

JOSEPH

Chapter 1

Bad Brothers

Bad Brothers



Our Format:

We will briefly describe the events of this Chapter in the Life of Joseph... and then make direct points of application at the end.

1 Corinthians 10:1a, 5

For I do not want you to be ignorant of...our ancestors...

God was not pleased with most of them;
their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

1 Corinthians 10:6

Now these things occurred
as examples to keep us from setting
our hearts on evil things
as they did.

1 Corinthians 10:11-12

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

Chapter One

Bad Brothers

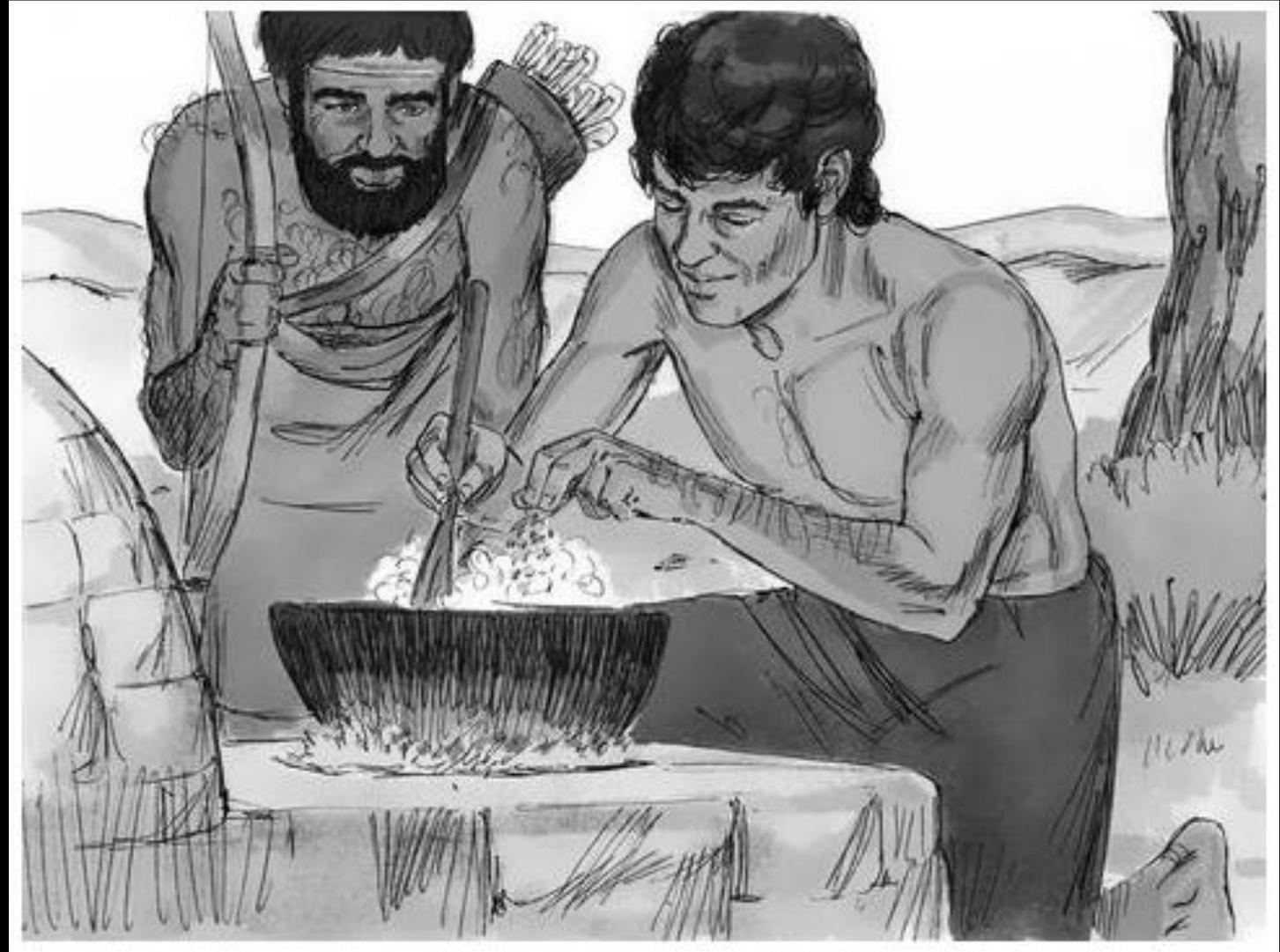
Part 1

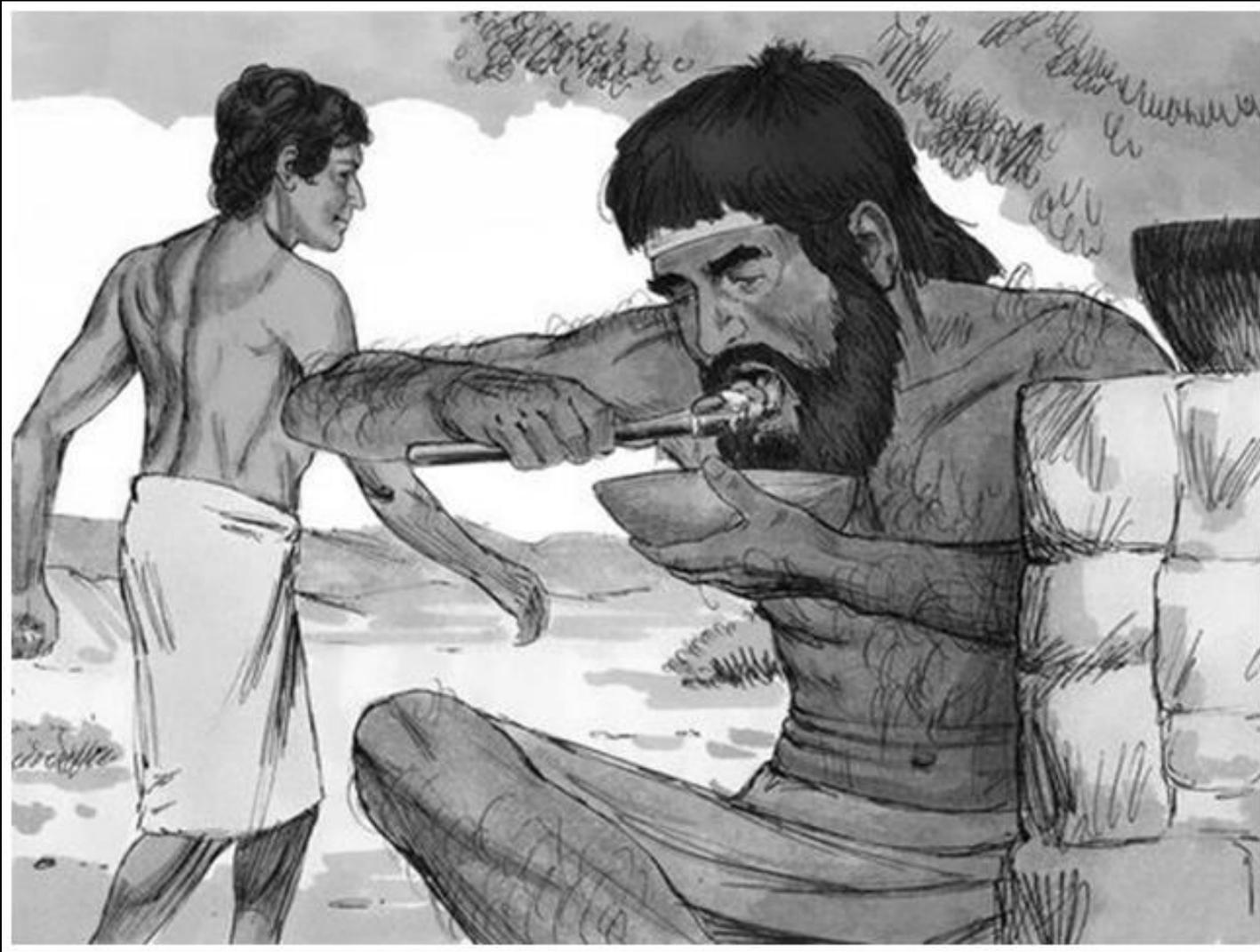
Jacob & His Brother

