

RaYBaSH's Torah Thoughts
Parashah # 9: Vayeshev: "He Dwelt"
B'reshit (Genesis) 37:1-40:23
By Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Summary:

This begins one of the Greatest Sagas in the entire Torah, no other mirrors the life of Yeshua Ha Moshiach as well as the life of Yosef (Joseph).

Here we read about Yosef's dreams that cause jealousy and hate within his brothers and is partially the reason he is sold by them into slavery. They tell their father Ya'akov (Jacob) however that he was killed by a wild animal on the way while he was looking for them. Ya'akov is devastated and is in a constant state of mourning for this was his favorite son of his favorite wife Rachel.

There is a short interlude with the story of Yehudah (Judah) and Tamar, where Tamar marries each of Yehudah's sons and they all die because of their wicked hearts. Yehudah has one younger son in which he puts away from Tamar until he is older. Yehudah's last son Shelah grows up yet he does not give Tamar to him. Tamar then disguises herself as a prostitute and sits on the road she knows Yehudah will be traveling. Yehudah's sees her, and wants her because he had recently lost his own wife. Unknowingly he gets Tamar pregnant. This is brought to Yehudah's attention and he is ready to stone her until he sees his belongings in her hand which he gave to her when she disguised herself as the prostitute as earnest money for her services until he was able to pay her in full. Yet she disappeared before he could pay her with livestock. Yehudah then sees his error in not giving Shelah to her when he should have. So Tamar ends up having Yehudah's children, she is not put to death.

Then the story of Yosef continues and Yosef is sold into slavery in Egypt, becomes the servant of a power Egyptian official whose wife tried to seduce him. Yosef resists her advances and is framed for rape and is put in prison and ends up interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker in which the cupbearer lives and the baker is executed.

Now I am going to go into greater detail in these next several Parashat than any other on account of the great prophetic significance in connection to the life of Messiah. I will go verse by verse when necessary and I will be quoting from many sources. So this commentary and the several proceeding it will be quite long, so please bear with me, take your time and read sections at a time in need be.

Commentary:

Gen. 37:1 “And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.” (KJV)

Ya’akov (Jacob) knew what suffering was all too well. He may have been chosen, but he had it rough. He was hated by his brothers (like Yosef, and like Yeshua) he was mugged by his nephew on his way to Laban’s. Laban did him dirty. His favored wife dies very young, and to top it all off his favorite son is killed, or so he is lead to believe! This is said to be the greatest of Ya’akov’s sufferings.

It is said Yitzhak (Isaac) looked like Abraham, and that Yosef (Joseph) looked like Ya’akov (Jacob). And doesn’t Yeshua “look” like His Father?!

Ya’akov transferred all his learning from Eber and Shem to Yosef, like Yeshua got all his learning directly from his Father ADONAI.

Yosef was so similar to Ya’akov in many ways:

- Rachel was childless just like Rivkah (Rebecca) and Sarah
- Rachel suffered in childbirth as Rivkah
- Rachel had 2 sons as did Rivkah
- Ya’akov was born circumcised as was Yosef.
- Ya’akov was shepherd as was Yosef, and Yeshua, for he was the “Good Shepherd” (John. 10:11, 14).
- As Ya’akov served for the sake of a woman Yosef served under one.

- Ya'akov was hated by Esav his brother and Yosef was hated by his brothers and so was Yeshua (Mk. 15:10, John 15:25b)
- Both Ya'akov and Yosef married wives outside of the Holy Land.
- Both lived in a strange land, Ya'akov in Canaan, and Yosef in Egypt.
- Both had dreams.
- Both gained wealth.
- Both died in Egypt and were embalmed according the way of the Egyptians, and both had their bodies carried out of Egypt.

Yosef was the son of Ya'akov's old age:

“...he was the son of his [Jacob's] old age (Gen. 37:3b).”

“...he [Messiah] shall grow up before him...like a root out of a dry ground (Isa. 53:2a).”

Also he was well loved above his brothers, similar to Yeshua:

“Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children (Gen. 37:3a).”

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Matt. 3:17b).”

Gen. 37:2 “These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.” (KJV)

Yosef also is the first born, not of all the sons, but is the first born of Rachel, and similar to Yitzhak who wasn't the first born of all of Abraham's children, but was the first born of Sarah. And Yeshua is the first born of ADONAI, and the first born from among the dead (Col. 1:18), just like Yitzhak and Yosef. Both were as good as, or believed to be dead. And when they came out unscathed it is as if they had been resurrected from the dead.

It is interesting to note that the Rabbi's and Sages of blessed memory see Yosef at this point as we see many 17 years today. A cocky know-it-all concerned about his looks and who tattles on his sibling by embellishing the truth to see them get in trouble. It is also said he cared much about his appearance, just like most teens today.

