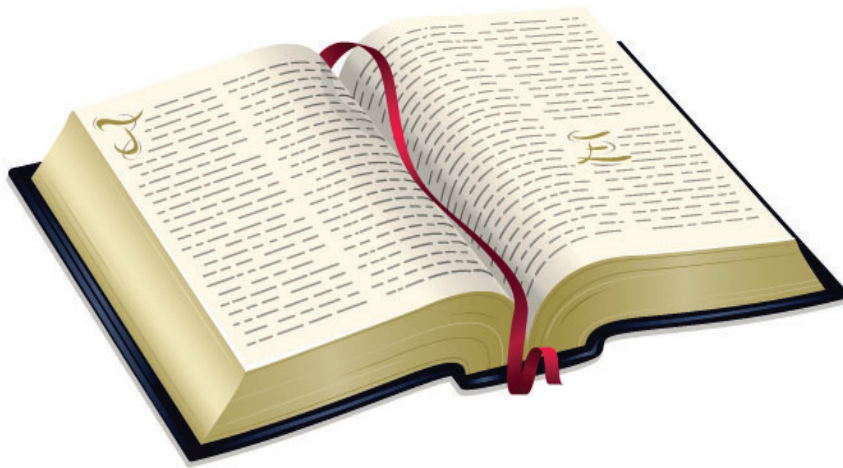


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Answer Sheet New International Version (NIV)



In The Beginning Series

Twelve Lesson Study on the Book of Genesis

This Lesson - Genesis Chapter 37 - 40

Please read Genesis Chapter 37 ☐ Check

Chapter 37

Beginning with this chapter, Genesis takes up the story of Jacob's son Joseph. Joseph, just 17, is both deeply loved and deeply hated. Described as the son of Jacob's old age, as well as being the firstborn of Jacob's beloved late wife Rachel, Joseph is clearly favored by his father over his older ten half-brothers. It's not surprising, then, to learn of their hatred for Joseph, especially when Jacob gives to him a princely, multicolored robe. This gift may have indicated Jacob's plan to make Joseph his primary heir. Joseph doesn't make it better. He reports on his brothers' misdeeds to Jacob. He also tells them of powerful prophetic dreams he experiences that suggest all of them will one day bow down to him (Genesis 37:1–11).

After that, the fury and jealousy of Joseph's older brothers reaches a boiling point. They are ready to kill him. Apparently unaware of how bad things are, Jacob gives them just such an opportunity. The ten of them are pasturing the family flocks near Shechem, north of the family household in Hebron. This is the same area where Jacob's sons demonstrated their willingness to engage in violence when angered (Genesis 34:26–27). Jacob charges Joseph to go to his brothers alone, to get a report on how the flocks are doing (Genesis 37:12–14).

1. (Genesis 37:2) This chapter tells the story of how Joseph's brothers turned on him and sold him into slavery. How old was Joseph at the time? a young man of seventeen

2. (Genesis 37:2) Joseph brought a bad report to his father regarding his brothers from which mothers? Bilhah Zilpah

3. (Genesis 37:3) This verse points out why Jacob loved Joseph more than all his children. What reason does it give?
because he had been born to him in his old age

4. (Genesis 37:3) What did Jacob make for his son Joseph because he loved him?
he made an ornate robe for him.

5. (Genesis 37:4) Why did Joseph's brothers hate him so much?
his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them.

6. (Genesis 37:7) Joseph told a dream that he had to his brothers about them all being sheaf / sheaves / bundles in a field. What part of the dream caused his brother to hate him even more?
my sheaf rose and stood upright,
while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.

7. (Genesis 37:8) What two things made Joseph's brothers Jealous and angry with him?
1. "Do you intend to reign over us?"
2. Will you actually rule us?"

8. (Genesis 37:9) Joseph had another dream and told it to his father and brothers. In this dream who all bowed down to him?
the sun moon eleven stars

9. (Genesis 37:10) What did Joseph's father say that this dream meant?
Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and
bow down to the ground before you?"

10. (Genesis 37:12) Where did all the brothers go to feed/graze/pasture their father's flock?

Shechem

11. (Genesis 37:14) What was the reason Joseph's father sent him to his brothers?

"Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks,

and bring word back to me."

12. (Genesis 37:15-16) When a man found Joseph wandering in a field, what did he ask Joseph?

"What are you looking for?"

How did Joseph respond?

"I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

13. (Genesis 37:17) When Joseph arrived at Shechem his brothers were not there. A certain man found Joseph wandering around and told him his brothers had departed to what town? Dothan

14. (Genesis 37:18) When Joseph's brothers saw him from a distance/afar off, what were they plotting/conspired against for him?

they plotted to kill him.

15. (Genesis 37:20) What was Joseph's brothers first plans for him when they saw him coming?

let's kill him and throw him into one of these

cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him.

16. (Genesis 37:22) Which one of Joseph's brothers said not to kill him? Reuben

What did he want to do with him?

"Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness,

but don't lay a hand on him."

17. (Genesis 37:26-27) What did Joseph's brother Judah say they should do with him?