The story of Joseph and his brothers begins long before any of them were born.

Their story begins with their father, Jacob, and his brother, Esau.

One day Jacob's brother came home from hunting and was very hungry. Rather than freely offering a bowl of food, Jacob used the situation to advance his personal position by **buying** his brother's **birthright**.





Having little regard for spiritual things, paired with an impulsivity which placed more value on the immediate than the long-term, Esau sold his very important birthright for a bowl of stew.

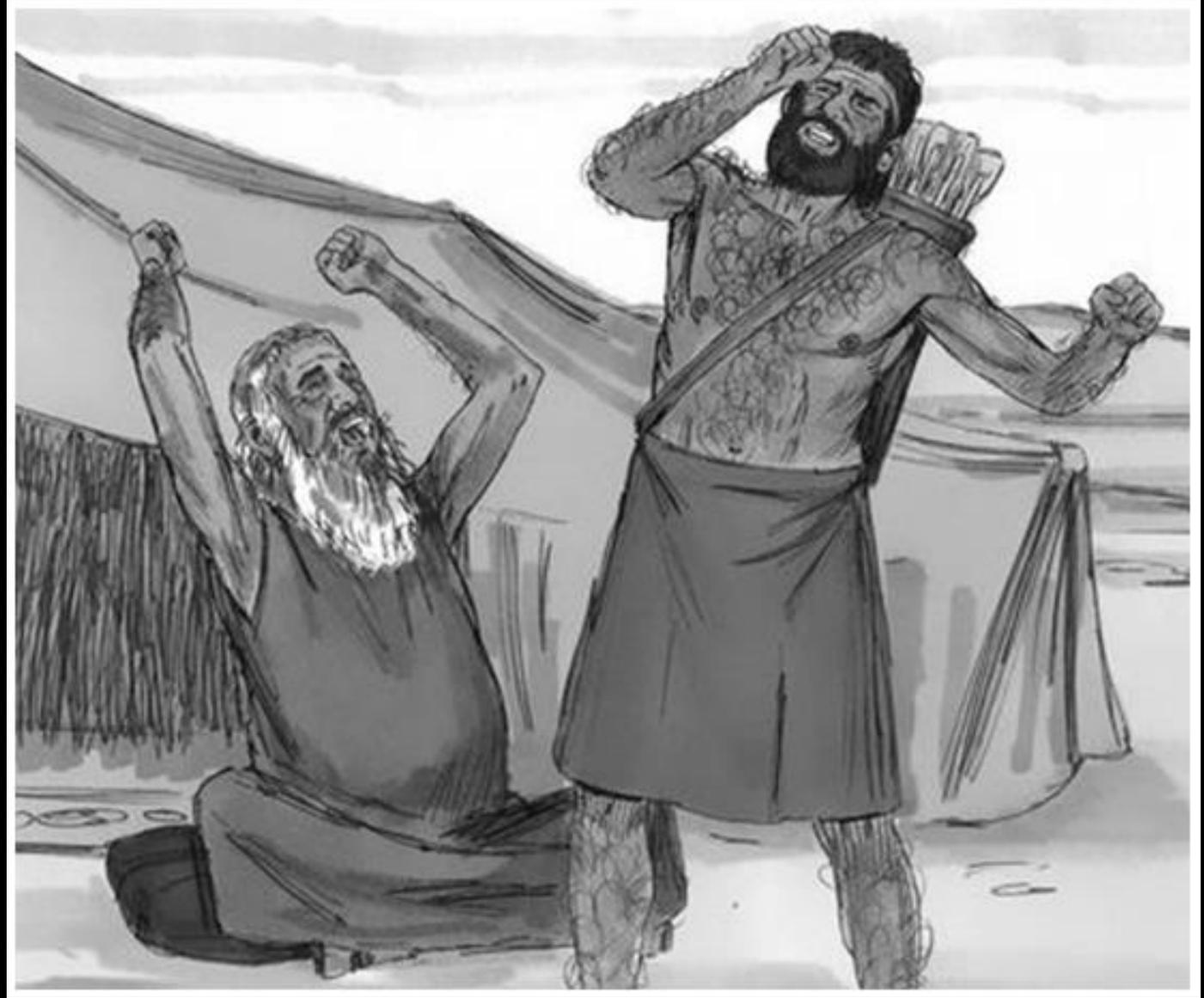
Jacob was his mother's *favorite* son, and she helped him deceive Isaac into giving him the blessing of the *firstborn*, again placing his wellbeing ahead of his brother, Esau.

