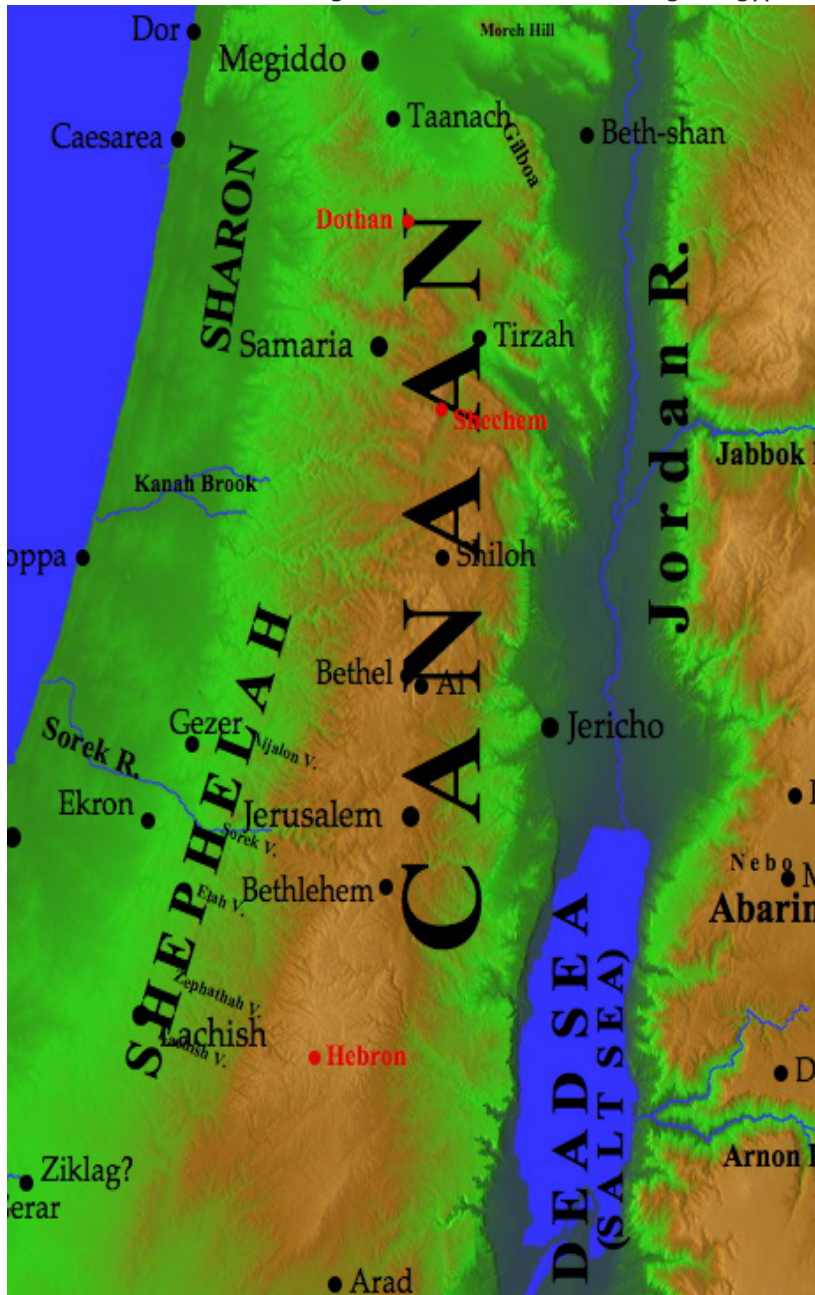


Jacob's family returned from Paddan-aram (from the north east) to Shechem, and eventually settles in Hebron. When Joseph pursues his brothers, he finds them in Dothan, where they trap him and sell him to a band of travelling merchants who are heading to Egypt.



# The Arrogant Dreamer

Long Beach Alliance Church • September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**NOW ISRAEL LOVED JOSEPH MORE THAN ALL HIS SONS, BECAUSE HE WAS THE SON OF HIS OLD AGE; AND HE MADE HIM A VARICOLORED TUNIC. HIS BROTHERS SAW THAT THEIR FATHER LOVED HIM MORE THAN ALL HIS BROTHERS; AND SO THEY HATED HIM AND COULD NOT SPEAK TO HIM ON FRIENDLY TERMS.**

**~GENESIS 37:3-4 (NASB)**

## 1) God's Blessing Of Jacob

- A) Through unusual circumstances, Jacob (the son of Isaac, the grandson of Abraham) has two wives (who are sisters, Leah & Rachel), each of which have handmaidens (a customary wedding gift) named Zilpah & Bilhah (Genesis 29).
- B) A sad testimony in Genesis 29:30 notes that Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah -- a painful foreshadowing of favoritism in Jacob's family.
- C) Having mercy for Leah's plight, God gives her children (a significant blessing) -- 29:31. Leah has a total of six sons, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.



D) Rachel, jealous of her older sister's blessing, gives her maiden (Bilhah) to Jacob as a surrogate mother. Bilhah has two children, Dan & Naphtali.

E) Leah, seeing that she had stopped having children gives her maiden (Zilpah) to Jacob as a surrogate mother. Zilpah has two children, Gad & Asher.

F) God eventually blesses Rachel with a child of her own, and Rachel has her first son, Joseph. Much later, Rachel dies during the birth of her second son, Benjamin (35:16-20).

## 2) Jacob's Favorite Son, Joseph

A) The narrative jumps back in time to when Joseph is 17 years old, living in Canaan with his family (37:1-2).

B) Joseph is the youngest of eleven brothers, and the only son of Rachel. He is a co-worker in the family business, serving as an under-shepherd with his brothers (37:2).

C) Joseph gives a "bad report" of his brothers activities, seemingly related to the family shepherding business (37:2). While not explicit, the next verse indicates Joseph is "playing" the favoritism of his father against his brothers (37:3).

D) Jacob's favoritism and Joseph's manipulation result in Jacob presenting Joseph with a special multi-colored tunic. Despite Jacob's background in the pain and trouble favoritism causes within a family, he favors Joseph anyway (37:3).

E) Not surprisingly, Joseph's brothers hate Joseph (37:4). The brothers hate him for what he does and how his father favors him. Simply, they hate him for being a "daddy's boy."

## 3) God Speaks To Joseph

A) Making matters worse, Joseph has a dream in which his brothers bow down to him, symbolized by bundles of wheat (sheaf/sheaves). Joseph's brothers hate him "even more" when he shares this dream, and even speaks (37:5-8).

B) Joseph shares another dream, where the 'universe' of his family bows down to him (37:9). His brothers become infuriated and his father rebukes him for his unbridled hubris (37:10-11).

C) His father keeps Joseph's saying in mind (37:11), contemplating the content of the dream, perhaps even noting the "eleven stars" (he only had 10 'stars' at this point).

D) There is no mention of anyone in the family making any attempt at interpreting the dreams. Simply, there is shock and incredulity at the idea of subservience to the youngest in the family (37:10). God is speaking, but no one is listening.

E) Joseph's brothers depart to tend the flocks in Shechem -- notably without Joseph (37:12). Inexplicably, Jacob sends Joseph to find his brothers (37:13-14).

F) Despite Jacob (and Joseph's) dull nature as to how the brothers will react to Joseph (perhaps by design?) -- God is at work with Joseph and eventually, the whole world.