

GENESIS

(BERE'SHEET)¹

CHAPTER 37:1 And Jacob sat in the land of the sojournings of his father, in the land of Canaan. **2** **These are the bringings-forth of Jacob.** Joseph, being a son of seven *and* ten years^s, was pasturing the flock with his brothers—and he *was* a lad—with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, the women of his father, and Joseph caused to come a bad report of them toward their father. **3** And Israel loved Joseph from² all of his sons, for he *was* a son of his old age^p, and he made³ for him a long robe.⁴ **4** And his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all of his brothers, and they hated him, and they were not able to speak to him for peace.⁵ **5** And Joseph dreamed a dream, and told to his brothers, and they added⁶ still, hating him. **6** And he said toward them, “Hear please! this dream that I have dreamed; **7** and look!—we were binding bindings in the middle of the field, and look!—my binding rose and also stood up, and look!—your bindings went around, and they bowed themselves down to my binding.” **8** And his brothers said to him, “Reigning-king—will you *surely* reign-king over us! Ruling—will you *surely* rule with⁷ us!”⁸ And they added⁹ still, hating him for his dreams and for his *spoken*-things. **9** And he dreamed still another dream, and recounted it to his brothers, and said, “Look!—I have dreamed a dream again, and look!—the sun and the moon, and eleven stars were bowing themselves down to

¹ The books of the Hebrew Bible are named from their opening words: here *Bere'sheet*, meaning “At *the* first of . . .”

² I.e., more in contrast with (“away from”).

³ Or “did.”

⁴ The precise meaning of the Hebrew word *pasim* which describes this garment, is unknown. It occurs elsewhere only in 2 Sam 13:18 for a royal robe worn by the king's daughters. The traditional translation is “many colors,” but it might mean “full-length,” or “long sleeved,” or “striped,” or “ornamented.”

⁵ I.e., peacefully.

⁶ I.e., continued, Heb *yasaph*, i.e., they hated him more and more, a play on his Hebrew name *Yoseph*, here and verse 8.

⁷ I.e., with regard to.

⁸ Double use of the verb indicates emphasis.

⁹ I.e., continued, see v. 5.

me.” **10** And he recounted toward his father, and toward his brothers, and his father rebuked him, and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Coming—will we *surely* come!¹⁰—I and your mother, and your brothers—to bow ourselves down to you land-ward?” **11** And his brothers were jealous with him, and his father guarded the thing¹¹ **12** And his brothers walked to pasture the flock of their father in Shechem, **13** and Israel said toward Joseph, “Are your brothers not pasturing in Shechem, walk, and I will send you toward them.” And he said, “Look, *it’s* me!” **14** And he said to him, “Walk, please, see the peace of your brothers, and the peace of the flock, and cause to return *to* me a *spoken*-thing.”¹² And he sent him from the valley of Hebron, and he came toward Shechem.¹³ **15** And a man found him, and look!—he was wandering in the field, and the man asked him saying, “What are you seeking?” **16** And he said, “My brothers I am seeking, tell please, to me, where they are pasturing?” **17** And the man said, “They have pulled up *stakes* from this *place*, for I heard ones saying, ‘Let us walk toward Dothan.’¹⁴” And Joseph walked after his brothers, and found them in Dothan. **18** And they saw him from afar, and before he came near toward them, and they plotted against him, to cause him to die. **19** And they said, a man toward his brother, “Look!—the lord of the dreams yonder comes. **20** And now, walk!—let us kill him, and throw him *down* into one of the pits, and say, ‘A bad beast has eaten him,’ and we will see what will come of his dreams.” **21** And Reuben heard, and caused him to be torn away out of their hand, and said, “Let us not strike life-breath.” **22** And Reuben said toward them, “Do not pour out blood; throw him *down* toward this pit that *is* in the desert, and do not send a hand on him,”—so that to cause him to be torn away out of their hand, to cause him to return toward his father. **23** And it was, as Joseph came toward his brothers, and they stripped Joseph of his robe, the long robe which *was* upon him, **24** and took him and threw *down* him toward the pit.¹⁵ And the pit *was* empty, there *was* no water in it. **25** And they sat down to eat bread, and they lifted their eyes, and saw, and look!—a path-wandering *group* of Ishmaelites was coming from

¹⁰Double use of the verb indicates emphasis.

¹¹I.e., kept it closely in mind.

¹²I.e., a report.

¹³Lit “Shechem-ward.”

¹⁴Lit “Dothan-ward.”

¹⁵Lit “pit-ward.”

Gilead, and their camels were lifting¹⁶ gum¹⁷ and balm and resin, walking, to cause them to go down toward Egypt.¹⁸ **26** And Judah said toward his brothers, “What cut-taking¹⁹ *is it* for us to kill our brother and cover his blood? **27** Walk!—and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and our hands will not be on him, for our brother, our flesh, *is he.*” And his brothers heard. **28** And men, Midianites, merchants, passed over and they pulled, and caused Joseph to go up from the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty silver, and they caused Joseph to come toward Egypt.²⁰ **29** And Reuben returned toward the pit, and look!—Joseph *was* not in the pit, and he tore his clothing, **30** and he returned toward his brothers and said, “The one brought-forth^{m21} *is not*, and I—where to am I coming?²² **31** And they took the robe of Joseph, and butchered a kid of the goats, and dipped the robe in the blood, **32** and sent²³ the long robe, causing *it* to come toward their father, and said, “This we have found, recognize,²⁴ please, *is it* the robe of your son or not?” **33** And he recognized²⁵ it and said, “The robe of my son! A bad beast has eaten him—torn, torn, *is Joseph!* **34** And Jacob ripped his outer-garment, and placed sackcloth on his two hips, and he mourned for his son abundant days. **35** And all his sons and all his daughters rose to cause him console,²⁶ and he refused to be consoled, and said, “Surely I will go down toward my son a mourning one, toward Sheol.²⁷” And his father wept for him. **36** And the Medianites²⁸ sold him toward Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, chief of the slaughterers.²⁹

¹⁶ I.e., bearing as a load.

¹⁷ Ladanum.

¹⁸ Lit “Egypt-ward.”

¹⁹ I.e., gain or profit.

²⁰ Lit “Egypt-ward.”

²¹ I.e., young man or boy.

²² I.e., where am I headed? The idea is what is ahead for me,

²³ Intensive form of the verb (Piel).

²⁴ Lit “cause recognition.”

²⁵ Lit “caused recognition.”

²⁶ In these sense of release from sadness.

²⁷ Lit “Sheol-ward.”

²⁸ Perhaps an alternative spelling for Midianites.

²⁹ I.e., executioners, or perhaps bodyguards.