

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

D. The Provider: Joseph, 37:1—47:26

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

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

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

(1) Tempted to Conform

(2) Tempted to Conceal

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

(1) The Robe of Priesthood

(2) The Robe of Progenitorship

(3) The Robe of Priority

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

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

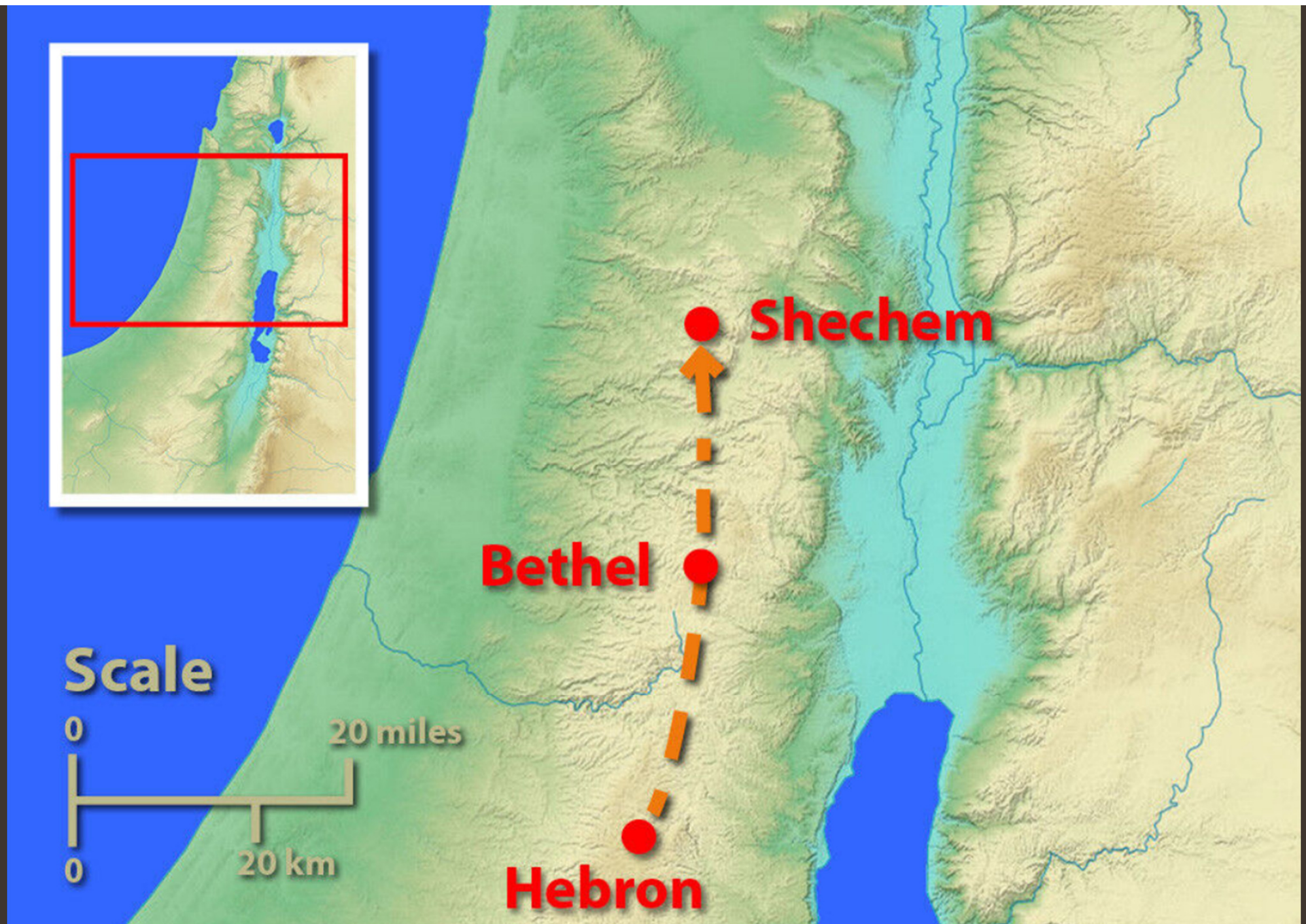
(2) Stars: Control Over World Rulers, 37:9-11

Last week, we began looking at the next patriarch, Joseph. He is one of the most prolific “types of Christ” in all of the Old Testament. This evening, we continue observing Joseph’s life and how his brothers betrayed him.