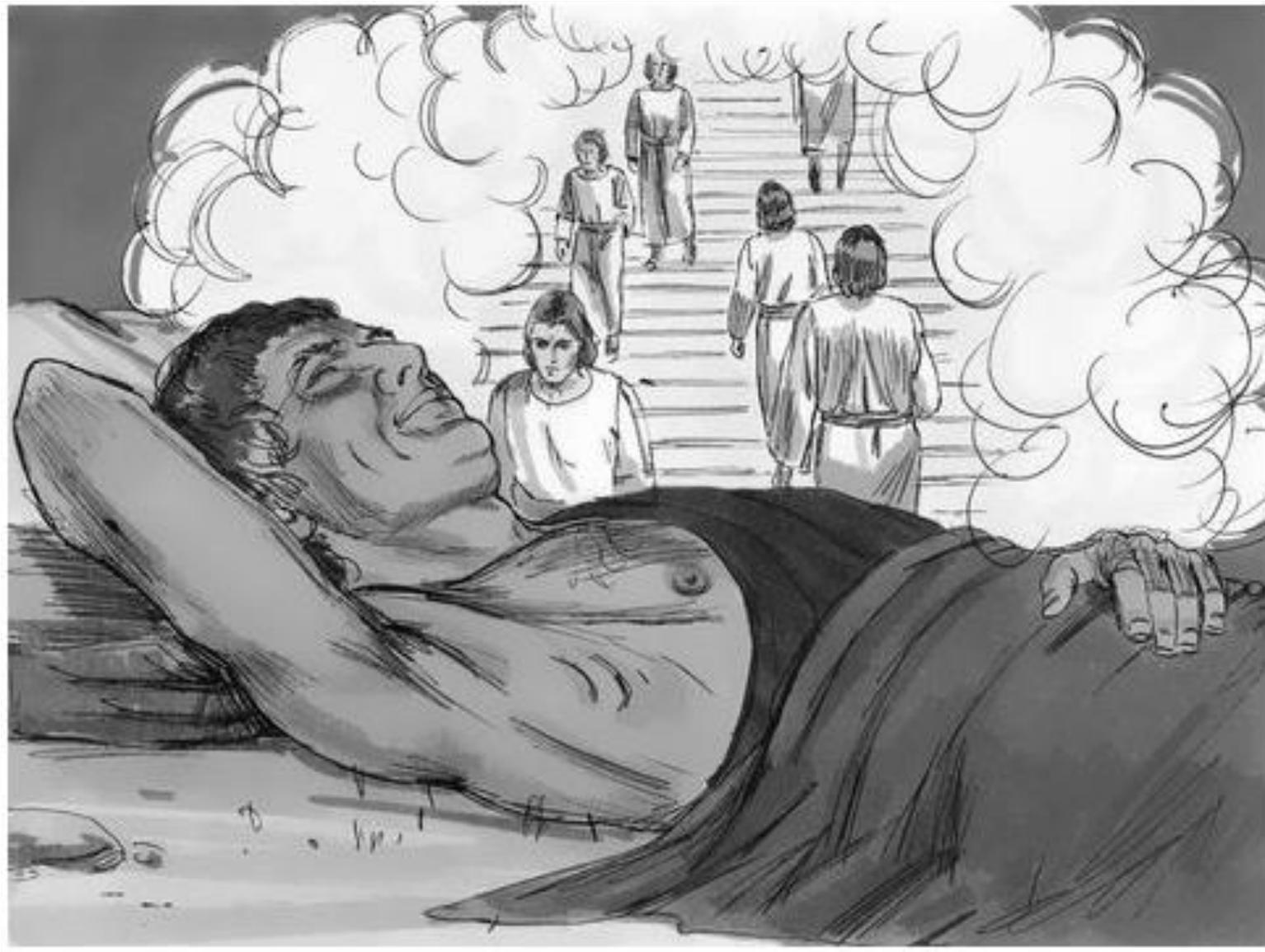




Jacob used his brother's clothing and the hairy skins of a goat in order to deceive his father into giving him the firstborn blessing, belonging to his brother.

As a result, Esau hated Jacob and planned to kill him. Jacob fled from his home and took shelter far away at his Uncle's household.



