

## JACOB...2.....Joseph ...1

(Genesis 33:1---41-36)

Genesis 33 records the dramatic reunion between Jacob and Esau. Jacob was very much afraid that Esau would be angry and might do him harm, but Esau greeted Jacob very warmly. Genesis 34 records an ugly situation in which the sons of Jacob killed many people in revenge for mistreatment of their sister, Dinah.

Chapter 35 records the death of Rachel in giving birth to Benjamin. It was a very sad time for Jacob as he buried his favorite wife.

One big mistake of Jacob was to show favoritism toward Joseph, leading to much jealousy on the part of the other brothers. Chapter 37 records the account of Joseph being sold by his brothers as a slave, along with the account of pretending that his brightly colored coat had been bloodied by some wild animal--when they had deliberately dipped it in goat's blood. This episode led to many years of grief and despair on Jacob's part....witnessed by the guilty brothers, who could never bring themselves to tell their father the truth.

Chapter 39 records the account of the sale of Joseph in Egypt to an important Egyptian official, Potiphar. It is clear that Joseph was a remarkably godly young man----and that God honored that by continually blessing him. He landed in prison after being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, whose sexual advances he had resisted. But in prison his character was so apparent that the warden put him in charge of the other prisoners.

Chapter 40 records the dreams by the king's imprisoned baker and by the chief cupbearer. Joseph was able to interpret them, foretelling the death of the baker and the restoration of the cupbearer. The cupbearer was supposed to put in a good word for Joseph to help have him freed---but he forgot!

Two years later Pharaoh had disturbing dreams about cows and heads of grain. But none of his magicians and wise men could interpret them. THEN the cupbearer remembered and Joseph was called from the prison to interpret the dreams. They turned out to be a warning from God that 7 years of plenty would be followed by 7 years of famine. Joseph recommended that food be stored up during the years of plenty in order to have food during the 7 famine years---and that a "discerning and wise man" be appointed to oversee the storing of food.