3. Joseph’s Betrayal, 37:12-36

a. How Joseph was Sent to His Brethren, 37:12-17

(1) The Mission Discussed, 37:12-14



Gen. 37:12 And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

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

14 And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and **bring me word again**. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

❖ Like Jesus, Joseph was sent by his father, to his brethren.

Jn. 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of **the Father which hath sent me**. ...

36 But I have greater witness than *that* of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that **the Father hath sent me**.

37 And **the Father himself, which hath sent me**, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

Jn. 6:44 No man can come to me, except **the Father which hath sent me** draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

...

57 As **the living Father hath sent me**, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

Jn. 8:16 And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and **the Father that sent me**. ...

18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and **the Father that sent me** beareth witness of me. ...

29 And **he that sent me** is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. ...

42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but **he sent me**.

Jn. 12:49 For I have not spoken of myself; but **the Father which sent me**, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

Jn. 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that **thou hast sent me**. ...

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that **thou hast sent me**.

Jn. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as **my Father hath sent me**, even so send I you.

❖ Joseph, like Jesus, obeyed his father, and was pleasing to Jacob.

Jn. 8:29 And **he that sent me** is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; **for I do always those things that please him**.

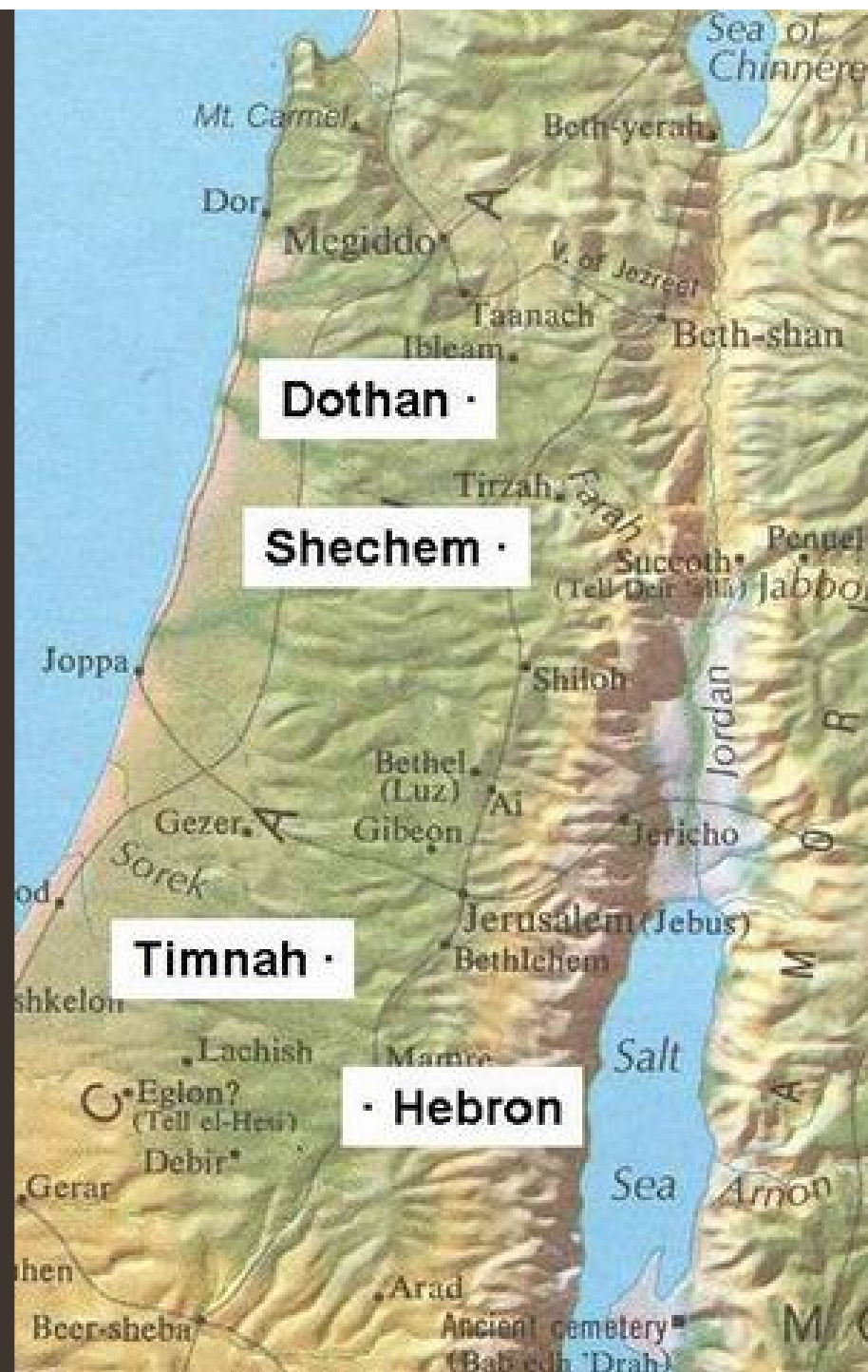
(2) The Mission Discharged, 37:15-17

Gen. 37:15 And a certain man found him, and, behold, *he was* wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?

16 And he said, **I seek my brethren**: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed *their flocks*.

17 And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And **Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.**

❖ Dothan = "two wells"



❖ Joseph was “...in the field...”

Mt. 13:38 “**The field is the world...**”

❖ Like Jesus, Joseph sought his brethren.

Luke 19:10 For **the Son of man is come to seek and to save** that which was lost.

b. How Joseph was Seen by His Brethren,
37:18-27

(1) The Conscious Wickedness of All, 37:18-24

Gen. 37:18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and **we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him:** and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

21 And Reuben heard *it*, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, **Let us not kill him.**

22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit that *is* in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

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

24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit *was* empty, *there was* no water in it.

❖ Two accounts in the Bible record the conspiracy to kill an approaching of a beloved son: Joseph and Jesus.

Luke 20:13 Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? **I will send my beloved son**: it may be they will reverence *him* when they see him.

