

# Genesis 37:20-35 ESV (English Standard Version)

Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.” **21**But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” **22**And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. **23**So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. **24**And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

**25**Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. **26**Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? **27**Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him. **28**Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

**29**When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes **30**and returned to his brothers and said, “The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?” **31**Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. **32**And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, “This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not.” **33**And he identified it and said, “It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces.” **34**Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. **35**All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, “No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.” Thus his father wept for him.

The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps. – Proverbs 16:9

**Sermon Notes – The Life of Joseph**

God’s Promise – Genesis 15:13-16; Acts 14:22

Sovereign Providence of God

What does this story show us about God? What are the Lord Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father trying to reveal to us about Themselves in this story?

1.) Is God truly our Protector?

2.) At times, God desires for us to experience great mistreatment and injustices – great suffering and affliction – to bring about things that cannot be brought about in any other way.

3.) God desires to share with us and entrust things to us that are important to Him, in ways that deepen our trust in Him, our dependence on Him, and our intimacy with Him.