Gen. 37:9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, **behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.**

10 And he told *it* to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What *is* this dream that thou hast dreamed? **Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren** indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

- ❖ The dream is one of position and power in the future for Joseph.
- ❖ The rebuke by Jacob indicates that Rachel and Benjamin are included in the dream – v. 10.
- ❖ The account of Rachel's death is in Gen. 35:16-19:



Gen. 35:16 And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.

17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.

18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.

19 And **Rachel died**, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which *is* Bethlehem.

## Summary

### Miraculous Birth

- ❖ After Rachel was barren, God opened her womb and she conceived Joseph (Genesis 30:22-23).
- ❖ God overshadowed Mary with the Holy Spirit while she was still a virgin (Matthew 1:18).

### Family

- ❖ Joseph and Jesus were deeply loved by their fathers.
- ❖ Joseph's own brothers hated him, tried to kill him, and sold him into slavery.
- ❖ Jesus' own people rejected Him.
- ❖ Joseph and Jesus were hated by the words they spoke.

Jn. 5:18 Therefore **the Jews sought the more to kill him**, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

Jn. 7:7 The world cannot hate you; **but me it hateth, because I testify of it**, that the works thereof are evil.

Jn. 8:40 But **now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth**, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

## Conclusion

Jn. 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 **He came unto his own, and his own received him not.**

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**