14 But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, **This is the heir: come, let us kill him**, that the inheritance may be ours.

❖ The plan involved lying about the death of Joseph, just like the death of Jesus:

Mt. 28:12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him *away* while we slept.

❖ Reuben, vs. 21-22, interceded against the killing of Joseph. Nicodemus did the same for Jesus:

Jn. 7:50 Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)

51 Doth our law judge *any* man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

❖ In v. 23, “...when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat...”

Mt. 27:28 **And they stripped him**, and put on him a scarlet robe. ...

(2) The Criminal Weakness of Reuben, 37:21-22, 29-30

Gen. 37:21 And Reuben heard *it*, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit that *is* in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

29 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph *was* not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child *is* not; and I, whither shall I go?

- ❖ As the eldest son, Reuben feels most responsible for the loss of Joseph.
- ❖ Reuben's anguish is exhibited by "...and he rent his clothes."
(v. 29.)

(3) The Calculating Worldliness of Judah, 37:25-27

Gen. 37:25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry *it* down to Egypt.

26 And Judah said unto his brethren, **What profit is it** if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he *is* our brother *and* our flesh. And his brethren were content.

❖ In v. 25, “And they sat down to eat bread...”

Mt. 27:36 And sitting down they watched him there;

❖ Judah, v. 26, looked for a “profit.” Judas looked for a profit.

Jn. 12:4 Then saith one of his disciples, **Judas Iscariot**, Simon's *son*, which should betray him,

5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

6 This he said, **not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag**, and bare what was put therein.

Summary

- ❖ Hebron = “association” or “fellowship” → *spiritual* place left long ago by Jacob and his sons.
- ❖ Shechem can be translated as “strength” (back, shoulder, ridge) and was a place of evil memories where Simeon and Levi massacred the ones that defiled their sister, Dinah. (Gen. 34)
- ❖ Shechem represented a *moral* place of departure.
- ❖ Dothan, “two wells,” represents the *physical* symbolism where the sons of Jacob had settled down to enjoy the material comforts of the area.

Conclusion

- ❖ When Jesus came to Bethlehem, Israel had departed from God spiritually, morally, and was focused upon the physical world around them.

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.**

- ❖ Joseph was rejected by his brethren while following his father's directions. Jesus was also rejected by His brethren while following His Father's directions.
- ❖ Joseph was an unwilling participant in this incident while Jesus willingly gave Himself for us.

2 Cor. 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, **though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.**

❖ Joseph was perhaps oblivious to God's plan, but the Lord was with him.

Psa. 105:17 **He sent a man before them, *even Joseph*, who was sold for a servant:**

18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:

❖ Like Joseph, believers today encountering challenges must learn to walk by faith.

Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Josh. 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Mic. 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and **what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?**