

A Spirit of Humbleness

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them”, Genesis 50:20–21.

Genesis 37 describes Joseph as the favourite son of his father, even though he did the same work as his older brothers.

Because of this perceived extra favouritism, his older brother started to turn against him.

When Jacob gave Joseph a brightly coloured cloak, their dislike of Joseph turned into scheming a plan to get rid of him.

It was at this time that Joseph was given two dreams by God.

The first dream pictured the items of their living. The brothers, including Joseph were in the fields binding their sheaves, when suddenly Joseph's sheaf stood, and the brother's sheaves encircled and bowed to the central sheaf.

At this point, Satan's poison in the brother's lives started to make itself felt as it started to agitate their 'older superior' position.

The second dream involved the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing before Joseph.

At this point, even his father, Jacob, admonished him for thinking that he would bow before his youngest son.

His brothers became more and more sarcastic, asking Joseph if he really thought that they would ever lower themselves and bow down before him.

When the time came, as we shall see later, it was an extremely painful situation for them!

Obedient to his father's command, Joseph went in search of his brothers to update his father on their welfare.

Seeing Joseph approaching, Satan's poison now turned their thoughts to murder.

They conspired to overpower him and cast him into a pit. A little later, as they were eating, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelite traders from Gilead.

Seizing their chance, they sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver. Then, taking a young goat, they killed it, and used the blood to as evidence to make their father think, and believe, that a beast had killed him.

ArrivinG in Egypt, Joseph was sold as a slave to the head of Pharaoh's kitchen.

Gaining Potiphar's favour, Joseph became Potiphar's personal attendant

in charge of the household.

Potiphar's wife became Satan's next tool to use against God's anointed, attempting to seduce him. Joseph, however, remained loyal to his God, and continued his allegiance to his master.

Potiphar's wife managed to get Joseph's coat as he ran from her, and she used this to show her husband that Joseph had tried to seduce her.

Genesis 39 describes Joseph's ascension to a place of honour that God could fulfill the dreams he had given Joseph of his family.

In prison for his alleged crime, Pharaoh's butler and baker both had dreams. Hearing that Joseph could interpret dreams, they both sought an answer through Joseph.

Joseph told the butler that his dream showed that he would be restored to his former position, and the baker would be put to death.

Three days later, the interpretations came true, and Joseph requested the butler to speak to Pharaoh on his behalf.

Two years later when Pharaoh was troubled by his dreams the butler remembered Joseph and spoke to Pharaoh, who had Joseph brought to him from the prison.

Impressing Pharaoh with his ability to interpret the dream of plenty and famine, Pharaoh raised Joseph to oversee the times that were to come.

Canaan was also affected at this time by a famine.

Hearing that there was food available in Egypt, Jacob sent his ten eldest sons to Egypt to buy food, keeping Benjamin, his youngest with him for safety.

Arriving in Egypt they were ushered in to Joseph, not realising who he was, they bowed to him!

Although Joseph recognized his brothers, he did not disclose who he was. Asking questions, he learnt that he had a younger brother.

Before letting them have the supplies they had come for, Joseph called them liars, and imprisoned them for three days.

Hearing that they now believed they were being punished for their crime against him, Joseph released them, demanding that they return with their young brother to validate what they had told him. To ensure that they did return, he reimprisoned Simeon.

Arriving home, they told their father what had happened, and that they had to take Benjamin to secure Simeon.

Jacob refused. He had lost one son, and it appeared to him that he had

just about lost a second son. He was not prepared to risk losing a third son.

In a person's time of need, the stomach is a strong encourager. When their rations ran out, the stomach prevailed!

Reaching Egypt, they were taken to Joseph's house where a meal was being prepared for them.

Revealing his true identity, Joseph sent them back to Canaan to bring his father to him.

Arriving in Egypt, Jacob also bowed before his son, and acknowledged what had happened was according to God's Will.

Joseph's spirit of humbleness enabled God to work through him. At Jacob's death, Satan's poison turned upon the brothers, filling them with a fear that Joseph would turn upon them.

Paul, in his letter to the Roman Church, sums the above message up, "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good", Romans 12:20-21.