

A black and white image of a celestial scene. In the upper center, a large, cratered moon is visible against a dark, starry background. Below the moon, a planet's surface is shown, with a bright, glowing horizon line. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric, with a focus on the vastness of space.

THE BOOK OF  
**GENESIS**

# ***THE UNLIKELY HERO***

## ***GENESIS 37:1-13***

**The beginning of the story of Joseph.** Just about 25% of the book of Genesis is about the life of Joseph, who is not even in the Messianic line. Why?

**Joseph's story can be read in at least three different ways:**

- ***Firstly***, we can simply read it as literature.
- ***Secondly***, by spiritualizing the text and simply seeing God at work in Joseph's life.
- ***Thirdly***, Joseph is one of the richest illustrations of Christ found in the Old Testament; he is a "type" of Christ.

## ***HOW IS JOSEPH LIKE JESUS?***

- 1.** Joseph is like Jesus in that he was beloved by his father and obedient to his will.
- 2.** He was rejected by his own brothers and sold as a slave.
- 3.** He was falsely accused and unjustly punished.
- 4.** Finally, he was elevated from the place of suffering to a powerful throne, thus saving his people from death.

We see the destructive dynamics of a family that knew the true and living God and yet sinned against Him and each other by what they said and did.

## ***JOSEPH WAS HATED***

Why did the brothers hate Joseph so much?

- A.** Joseph had integrity but his brothers didn't. **v. 2**
  - B.** Joseph was the favorite son. **v. 3-4**
  - C.** Joseph received the covenant blessing.
- If this is the way the brothers viewed the scenario, then it's no surprise that they hated Joseph.
  - No wonder they tried to kill him; hatred in the heart is the moral equivalent of murder. **Matt. 5:21-26**

## ***JOSEPH WAS ENVIED***

Envy is one of the most precious children of the devil because it follows his footsteps by hindering good and promoting evil.

- Envy has a sibling named malice, and the two usually work together. **Titus 3:3; 1 Peter 2:1**
- Envy and malice usually generate slander, gossip, and unwarranted criticism.
- These sins hide behind the veil of religious zeal and self-righteousness; the poison they produce is deadly.

# ***OF DREAMS AND DREAMERS***

Does God speak to us in dreams today?

- Or is it more probable we get our guidance only from the Spirit of God using the Word of God as we pray and seek God's will?
- In the Old Testament, you find a good number of divine communications through dreams.
- There's no evidence that anybody in the Gospels or the Book of Acts, other than Joseph, Mary's husband, ever received divine guidance through dreams.

## ***HEARING GOD SPEAK***

- When people claim that God has sent dreams for their instruction and guidance, be careful; dreams can be self-induced or even influenced by Satan. **Jer. 23:25-28**
- God is sovereign and can use dreams to accomplish His communication, but His normal path is through the Spirit teaching us through the Word. **John 14:25-26, 16:12-15**
- ***Don't build your theology on dreams.*** Joseph is a special man with a specific calling. He will be our companion for the next few months and a beautiful picture window of our Savior and Hero—Jesus.