

Joseph Sold into Slavery by His Brothers

37: 2-36

The fact that **Jacob** favored **Joseph** above all his other **sons** caused major problems in his family. **He** had experienced this favoritism shown by his own parents. Isaac had favored Esau and Rebekah had favored **Jacob**; now **Jacob** was repeating the same mistake. Not that **Yosef** wasn't special. Early in life, children exhibit personality and character traits that set them apart from other members of the family. **Ya'akov** certainly recognized **Joseph's** heart as being especially open to **the LORD**. Nevertheless, when **Yosef** told his brothers about two dreams **he** had had, the feelings of resentment escalated. **His brothers** resented **him**, and **their** hatred grew until they cruelly sold **him** to slave traders going to Egypt.

The name of **God** does not appear in this entire chapter. Its absence is to encourage the reader to ask the question, "Why is **God's** name not found here?" It is a teaching technique that, in reality, highlights the sovereignty of **God** (see my commentary on **Esther Az - Calamity Averted by Esther**). We know that **ADONAI** is working behind the scenes for the good of **Joseph** and for the good of **His** people. So, although **the LORD** is not mentioned, **His** sovereignty is the central theme of the story!⁵⁵²