

(Genesis 36-37)
“Faith & Obedience”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: “An Unfolding Story”
 - (Genesis 36 & 37) NKJV

~ INTRO ~

IN OUR LAST STUDY...

- We learned that God is working out His plan...
 - Thru the seasons of our lives.
 - And we're not always aware of how He does it.

TODAY...

- This extends... as God works out His plan...
 - Above human weakness.

AS AWFUL AS THE SONS OF JACOB ARE ...

- Yet they're the chosen ones...
 - To carry on the work of God...
 - As they full fill the covenant promises made to Abraham.

NOW...

- Jacob is being moved off center stage...
 - AND... Joseph becomes the prominent character...
 - From here to the end of (Genesis 37 - 50).

~ STUDY ~

OK...

- Let's capture the big picture... as we dive in.

CHAPTER #36...

- Is a genealogy reflecting on Esau.
 - He's one of the sons of Isaac.
 - But NOT the covenant character (Joseph is).

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE...

- Of how the Bible mentions characters but does not follow they.

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➤ So... we have the wives / sons / chiefs / & kings from Esau.

IN THIS CHAPTER...

- *Esau* is noted (x5) as being the father of the *Edomites*.
 - We read of the sons / chiefs / & kings of Esau.
- Clearly establishing the division of Jacob & Esau...
 - And the fight started in Rebekah’s womb (*Gen. 25:22-23*).
- Maybe we can consider it this way – *Faith vs. Flesh*.
 - (Jacob = faith / Esau = flesh).

(Proverbs 10:7) NKJV

“The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot.”

- Recognize... that... the impact of those **without God** is temporary...
 - While the life of the saved lives on...
 - And their memory is blessed.

SO... IN THE REST OF THE BIBLE...

- *Edom* (Esau) is mentioned only as Israel’s enemy...
 - AND... we even see King David fighting against them (*Edomites*).

FINALLY... (a little fun fact from *chp. #36*).

- We know that **Petra** was a notable City of **Edom**.

IN THE BIBLE...

- *Petra* uses it’s Hebrew name (*Sela*) *Isaiah 16:1* & *2 Kings 14:7*.
 - But... both *Petra* and *Sela* mean “rock”...
 - Which describes this City...
 - That was carved into the sandstone cliffs...
 - About 50-miles south of the Dead Sea.

CHAPTER #37...

THE FOCUS SWITCHES TO JOSEPH:

IDEA #1 – REASONS FOR SUFERING:

“PREPARATION”

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GOD WAS GOING TO USE JOSEPH...

- And revealed it to him during his teenage years.

BUT...

- Joseph didn't always act in wisdom & humility as a teenager.
 - So God allowed **character lessons** along the way.

Read (vv.1-11)

- (v.2) “*Joseph brought a bad report of his brothers to Jacob.*”
- (v.3) “*Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than all his children...*”
 - “*Also he made Joseph a tunic of many colors.*”
- (v.4) Reasons Joseph's brothers hatred him.
- (vv.5-7) 1st dream of Joseph
 - Which caused his brother's to hate him even more.
- (vv.8-10) 2nd dream of Joseph

Interpretation:

- (v.9) Sun = Dad
- (v.9) Moon = Mom
- (v.9) Eleven Stars = Brothers – 12th son is Joseph
- (v.10) interprets this mystery for us

NOW... NOTICE THE RESULT OF ALL THIS (v.11)...

- Joseph's brothers “*envied him*”
- And his father “*wondered what the dreams meant*” (NLT).

Envy causes inward pain when we see others succeed;

- Envy provokes an inward irritation leading to wrath.

Malice produces inward satisfaction when we see others fail.

- Malice is that nasty attitude that wants to do evil / harm to another.
 - Look ahead to (v.18) “*conspired to kill him.*”

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IDEA #2 – THE ROAD OF SUFFERING:

JOSEPH STARTED HIS DIFFICULTY...

- At 17-yrs old (v.2)...
- And this road of difficulty (or preparation) lasted for 13-yrs.

SUFFERING IS COMMON FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD:

- God prepares us for the next step in our life.
- And after suffering there's seasons of fruitfulness...
 - That often surpass the level of suffering.

MAYBE...

- This can be a great encouragement to you tonight.
- Knowing that suffering as a child of God...
 - Is never wasted & always rewarded!

ADDITIONALLY...

- God does not haphazardly thrust us into positions to see us fail.
- Rather the struggles are the preparations for growth.
 - (Joseph struggled for 13-yrs in preparation).

OK...

- Notice the start of suffering for Joseph:
 - 1) He's thrown into an empty cistern by his brothers (vv.23-24).
 - 2) He's then sold to slave traders & taken to Egypt (vv.26-28).
 - 3) He's then sold to an officer of the Egypt's Pharaoh (v.36).

~ IN CLOSING ~

LET'S CAPTURE THIS THOUGHT...

- Whatever suffering God allows into our lives...
 - Is for good!

(2 Cor. 4:16-18) NLT