Joseph was a Daddy's boy, his favorite and he knew it. He had his Daddy wrapped around his little finger and inappropriately used this influence to make his half-brothers look bad and to gain even more favor and eventually power from his father over his brothers.

The verse says he was a "lad" and in the Hebrew the particular word used was one for immaturity; it also implied that Joseph was a bit vain as well. We would call him entitled, spoiled and conceited today.

Legends of the Bible says that Yosef was sold into slavery because he accused his brothers of lusting after the Canaanite women, mistreating the animals, being wasteful with their fathers wealth and for calling them sons of Handmaids.

"Evil report," does not necessarily mean his half-brothers who attended the flocks acted inappropriately in anyway, it just meant Joseph was a tattle-tale. The Rabbi's say that Joseph misinterpreted their actions as inappropriate without knowing the full story. Because they would kill a goat to conceal the selling of Joseph into slavery, some believe his brothers were mistreating and killing some of the flock to satisfy their hunger or to make a profit for themselves on the side.

Just as the 10 spies brought back an, "evil report" (Num. 13), discouraging words about the Land God promised to give them and wanted them to take, so too Joseph brought back petty accounts of his brothers actions, putting them in a dis-favorable light in their father, Jacob's eyes. Hence, part of the reason for their hatred towards him.

Karma is not just a New Age, Mystical thing; it is a very Biblical ideal. It is said for Yosef's sin of accusing his brothers of lusting after the Canaanite women,

Yosef was lusted after by Potifar's wife. What goes around comes around. You reap what you so.

Num 32:23 "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out." (KJV)

"Said the sages: two righteous men were punished on account of the bearing of malevolent reports: Jacob and Joseph. Because Joseph spoke evilly of his brothers, he was incarcerated in prison for 12 years; and because Jacob listened to these reports, the Divine spirit departed from him for 22 years. This teaches us that one who speaks negatively of another is punished once, while someone who listens to negative talk of another is twice punished."-- Pirkei d'Rabbeinu HaKadosh

"These are the generations of Jacob: Joseph being seventeen years old... (37:2)"

"Should not have the verse said, "These are the generations of Jacob: Reuben, etc."? Why Joseph?

"Because everything that happened to Jacob, happened to Joseph. As Jacob was born circumcised, so was Joseph born circumcised: as Jacob's mother was infertile, so was Joseph's mother infertile; as Jacob's mother had difficulty in childbirth, so did Joseph's mother have difficulty in childbirth; as Jacob's mother bore two sons, so did Joseph's mother bear two sons; as Jacob was hated by his brother, so was Joseph hated by his brothers; as Jacob's brother sought to kill him, so did Joseph's brothers seek to kill him.

Jacob was a shepherd and Joseph was a shepherd, Jacob was persecuted, and Joseph was persecuted; Jacob was blessed with ten blessings and Joseph was blessed with ten blessings; Jacob was exiled from the Holy Land, and Joseph was exiled from the Land; Jacob took a wife outside the Land, and Joseph took a wife outside the Land; Jacob begot children outside the Land, and Joseph begot children outside the Land; Jacob was escorted by angels, and Joseph was escorted by angels; Jacob was made great through a dream, and Joseph was made great through a dream; the house of Jacob's father-in-law was blessed on his account, and the house of Joseph's father-in-law was

blessed on his account; Jacob went down to Egypt and Joseph went down to Egypt; Jacob ended the famine and Joseph ended the famine; Jacob adjured [his children] and Joseph adjured [his brothers]; Jacob charged [his children] and Joseph charged [his brothers]; Jacob died in Egypt and Joseph died in Egypt; Jacob was embalmed and Joseph was embalmed; the bones of Jacob were brought up [from Egypt to the Holy Land], and the bones of Joseph were brought up [from Egypt to the Holy Land]....

Jacob fathered Tribes, and Joseph fathered Tribes; Jacob was lost to his father for 22 years, and Joseph was lost to his father for 22 years; Jacob was indentured on account of a woman, and Joseph was imprisoned on account of a woman; Jacob supported Joseph for 17 years, and Joseph supported Jacob for 17 years..." -- Midrash Rabbah; Zohar; et al

"And Joseph brought to his father their evil report (37:2)

Said the sages: two righteous men were punished on account of the bearing of malevolent reports: Jacob and Joseph. Because Joseph spoke evilly of his brothers, he was incarcerated in prison for 12 years; and because Jacob listened to these reports, the Divine spirit departed from him for 22 years. This teaches us that one who speaks negatively of another is punished once, while someone who listens to negative talk of another is twice punished." -- Pirkei d'Rabbeinu HaKadosh

Gen. 37:3 "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours." (KJV)