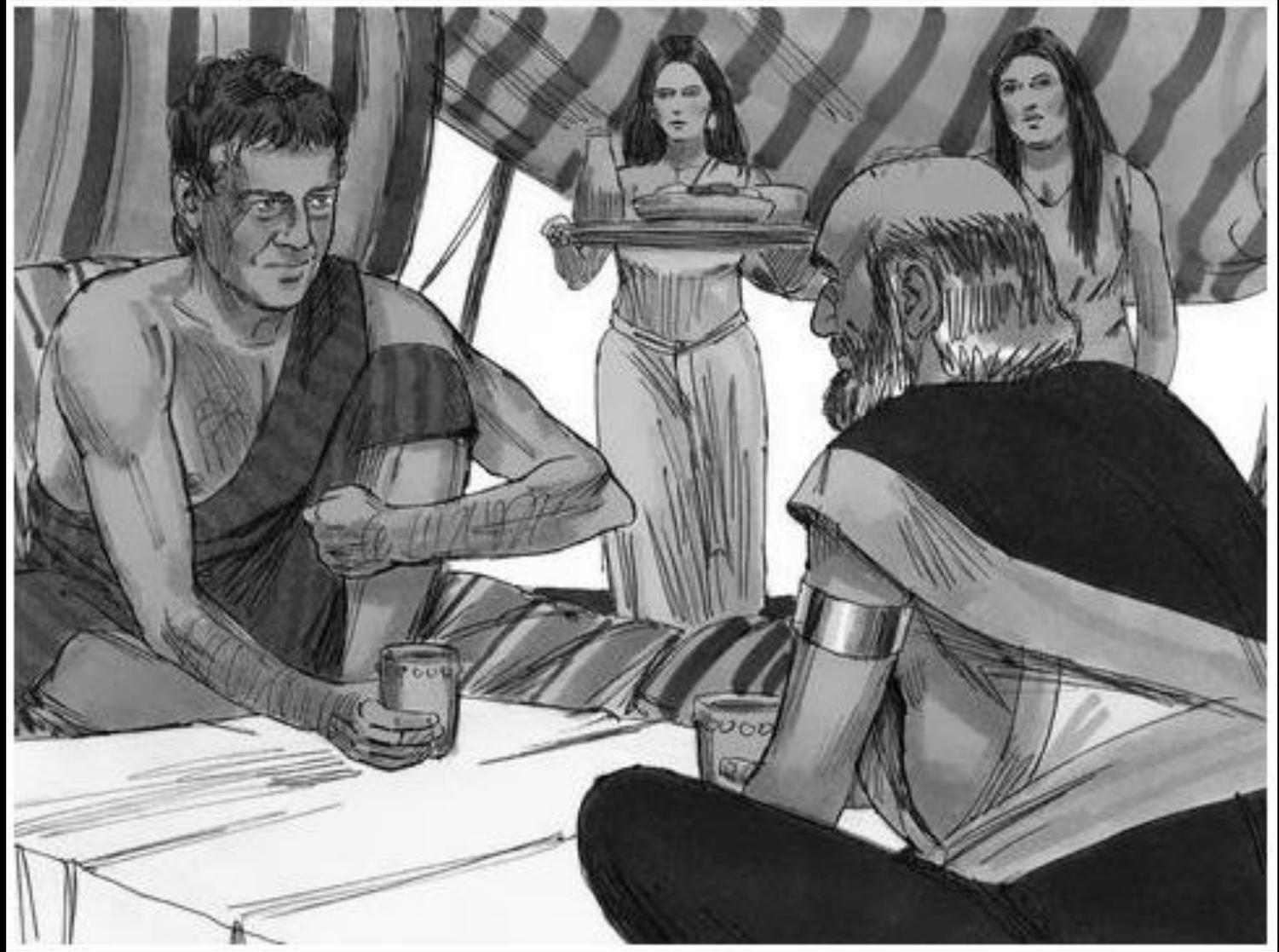


On his journey, at Bethel, Jacob had a *dream*. Within this vision, God passed down his covenant promises to Abraham & Isaac, onto Jacob.

Part 2

Jacob & His Uncle

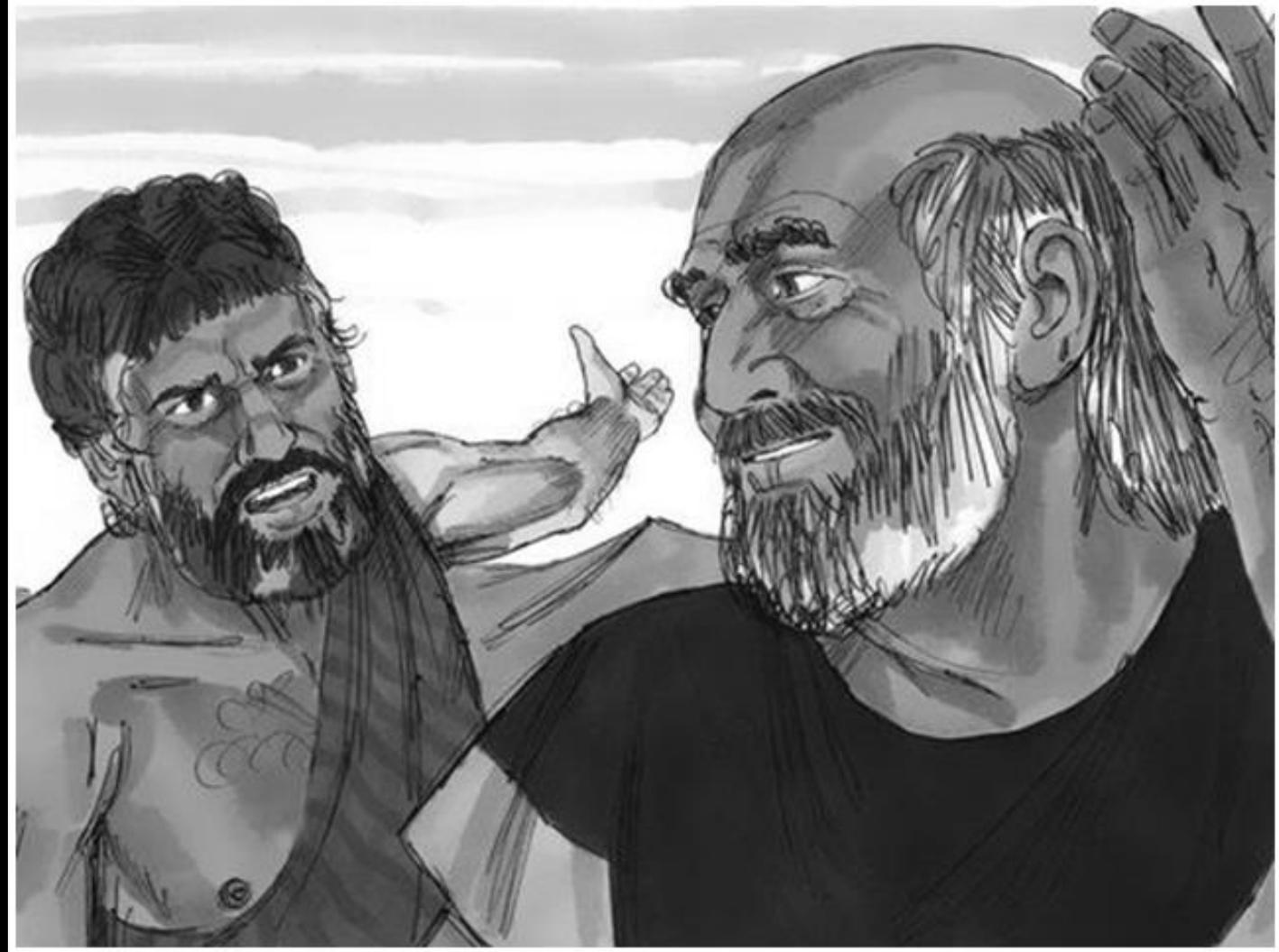
Upon his arrival, Jacob agrees to work for 7 years for his Uncle, in order to marry the wife of his choice, Rachel, the younger daughter.



