

JOSEPH

BIBLE VERSE : Genesis 37 : 1-36

God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is always in danger of not being fulfilled. With the presence of evil and death in the world, the people of promise could have been killed or completely turned away from God. But with every new generation, God has been faithful to His promise and provided care, protection and guidance.

As we continue down Jesus' family tree we see that Jacob had a big family. He had twelve sons. Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons. A coat that Jacob made for his son, Joseph, was a princely symbol. It showed his choice of successor. One day Joseph told his brother's about a dream he had. He said, "I dreamt we were in the fields at harvest time. Your bundles of grain bowed down to mine."

Joseph's brothers were very mad. They said, "So you think we should bow down to you?"

The brothers threw him down a dry well. Then they sold him to traders who were going to a far away country. But they told their father Jacob, "Joseph has been killed by a wild animal."

God cared for Joseph through scary times. Eventually, Joseph's dreams came true and he rose from being a slave to the highest position next to the Pharaoh of Egypt. His brothers came to him because they needed food. Joseph forgave them for the bad things they had done to him. He gave them food to eat. His family moved to Egypt so they would have enough to eat.

Because of Joseph, his suffering, his forgiveness, courage and faith in God, his brothers including Judah survived the famine and continued the line of Jacob. Because of Jesus' suffering on the cross and providing redemption for the world, we have reconciliation with our Father.

Jesus came from the line of Judah, who was one of Jacobs sons and one of Joseph's brothers.