

**Hatred in Action**  
**Genesis 37:12-36**  
**February 8, 2023**

The study of the generations of Jacob began with an introduction to Joseph, Jacob's seventeen-year-old son and spotlighted intra-family conflict, specifically Joseph's brothers' hatred of Joseph.

*According to verses 2-11, what were the reasons for Joseph's brothers' hatred of him?*

**I. The Occasion for Hatred in Action (12-17)**

From verse 2 through the end of the chapter some form of the word "brother" will be used over 20 times. Jacob instructs Joseph to go to his brothers and to bring him a report.

*What is significant about the location to which and the reasons for which Jacob sent Joseph to his brothers? What is revealed in Jacob's decisions to do so? (Consider past events in Genesis and the previous passage in Gen. 37.)*

Shechem is approximately 50 miles north of Hebron, a journey that would likely have taken several days to complete.

Jacob arrives in Shechem and is lost. He receives information from an unknown man which sends him on an additional 15-mile journey north of Shechem.

**II. The Schemings of Hatred in Action (18-30)**

Joseph's brothers' hatred springs into action as they conspire to kill "this dreamer."

Reuben, the oldest brother, seeks to come to Joseph's rescue by offering the alternative to killing him which is to throw Joseph into a pit, or cistern.

Joseph arrives and the brothers forcefully pull off his robe and throw him into the pit.

After they've stripped him of his coat and thrown him into the pit they sit down and eat a meal with one another.

Dothan was on the major trade route that connected the far east to Egypt.

Judah presents another alternative, not killing him, and not leaving him in the pit, but instead selling him to the traders. Judah presents his plan as an act of mercy.

Reuben returns to the group and discovers that his scheme of leaving Joseph in the pit was rejected showing the ineffectiveness of his leadership.

### **III. The Callousness of Hatred in Action (31-36)**

The brothers conspire again, this time to cover up their evil deed. Once again, we see a garment and a goat figuring into deception in Jacob's life.

Note the brothers' callousness as they present the bloodied robe to Jacob and never utter the actual words of the lie to Jacob.

See further the callousness of their hatred in action as they rise along with their sisters to comfort their grieving father.

But even in the deep darkness of the sin displayed in this passage we see a small beacon of hope in verse 36.

*Are there parallels in this passage to anyone else in the Bible? If so, who is it and what are the parallels?*

Application:

- We should look at this early episode in Joseph's life and be able to see the role of suffering and trial in the life of the believer. Ja. 1:2-4.
- We should ask the Lord's help in applying Eph. 4:30-32.
- We should thank God for sending Christ and should thank Christ for dying for us while we were still sinners. Rom. 5:6-11.
- We should trust that our Father who is the Sovereign One is good and is indeed working all things together for our good and for His glory. Rom. 8:28-30.