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Pastor's Bible Study
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Genesis
JOSEPH, THE DREAMER
Genesis 37
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The story of Joseph, introduced in Genesis 37, will now dominate the remainder of the Book of Genesis. Joseph will become one of the most revered and loved characters in the Patriarchal narrative. There will be direct references to him as well as allusions to him in the New Testament (Acts 7:9-16; Hebrews 11:21-22; Matthew 1-2).

PROPHETIC CONTEXT: God had informed Abraham that some type of sojourn in a foreign county was the destiny of his descendants. This experience would include both slavery and miraculous redemption (see Genesis 15:12-16).

JOSEPH - THE FAVORED SON: Joseph is introduced to the narrative as a favored son, seemingly chosen for a certain destiny.

JOSEPH - THE DREAMER: Joseph was the recipient of both his brothers' scorn and prophetic dreams.

THE PLOT: The tension in this narrative is created by the hatching of the dastardly plot to harm Joseph.

JOSEPH - SOLD INTO SLAVERY: Joseph's brothers (without Reuben) decide to sell Joseph to an Ishmaelite caravan on its way to Egypt. These merchants will sell him to a prominent Egyptian.

THE BIG LIE: Joseph's brothers had to concoct a story to deceive their father, Jacob. This lie would follow them for the rest of their days.

JACOB'S GRIEF: For the next 22 years, Jacob would live with the belief his son, Joseph had been killed in the wilderness.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. The divine promise given to Abraham is still alive and being live out through the lives of real people in real time.
2. God's provision and sovereignty are on display even in the face of human decisions and frailty.
3. The story of Joseph sets the stage for the grandest story of Israel - the Exodus.