"let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all,
he is our brother, our own flesh and blood."

18. (Genesis 37:28) How much did Joseph's brothers sell him to the Midianites/Ishmaelites for?

twenty shekels of silver

Understanding Genesis 37:28

Except for Reuben, who was not present (Genesis 37:22), Joseph's older brothers have agreed to sell him as a slave to the **Ishmaelites** (Genesis 25:23–27). In this verse, the specific group passing by are referred to "**Midianite**" traders.

Scholars suggest that by this point in history, nomadic tribes in the region were referred to as "**Ishmaelites**," whether they were specifically descended from Hagar's son (Genesis 25:12) or not. This group of nomads were **Midianites**, descended from Abraham's concubine Keturah (Genesis 25:1–2).

19. (Genesis 37: 31-32) **In your own words** How did Joseph's brothers try to hide what they did to Joseph to their father?

20. (Genesis 37:36) What did the Midianites do with Joseph once they got to Egypt?

sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

Chapter 38

The events of Genesis 38 likely take place during Joseph's time as a slave in Egypt (Genesis 37:26–28) and some time before he is reunited with his brothers (Genesis 45:1–3). After this passage, the text will return to a focus on Joseph (Genesis 39:1).

One of the brothers, Judah moves away from his father Jacob and the rest of the family living at Hebron. He establishes a home to the northwest near a town called Adullam. He has a friend there named Hirah, and soon takes a wife. Though people of God have been repeatedly discouraged from marrying into Canaanite culture (Genesis 28:1), Judah has done exactly that. He soon has three sons with her: Er, Onan, and Shelah (Genesis 38:1–5).

1. (Genesis 38:1-2) What was the name of the woman that Judah married? Shua
What was her nationality? Canaanite

2. (Genesis 38:3-5) How many sons did Judah and Shua have? Three
What were their son's names?
Er Onan Shelah

3. (Genesis 38:6) Judah obtained a wife for his first born.
What was his name? Er
What was her name? Tamar

4. (Genesis 38:7) What was wrong with Er? was wicked in the Lord's sight
What did the Lord do to him? the Lord put him to death.

5. (Genesis 38:8) What did Judah ask Onan, to do for Er?
"Sleep with your brother's wife and fulfill your duty to her as a
brother-in-law to raise up offspring for your brother."

6. (Genesis 38:9) Onan knew that the heir would not be his, so what did he do?
whenever he slept with his brother's wife, he spilled his semen on the ground

7. (Genesis 38:10) How did the LORD feel about what Onan did with Er's wife?

What he did was wicked in the Lord's sight

What did the LORD do to Onan for doing this?

put him to death.

8. (Genesis 38:13-16) **In your own words**, what did Tamar do to trick her father-in-law, Judah and for what reason?

9. (Genesis 38:17) What did Judah offer to Tamar to lay with her?

"I'll send you a young goat from my flock,"

How did Tamar respond to the offer Judah made?

"Will you give me something as a pledge until you send it?"

10. (Genesis 38:22) When Judah sent the young goat in payment for laying with who he thought was a harlot/prostitute by way of his friend/Hirah the Adullamite, how did his friend report back?

"I didn't find her. Besides, the men who lived there said,

'There hasn't been any shrine prostitute here.'"

11. (Genesis 38:24) What did Judah find out about three month later?

"Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant."

12. (Genesis 38: 28) When it was time for Tamar to give birth, she was having twins. What was the reason the midwife bound a scarlet thread on the hand of the first one that stuck his hand out?

"This one came out first."

13. (Genesis 38:29-30) What was the name of the first son that came out of Tamar?

Perez

, Who came out second? Zerah

Who had the scarlet thread on his hand? Zerah

Chapter 39

Genesis returns from describing the scandalous family history of Judah in chapter 38. Here, Scripture resumes a focus on Joseph, sold by his brothers into slavery in Egypt (Genesis 37:26–28). Joseph is purchased by a powerful Egyptian official, the captain of the guard. Though Joseph is no longer in the land of promise or with his family, the Lord is still with him. Joseph has not been abandoned.

Potiphar, Joseph's master, soon sees that Joseph is successful in all he does. Not only is the Hebrew slave a hard worker and man of integrity, but he is also blessed by his Hebrew God. Before long, Potiphar installs Joseph as the head of his entire household. As a result, everything Joseph is responsible for thrives. Potiphar's household apparently grows in wealth and wellbeing, and Joseph's God is given the credit. This is about the best outcome Joseph could have hoped for as a slave in Egypt (Genesis 39:1–6).

A complication arises, however. Like his mother Rachel, Joseph is blessed with exceptional good looks: he is extremely attractive. Soon, Potiphar's wife notices him and decides she will seduce him. Or, rather, she will try. One day she commands him, "lie with me." Perhaps she made a regular practice of sleeping with her husband's slaves (Genesis 39:7).

Soon, this combination of divine blessing, work ethic, and success will bring Joseph to the attention of Pharaoh, himself (Genesis 40:9–14).

1. (Genesis 39:1) After Joseph was sold into slavery what country was he taken to?