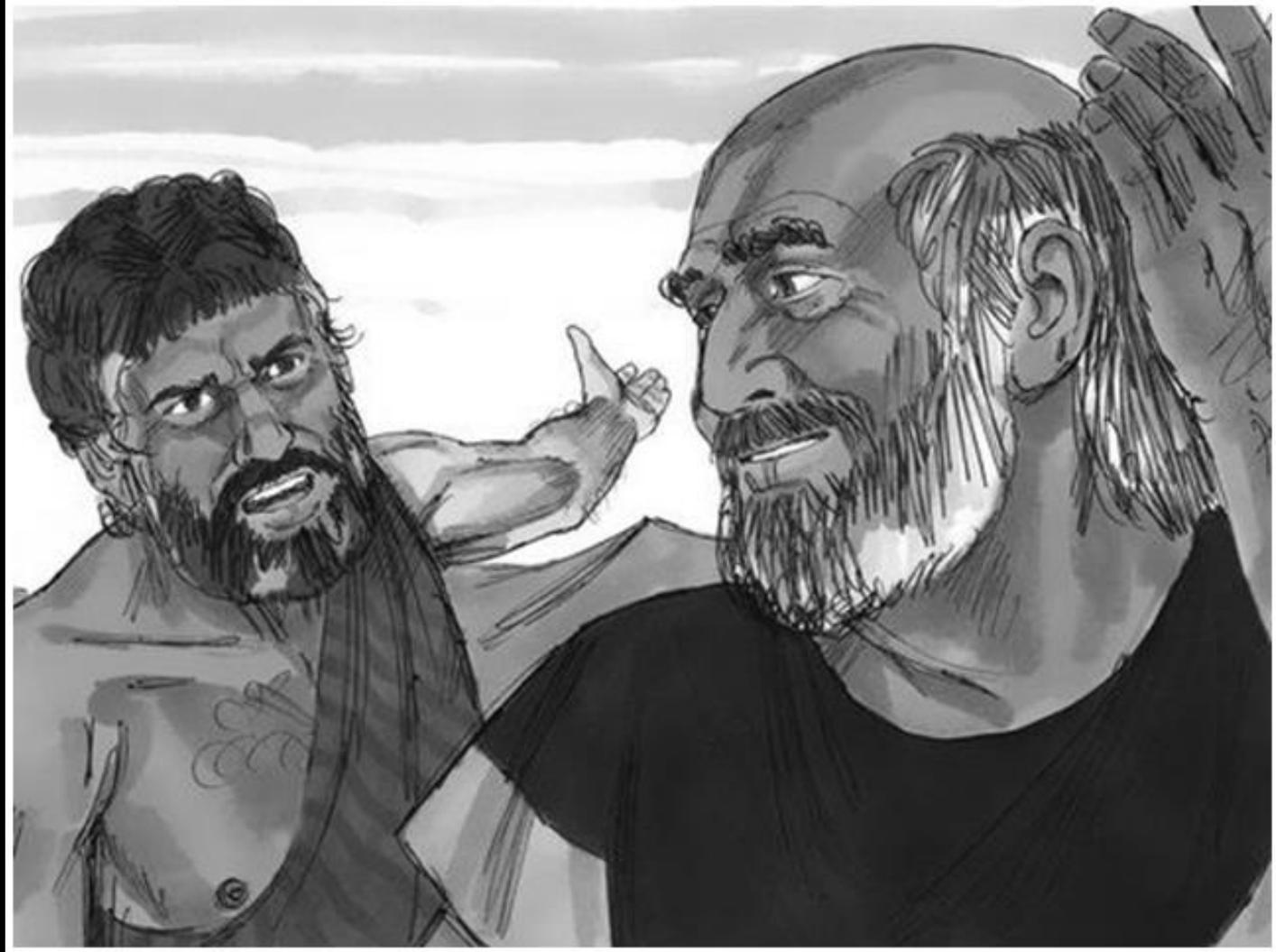


After the 7 initial years of work, his uncle seizes an opportunity for more labor and deceives Jacob into marrying the older daughter, Leah, whom he has no interest in.

It is as though
because,
through *deceit*,
Jacob *dishonored* his
older brother for
personal gain...



...his uncle is now,
through deceit,
is forcing Jacob
to honor his eldest
daughter for his own
personal gain.





Jacob is able to marry Rachel a week later, in exchange for another 7 years of work. The price of the bowl of stew continues to rise for Jacob.

**During this time,
a major rivalry begins
between the sisters,
as they battle for
Jacob's attention and
affection...
a battle which Leah
will never win.**



