

### Introduction

- The last section of Genesis is one of the longest continuous narratives (14 chapters).
- It is not about Joseph as much as it is the generations of after Jacob.
- The story is shifting from a focus on how specific individuals are blessed towards how people will be blessed through the Abrahamic covenant.
- Joseph foreshadows Moses, David, and ultimately Jesus.
- The story of Joseph shows us God's people can expect mistreatment, but can trust that God is still sovereign.

### Robe and Conflict (v. 1-4)

- Jacob is living more permanently in the promised land his ancestors traveled in.
- Focus is on all the generations of Jacob, not just one son.
- The other sons appear to be behaving in a shameful manner, which should not be surprising.
- Joseph is the favorite son and publicly loved more than the other sons.
- He is clothed with an extravagant robe.
- His brothers hate him so much that they cannot keep the peace.

### Dreams and Conflict (v. 5-11)

- Joseph has a strange dream that he recognizes is prophetic and from God.
- He shares the dream, which leads to even more hatred.
- Noticeably, neither Joseph nor God interpret this dream.
- The interpretation is given by those who are angry about it and leads to hatred.
- It is possible, and even likely Joseph's dreams are being wrongly interpreted.
- They believe it means they are all going to be subjected to Joseph, like how Esau had to bow to his younger brother.
- But there are problems with this interpretation.
- The Abrahamic blessing does not pass to Joseph, it passes to Judah.
- The dream is not given to show the superior son, but foreshadowing how Joseph will deliver them all from disaster.
- In the first dream, the brothers do not bow down but their bags of grain do. They bow down because they are empty while Joseph's is completely full.
- This foreshadows the famine that will come, then their grain runs out.
- The second dream only has celestial bodies and is never mentioned to be Joseph's family, but Jacob interprets it this way.
- All of the other dreams in Joseph's story that mention numbers are interpreted to refer to a specific time period. (3 branches and 3 baskets are 3 days, 7 cows and ears are years).
- This could refer to the 13 years Joseph spends in Egypt before becoming 2nd in command, or the 22 years before revealing his identity to his brothers.

- Part of the problem with Jacob's interpretation is that Rachel is dead.
- The second part is that Jacob never bows to Joseph in the story, in fact Joseph bows towards Jacob!
- We are not given any reason to trust Jacob's or the other brothers' interpretations of the dreams, especially considering their immoral conduct in the story.

#### Conflict Explodes (v. 12-24)

- The brothers are again near Shechem, a place of the immoral slaughter of innocents.
- Israel sends Joseph to his brother's to seek out their "peace" and the "peace" of the flock. This is bad parenting.
- Joseph has a random encounter with someone who gives him directions, but asks a key question, "What are you seeking?"
- As soon as they see him, they decide to kill him.
- The murder is an attempt to stop the dream, but they cannot stop God's plan.
- Reuben and Judah have opposite plans for Joseph.
- Reuben wants to secretly rescue him, but none of the brothers listen to him.
- They throw him into a pit, or grave.
- They sit to eat, while Joseph has no food or water. The reverse will happen later.

#### Now What? (v. 25-36)

- Judah convinces his brothers to sell Joseph for money, foreshadowing Judas.
- They sell him to Abraham's brother's descendants.
- They dip his robe in goats blood, as they will dip in the blood at Passover.
- They bring it to their father and do not lie, but let him interpret.
- Jacob, again, interprets what has happened wrongly.
- Jacob tears clothes, puts on sackcloth, and mourns for an extended time.
- This will become the regular pattern of lament and mourning for Israel.

#### Application

- Like Joseph, Christians are commanded to be a blessing to the world (1 Peter 3:9).
- Like Joseph, Christians will be misunderstood by the world (1 Peter 4:12).
- Like Joseph, Christians will be mistreated by the world (1 Peter 5:10).