

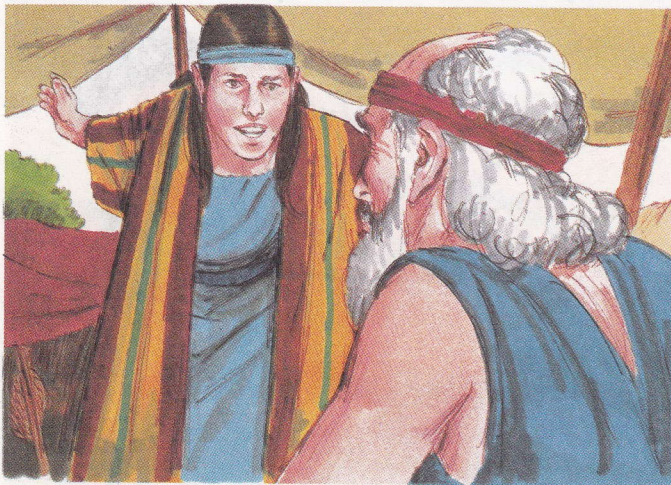
Joseph's Dreams Cause Trouble



1 Joseph was the son of Rachel, the wife whom Jacob had loved most. Joseph's mother had died giving birth to Benjamin as the family returned to Canaan from Haran.



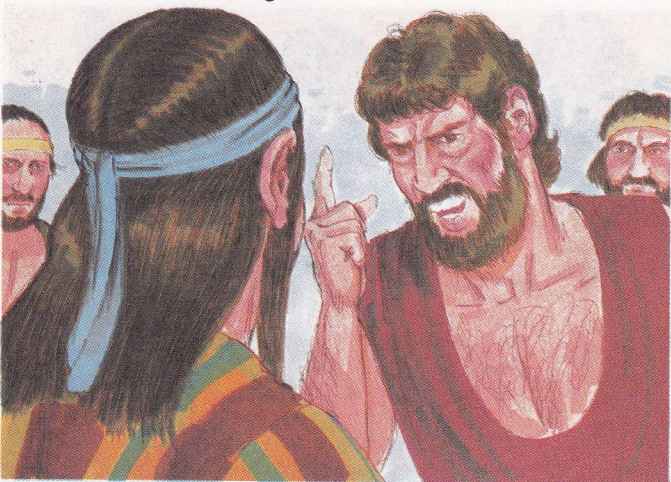
2 Jacob loved Joseph more than all his other sons. He made a long coat with full sleeves for Joseph. Joseph's brothers were very jealous of Joseph and would not even speak to him in a friendly way.



3 Joseph was now seventeen years old. He helped his brothers take care of his father's sheep and goats. But he brought bad reports to his father about what his brothers were doing.



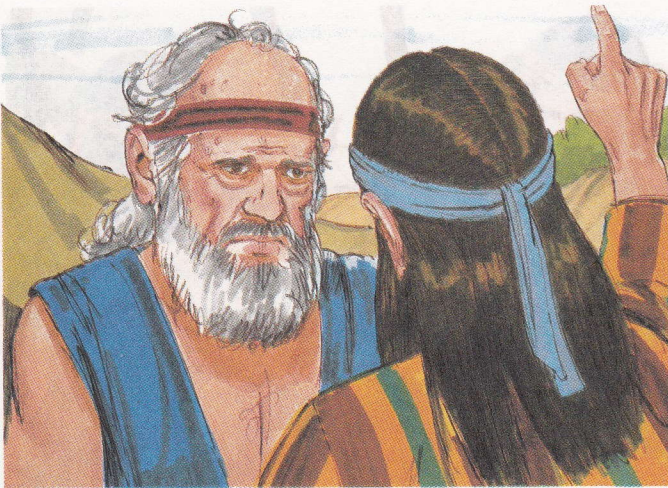
4 One day Joseph had a dream, which he explained to his brothers. "We were all in the field tying up sheaves of wheat. My sheaf stood up and yours made a circle around mine and bowed down to it," he said.



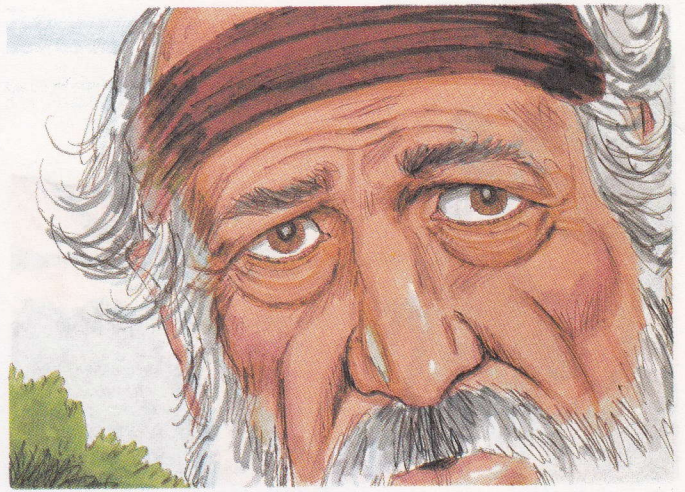
5 This made his brothers very angry. "Do you think you are going to be a king and rule over us?" they asked. So they hated him even more when they heard about his dream.



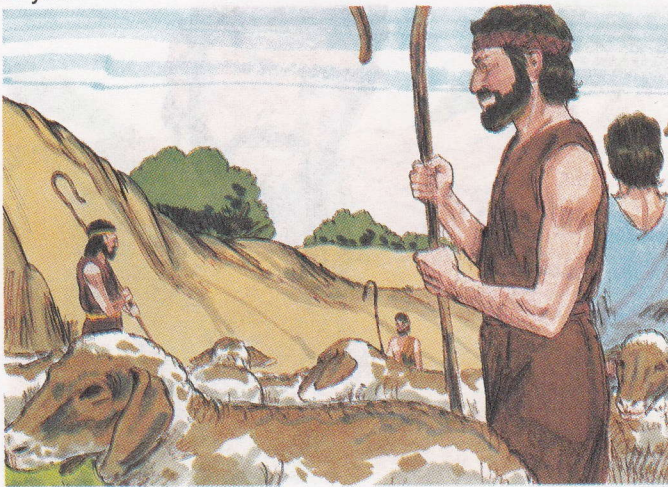
6 Then Joseph had another dream, which he also told to his brothers. He said, "I saw the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowing down to me."



7 Joseph told his father Jacob about this dream, too. His father scolded him, saying, "Do you think that your mother and brothers and I are going to bow down to you?"



8 But his father kept thinking about the things Joseph had dreamed.



9 One day Joseph's brothers had gone to Shechem to take care of their father's flock.



10 Jacob called Joseph and told him to go to Shechem to see whether his brothers and the flock were all right and then come back and tell him.



11 Joseph went to Shechem and wandered around the country looking for his brothers. He found a young man who told him that his brothers had already left there and gone on to a place called Dothan.



12 So Joseph headed for Dothan to catch up with his brothers and the flock. Little did he know what a terrible experience he was about to have!