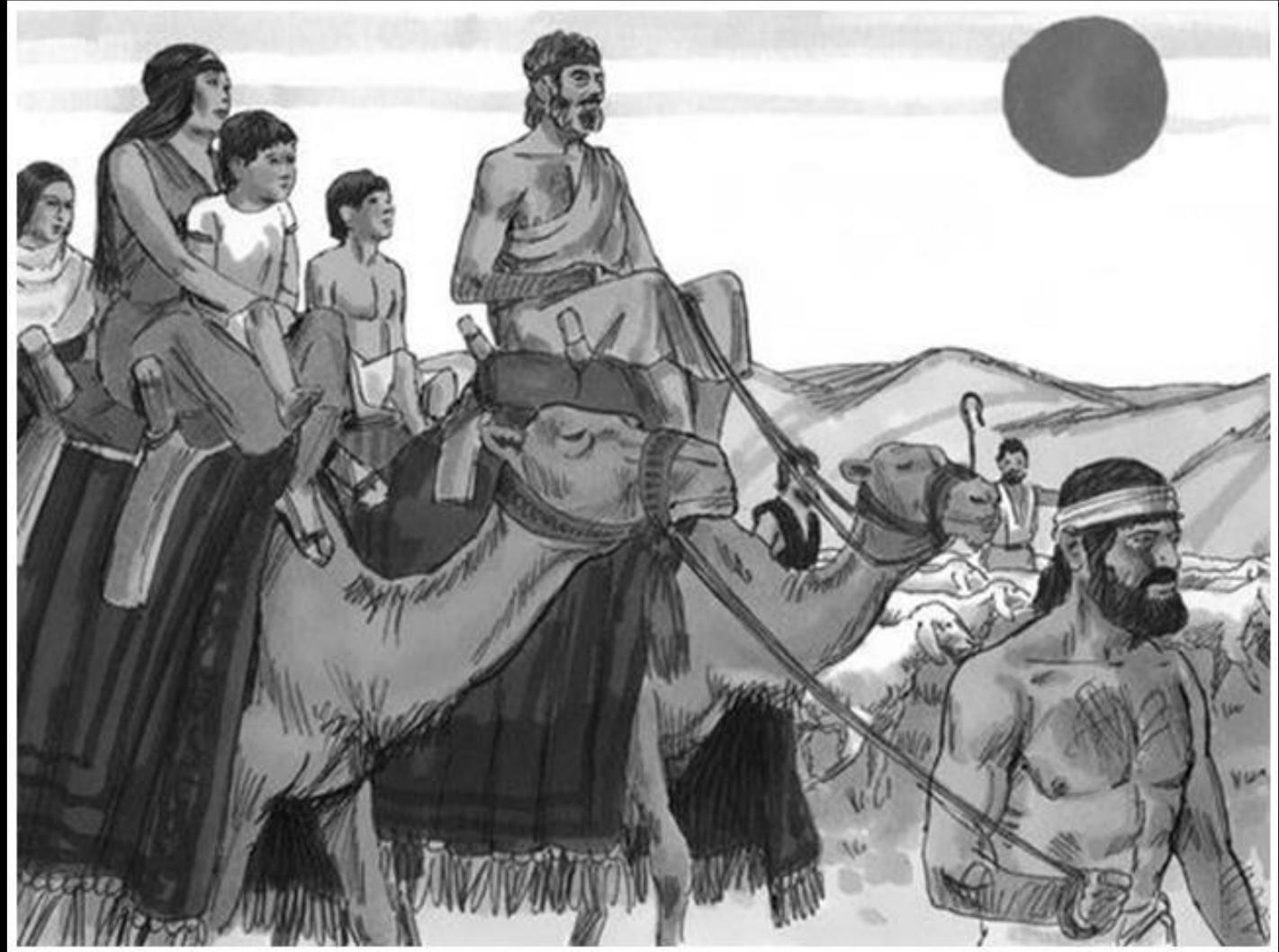


To complicate matters even more, Jacob is also given the sister's maidservants as his wives as well. The difficulties of this greatly resembles those of premarital sex, divorce and broken families.

Part 3

Jacob & His Sons

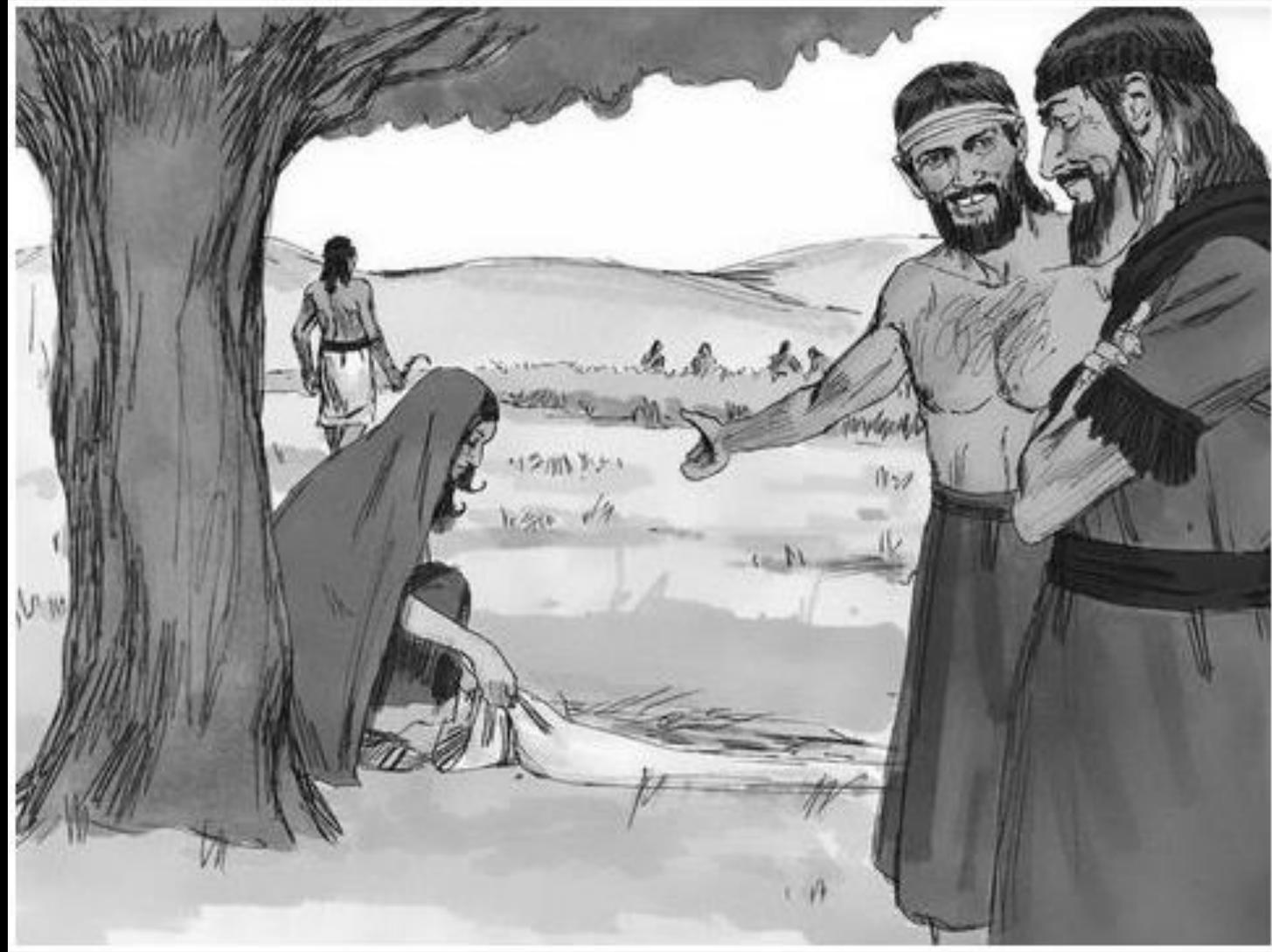
All in all,
Jacob will have 12 sons
and 1 daughter with
these 4 women.
At the end of the
14 years, God gives
Jacob another dream
and tells him to return
to Canaan.





