

Lesson Eight (Part #1) – Gen. 36-37: Esau’s Lineage; Joseph’s Dreams; Joseph Sold into Slavery

Chapter 36– Esau’s Descendants

1. Because Esau had been given a blessing by Jacob, the Bible story sums up the lineage of Esau. Esau’s descendants are known in the rest of the Bible by what name? Why were they called this? cf. 25:29-30. Where does Esau relocate his clan? Why?

Chapter 37– Joseph’s Dreams; Joseph Sold into Slavery by His Brothers

2. Read vv. 1-4. Name the things listed in these verses which set up Joseph’s brothers’ hatred of him. In these verses, who is most culpable for causing this to happen?
3. Read vv. 5-11. What do the dreams have in common? Joseph’s dreams indicate his position will be what? What was his brothers’ reaction to his dreams? His father? What does his father do in response to Joseph telling his dreams?
4. Read vv. 12-17. On what mission does Jacob send Joseph? What does Joseph seem to be for his father? cf. v. 2

5. Read vv. 18-24. When Joseph's brothers see him approaching, what is their initial plot against him? What do they specify as their motivation for doing this? Who tries to rescue Joseph? Any thought as to why this one brother would react differently than all the rest? cf. 35:22. What do Joseph's brothers do to him in these verses?

6. Read vv. 25-28. What do Joseph's brothers resolve to do to Joseph? Why do they decide not to kill him?

7. Read vv. 29-36. Who among Jacob's sons was obviously not a part of the "final solution" to the Joseph problem in their lives? What had this son of Jacob determined to do to Joseph? cf. vv. 21-22

8. How do Joseph's brothers deceive their father regarding Joseph's disappearance? What is Jacob's reaction to their deception?

9. What happens to Joseph at the conclusion of this chapter?