

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 sense of vastness and mystery.

THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

THE BETRAYAL OF JOSEPH

GENESIS 37:12-36

Betrayal, jealousy, envy, and hatred often lead to violence.

- Envy is one of the works of the flesh that comes out of the sinful heart of man before redemption; the old nature, old garments. **Gal. 5:19-21**
- Because of envy, Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery.
- The brothers' growing hatred was the precursor to murder just as Jesus had said. **Matt. 5:21-26**
- They didn't actually kill Joseph with their hands; some of them had done the deed many times in their hearts.

STRANGE QUESTIONS ABOUND v. 12-17

- 1.** First, why were Jacob's sons pasturing their flocks fifty miles from home?
- 2.** Why did they return to the dangerous area near Shechem when Jacob's family had such a bad reputation among the citizens there?
- 3.** Knowing that his sons hated Joseph, why did Jacob send him out to visit them alone while wearing the special garment that had aggravated them so much?

Answer: God's eternal plans were being brought to fruition.

THE ROAD TO BETRAYAL

- 1. A devious conspiracy v. 18-24**
- 2. A dangerous indifference v. 23-28**
- 3. A depraved design**

At this point, you are probably thinking that Moses, who wrote the Genesis record, should make up his mind . . . are they Ishmaelites or Midianites?

Both, they are all brethren; they are all actually kin to this group of boys who are selling their brother! That is the blindness of betrayal.

THE DARKNESS OF DECEPTION v. 29-36

Even though Reuben was absent when his brothers sold Joseph—perhaps taking care of some problem with the sheep—he was still sucked into the deception by not setting himself apart; he followed when he should have led.

- *“He who covers his sins will not prosper,” (Prov. 28:13) is God’s unchanging law*; but people still think they can defy it and escape the consequences.
- As tragic and treacherous as this deception was, Jacob was reaping what he had sown. **Gal. 6:7-8; Gen. 27:1-17**

THE PERVERTED PLOT THICKENS

Pretty clever deception, isn't it?

- Bloody the very coat none of them thought he should have in the first place.
- They act as if they had never seen Joseph.
- They pretend they just found this coat.
- They take the hated coat to their father Jacob.
- Notice very carefully Jacob is deceived in exactly the same way that he had deceived (**Gal. 6:7**); not something else, not something similar, but the exact same thing.

THE HARVEST OF BETRAYAL

The price paid for all sin can be high, but betrayal of the innocent is often really high.

- His family tried to comfort him, but to no avail; his favorite son was dead, and Jacob would carry his grief with him to the grave.
- Yet, in God's mercy, He providentially brought Joseph safely to Egypt and saw to it that he was sold to one of Pharaoh's chief officers; **Romans 8:28** was already true.
- The greatest example of God working betrayal for eternal good is, of course, Jesus at Calvary. **Acts 3:12-26**