On his journey back, without consulting the Lord, he set up camp & bought land near the Canaanite city of Shechem...in similar fashion to Lot setting up camp near the godless city of Sodom.

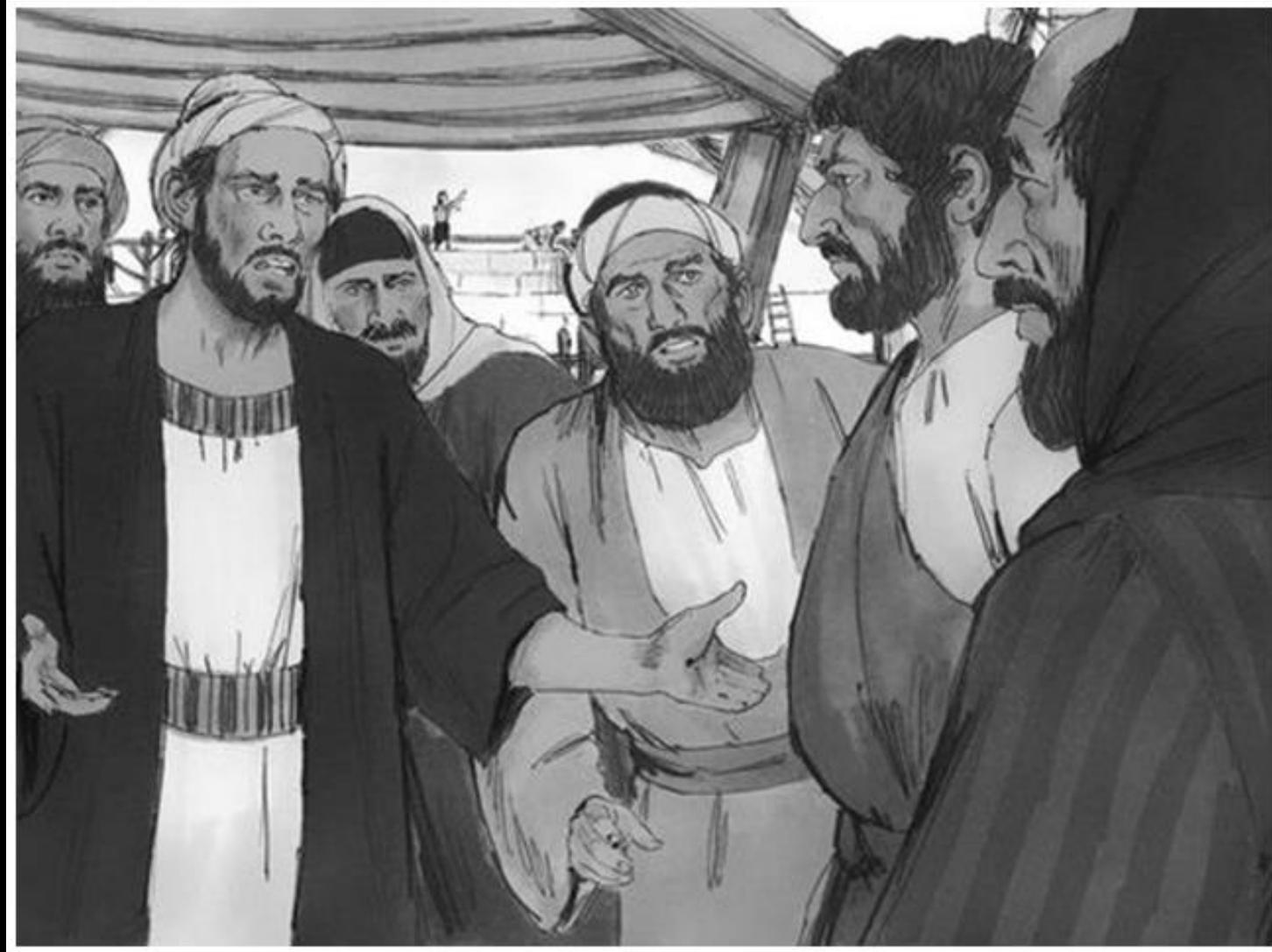
While near Shechem, Jacob's daughter, went into the city to visit the women there...during this time she is raped by the prince of the city. Jacob hears about it, does nothing and allows Dinah to be taken in marriage.





**As a result of this,
2 of the brothers took
justice into their own
hands by killing every
male in the city and
the others took all the
women, children &
belongings (including
their idols) for
themselves.**

Afterwards, Jacob's only rebuke was that now the people/cities of Canaan might unite against them and attack them. During this whole event, there is no mention of Jacob talking with The Lord.





After this event, God speaks to Jacob at Shechem and tells him to return to Bethel and to purge the camp of the foreign gods. God then protects Jacob from the people/cities.

Jacob eventually returns all the way back to the home of his father Isaac. However, on the journey, two major events occur.



First, Jacob's favorite wife Rachel,
dies while giving birth to Benjamin,
her 2nd son and Jacob's 12th

Second, Jacob's eldest son Rueben has sexual relations with his fourth wife, Rachel's servant, Bilhah. Jacob was aware of this, but there is no record of any action taken.

This is the family setting that
Joseph will grow up in...

His father is a deceiving trickster
and husband of three wives. One of which,
openly had sexual relations with her step-son.

**His beautiful mother died
when he was only a child.**

**He has a half sister who had
been raped and taken captive by strangers.**

He has 10 half brothers...

2 of which murdered an entire town of men
and the rest took their families as property.

