

## The Life of Joseph: Week 4 - Chapter Three: Dreams & Jealousy

-The robe symbolized that Joseph was being \_\_\_\_\_ to be the heir of the family and therefore being \_\_\_\_\_ to inherit the lion's share of the wealth.

-The robe symbolized that Joseph was being \_\_\_\_\_ in a supervisory \_\_\_\_\_ over the work of the brothers.

### Part 1: The Robe: The Prize of Material (Gen 37:3-4)

By giving the robe to Joseph, Jacob was anointing him for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the majority share of the family wealth. The robe represented the ever so coveted status of being the prize holder of the future family wealth. Joseph would take possession of all that every other brother wanted to take possession of.

Through the coming events, God will \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph & Judah for the prize that he has for them each to take possession of...as we will see, neither are ready for such things at the moment.

**The prized possession of the family wealth was too small of a dream for Joseph & Judah's future...  
God would have Joseph inherit the wealth of Egypt & Judah the spiritual lineage of the deliverer.**

### Part 2: The Role: The Position of Man (Gen 37:2, 12-14)

By giving the robe to Joseph, Jacob was anointing him for the \_\_\_\_\_ of overseer or administrator of the family business. The robe represented the ever so coveted status of being the \_\_\_\_\_ of the family enterprise...which is the role Joseph assumes in the narrative. Joseph had taken the position that every other \_\_\_\_\_ wanted be positioned in.

However, this was not the position that God had in mind for Joseph or the brothers.

Through the coming events, God will begin to \_\_\_\_\_ to Joseph & the brothers the position that he has for them, which neither are \_\_\_\_\_ for such a position at the moment.

**The position of overseer of the family business was too small of a dream for Joseph & the brother's...  
God would have Joseph oversee the power of Egypt & the brother's the spiritual leadership of Israel.**

**This position creates/reveals another character flaw/need in Joseph...**

Joseph is ready to \_\_\_\_\_, but has never been \_\_\_\_\_.

Before someone can be \_\_\_\_\_ up into a high position of great \_\_\_\_\_, they must often be brought down into a low position of great humility.

### Part 3: The Dreams: The Providence of God (Gen 37:5-10)

There are six dreams within the Joseph narrative. We receive interpretations of the latter four. However, we are never given an explanation to the pair of dreams which Joseph has. A direct explanation is not needed, as the entire story acts as a detailed interpretation of the dreams...

**By giving the dreams to Joseph, God was anointing him for the incredible  
future prize & future position that lie ahead of him in Egypt.**

The two separate dreams represent the two separate trips which the brothers took to Egypt...and the significance of each trip. Joseph's first dream is about earthly matters: food, wheat, sustenance. Joseph's second dream, is about spiritual matters: redemption, restoration, forgiveness.

On the first trip (1<sup>st</sup> dream) only the 10 older brothers are present and they bow to Joseph for the physical \_\_\_\_\_ of wheat/grain.

On the second trip (2<sup>nd</sup> dream) all 11 brothers are present and they bow to Joseph for the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of the family and therefore becoming the stars/tribes of Israel.

The brothers scold Joseph upon hearing the first dream & offer their interpretation of the dream, taking it to mean that Joseph intends to \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ over them.

Jacob scolds Joseph upon hearing the second dream & offers his interpretation of the dream, taking it to mean that the sun & moon bowing down, are Jacob & \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Both Jacob & the brothers interpret the dreams:**

*Individually:* They make their own attempt, apart from any divine guidance.

*Negatively:* They assume the worst, and imagine only an unfavorable outcome.

*Incorrectly:* There are errors in their interpretations.

Jacob and the brothers interpreted the dream out of the worldview of their \_\_\_\_\_ pain, disappointments and cynicisms and they \_\_\_\_\_ that onto God's intentions.

For Joseph, these dreams must have felt like a divine \_\_\_\_\_ of the position that his father had placed him in. These dreams must have felt like a divine reaffirmation of the intentions of the robe. Joseph may have believed that he was living out his dreams currently.

**These dreams will reveal another character flaw:** An \_\_\_\_\_ and a lack of awareness of other's pain coupled with some measure of pride which overlooks the disappointments of others.

This problem would need to be fixed if Joseph was to notice that the baker and cup bearer were downcast and ask them the reason thereof. This problem would need to be fixed if Joseph was to care for the hurting people of Egypt amid the famine.

## **Chapter Three: Life Lessons**

#1 We must be careful of the coats we wear. We should not be defined by our status, our salary & our position. We should find our \_\_\_\_\_ in the coat God has placed on us.

#2 Be careful of the positions & the prizes we seek. What the world says is rewarding will not satisfy.

#3 Be mindful of how earthy prizes/positions can be in \_\_\_\_\_ with God's plan.

#4 Beware of failing to \_\_\_\_\_ when God is trying to say something.

#5 Beware of a tendency to make up our own interpretations of God's Word...or interpreting God's Word out of past experiences & through our own worldview.

#6 Beware of viewing the providence of God as harmful or negative. Beware of when past pain makes you so \_\_\_\_\_, that you lack the faith to believe that God is up to something good.

#7 Understand that there is a major difference in 'the will of God' and 'the timing of the will of God'.

#8 God may have a special position of ministry or leadership for you. However, he likely has a specific set of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ disciplines in mind, which you will need in order to function well in that role.

#9 God may place challenges in your path in order to prepare you for this special task. These challenges are not meant to \_\_\_\_\_ you, they are to \_\_\_\_\_ you

#10 Beware of the jealousy & hatred that can occur when God has a \_\_\_\_\_ position or role for \_\_\_\_\_ else...and not you.