Egypt Who bought him? Potiphar

Who was Potiphar an officer of? Pharaoh

What was his position? captain of the guard

Who was he bought from? the Ishmaelites

2. (Genesis 39:3) What did Joseph's master Potiphar notice about Joseph?

the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did,

3. (Genesis 39:4) After finding favor in Potiphar's eyes/sight, what did he do?

became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household,
and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

4. (Genesis 39:5) Why did the Lord bless the Egyptian house of Potiphar as well as the fields?

because of Joseph

5. (Genesis 39:6-7) Joseph was a handsome man and his master's wife took notice.

What did she tell him to do? "Come to bed with me!"

6. (Genesis 39:8-9) **In you own words**, What reason did Joseph give to his master's wife why he could not do what she had told him to do?

7. (Genesis 39: 14) How did Potiphar's refer to Joseph, as if it was a racial slur?

this Hebrew

8. (Genesis 39:15) What did Potiphar's wife try and use as evidence against Joseph?

his cloak

9. (Genesis 39:20) After Potiphar's wife told Potiphar this made up story about Joseph, what did he do?

put him in prison

Who was also in this place?

where the king's prisoners were confined

10. (Genesis 39:22-23) **In your own words**, what did Joseph become once he was in prison?

How was it possible that Joseph was able to do this while in prison?

the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Chapter 40

Joseph continues to languish in a special prison attached to the house of the captain of the guard (Genesis 39:11–20). While Joseph’s former master held that position (Genesis 39:1), Scripture does not use the name Potiphar from this point forward. It’s unclear if Potiphar is still in that role, or if he has been replaced. After Joseph has been there “some time,” likely several years, two new prisoners arrive. Pharaoh has become angry at both his chief cupbearer and his chief baker. He throws them into the prison, also called “the pit” or “the dungeon,” where Joseph is. Genesis doesn’t tell us what their offenses were (Genesis 40:1–3).

Just as in his prior role, Joseph’s diligence and character have led to recognition (Genesis 39:21–23). He is given a kind of caregiver’s role over these two new men. They, as well, are held for “some time,” likely another period of years. In a dictator-driven legal system, a prisoner might be subject to almost any fate at any time. One night, both men experience vivid, impactful dreams. Egyptian religion took dreams very seriously, but these are especially jarring visions. The men are disturbed enough by the dreams that Joseph takes notice and interprets the dream for them (Genesis 40:4–7).

It will be another two years before a situation inspires the cupbearer to mention Joseph and his remarkable ability (Genesis 41:1, 9–14).

1. (Genesis 40:8) What reason did the cupbearer and the baker give to Joseph why they looked so sad?

“We both had dreams,” they answered, “but there is no one to interpret them.”

- How did Joseph respond to the cupbearer and the baker?

“Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams.”

2. (Genesis 40:9-11) **In your own words**, what was the cupbearer’s dream?
-
-
-
-
-

3. (Genesis 40:12) What did the three branches represent? three days

4. (Genesis 40:13) What two things does Joseph tell the cupbearer that Pharaoh will do in three days? (Only one in the NLT)

First thing: lift up your head and restore you to your position

Second thing: you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand,
just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer.

5. (Genesis 40:14) What does Joseph ask the cupbearer to do when he gets out of prison?
remember me and show me kindness;

mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison.

6. (Genesis 40:15) What last two points does Joseph bring up to the cupbearer?

1. I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews,

2. I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon."

7. (Genesis 40:16) Why was the chief baker okay with Joseph interpreting his dream?

When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation

8. (Genesis 40:16-17) **In your own words**, what was the chief baker's dream?

9. (Genesis 40:18) What did the three baskets represent? three days

10. (Genesis 40:19) According to Joseph's interpretation of the dream, name two of the things that will happen to the chief baker?

1. Pharaoh will lift off your head and impale your body on a pole

2. the birds will eat away your flesh.

Notes on Genesis 40:23

This verse lands like a thud at the end of the chapter. Joseph was wrongfully imprisoned (Genesis 39:11–15), and there met two former employees of Egypt’s ruler, Pharaoh (Genesis 40:1–4). When the two men had vivid, prophetic dreams, Joseph was able to interpret them through the power of God (Genesis 40:5–8). One of the men, the baker, had a dream which predicted his impending death (Genesis 40:16–19). The other, the cupbearer, dreamed about his future restoration (Genesis 40:12–13). Both fates came about exactly as Joseph had said (Genesis 40:20–22).J

When Joseph successfully interpreted the cupbearer’s dream, he pleaded with the man to remember him. Knowing he was falsely accused, Joseph asks the man to put in a good word for him to Pharaoh (Genesis 40:14–15). Joseph desperately wanted to be released from prison for a crime he did not commit.

Joseph would remain forgotten in prison for another two years (Genesis 41:1). Though God was with Joseph and blessed him, Joseph’s circumstances continued to be very difficult. God had not forgotten him, though, and God’s plan for Joseph and Israel continued according to His own schedule (Genesis 45:5; 50:20).

ESV ☐, KJV ☐, NIV ☐, NKJV ☐, NLT ☐, Other: _____

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