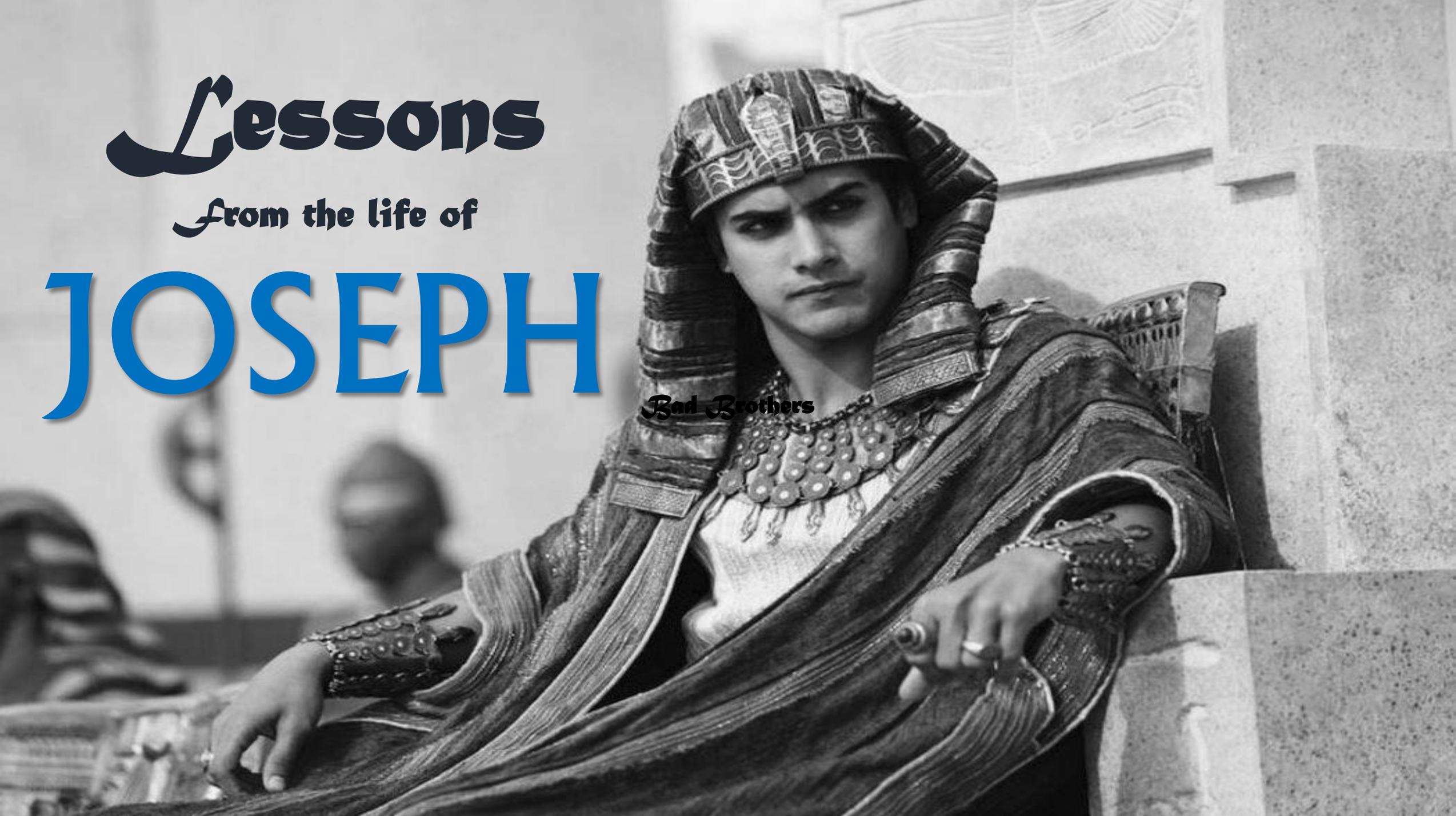
1 of which violated their father's wife,
the mother of 2 of the brothers.

Lessons

From the life of

JOSEPH

Bad Brothers



Lesson 1

The story of our children & grandchildren
begins long *before* any of them are born.

Their story begins with you and I, our spouses, our siblings and our choices now.

Lesson 2

We must help those in need,
rather than manipulating others by taking
advantage of them in their desperation,
in order to advance ourselves.

Lesson 3

We must not disregard spiritual things,
we should hold them *high* in our hearts.

Lesson 4

We should not have a temporary, *here* and now mindset, but a long-term, eternal one.

Lesson 5

We must not play favorites with our children or grandchildren. We must not influence our children against our spouse or their siblings.

Lesson 6

We must realize that if we have to use *deception* in order to get something for ourselves... The thing we are striving for is not worth it and will likely harm us.

Lesson 7

We must realize that if we have to *harm* a family member in order to get something for ourselves... The thing we are striving for is not worth it.

Lesson 8

We must realize that the *decisions* we make now are seeds which are sown which can and will come back to either bless us or haunt us.

**A man reaps what he sows.
Whoever sows to please their flesh,
from the flesh will reap destruction...**

Galatians 6:7-8

Lesson 9

We must realize that even though God loves us & wants to use us in a great way, many times he will not protect us from the *consequences* of our sinful decisions.

Lesson 10

We must realize that to some extent, God will allow us to be treated in the same manner in which we have treated others.

**For in the same way you judge others,
you will be judged, and with the measure
you use, it will be measured to you.**

Matthew 7:2

Lesson 11

We must realize that there is a reason that God tells us to be the 'husband of one wife' and to obtain from sexual immorality... to be spared the pain of the consequences.

Lesson 12

We must realize the importance of *consulting* with the Lord and other wise believers before (all) major life changes or *decisions*.

Lesson 13

We must realize that there is a reason that God tells us to 'not associate with' or pitch our tents near or intermarry with those who are sexually immoral, greedy and an idolater...(1 Cor 5:11)

...chances are we will become like them or be harmed in the process.

...chances are we will take their gods
and make them our own..

**Blessed is the one who does not walk in step
with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners
take or sit in the company of mockers...**

Psalm 1:1

Lesson 14

We must not take justice (vengeance) into our own hands...but instead we should wait on the Lord and His perfect justice.

Do not take revenge, my dear friends,
but leave room for God's wrath,
for it is written: "It is mine to avenge;
I will repay," says the Lord.

Romans 12:19

Lesson 15

Following God's will/plan for our lives
doesn't **protect** us from experiencing
loss or tragedy.

Lesson 16

If we happen to come from a 'bad family' we must realize that we are not alone, and this is a *pattern* of human nature.

Lesson 17

We must realize that the *failures* of our fathers, our mothers, or brothers etc. doesn't determine the trajectory of our lives.

Lesson 18

We must realize that a bad start in life
doesn't guarantee a bad ending.

Lesson 19

We must realize that an evil start in life doesn't guarantee an evil ending. While you have life and breath you can still repent.

Lesson 20

We must realize that even though the decisions of others do greatly affect us, they don't have to determine our worldview, our attitude, our choices or our destiny!

Chapter Two

Favorite Son