"*Ketonet passim*, in the Hebrew. The word *passim* can be translated as "colorful" (Radak; Septuagint), "embroidered" (Ibn Ezra; Bachya; Nachmanides on Exodus 28:2), "striped" (Ibn Janach; Radak, Sherashim), or "illustrated" (Targum Yonathan). It can also denote a long garment, coming down to the "palms" of the hands (Rashbam; Ibn Ezra; Baaley Tosafoth; Midrash Rabbah), and the feet (Lekach Tov). Alternatively, the word denotes the material out of which the coat was made, which was fine wool (Rashi) or silk (Ibn Janach). Hence, *Ketonet passim*, may be translated as "a full-sleeved

robe," "a coat of many colors," "a coat reaching to his feet," "an ornamented tunic," "a silk robe," or "a fine woolen cloak."” -- The Living Torah

This coat was a very ornate multicolored, multi-striped, multi-woven outer garment in which a simple plain tunic was worn underneath. This coat symbolized not only the favor Jacob bestowed on his son, but his intentions to make him head of the family and thus getting the inheritance of the firstborn. Reuben, the true first born, blew his shot at the inheritance because he slept with his father’s concubine Bilhah (Gen. 35:22, I Chron. 5:1). Such a coat would only further inflate the head of a spoiled, favored son even more and make him more annoying and detestable in the eyes of his brothers. It would be like his brothers wearing a blue mechanics jumpsuit and Joseph wearing an Armani suit.

Legends of the Bible says that the coat was so delicate (shear maybe?) that it could be crushed and concealed in the palm of one hand.

Gen.37: 4 “And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.” (KJV)

This reminds us of Yeshua always being confronted by the Pharisees, of which sect Yeshua was a part of, hence in his brothers in ethnicity and religiosity. In the end they ended up hating him and plotting his death.

John 11:49-53 “And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.”

Yosef and his dreams:

Gen.37: 5-7 “And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

“Ah, now you got this pretty coat and now you think you will become head of this family!?” The dream and the comments made afterwards make the dream itself explanatory. I think despite the snide remark, because of the favor their father Israel (Jacob) showed him; I think the brothers were a bit concerned this dream may actually come to pass, and therefore the formulation of the plot to kill him to prevent this from happening. Joseph would eventually become head of the family when he brings his father and brothers to Egypt and sets them up with the best of the land and he would be in charge of caring for and burying his father; the duties of an inheriting firstborn in line to become the next patriarch of the family.

Compare to:

Isa 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth [in] righteousness and shall not return , That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Rom 14:11 For it is written, [As] I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Phl 2:10 That at the name of Jesus (Yeshua) every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; (KJV)

8And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

Luke 19:14 “But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.”(KJV)

9And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

The sun being Jacob, the moon being Rachael and the 11 stars being the brothers. It was quite audacious and disrespectful to think a father and mother bowing in obeisance to a son. Of course this was a prophetic dream of when Joseph would be Viceroy in Egypt and his brother would come and bow down to him, not knowing it was him.

Rev.12:1 “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

10And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?” (KJV)

They though he was deluded or crazy for having these dreams:

Mark 3:21 “And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.” (KJV)

11And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.”

Ya’akov in this instance can be compared to Miriam (**Mary**).

**Luke 2:19 “But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.”
(KJV)**

I believe wholeheartedly that ADONAI speaks to His people in dreams (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17).

One must be careful who they tell their dreams to, because Judaism says that fruition follows interpretation. So you want only loving and like-minded people to interpret your dreams. See what happened when Yosef told his dreams to his brothers, it ended him up in slavery. Yet the ultimate fulfillment did come, but not without suffering.

Legends of the Bible goes into a little more detail about the dreams. Yosef’s sheaf was sound and his brother’s sheaves rotted. His brother’s seeds set up idols and vanished at the appearing of Messiah ben Yosef. Yosef prophesied that his brothers will keep the knowledge of his fate from Ya’akov, and that he would stand fast as a reward for the self-denial of his mother, and that in the end his brothers would prostrate themselves before him no less than 5 times.

Gen. 37:12 “And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.”

It is said that the reason Ya’akov sent Yosef to check on his brothers is because:

- They were gone a long time with no word.

- Ya'akov feared a war broke out between them and Shekem.

Jasher 41:19 “And Jacob saw that his sons were delayed in Shechem, and Jacob said within himself, Peradventure the people of Shechem have risen up to fight against them, therefore they have delayed coming this day.”

Yosef though knowing of his brother's disdain for him, and the possible danger involved, was nonetheless obedient to find his brethren just as Yeshua was:

“And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them... (Gen. 37:17b).”

“...Lo, I come, to do thy will, O God (Heb. 10:9b).”

”He came unto his own... (John 1:11a).”

But when Yosef got to where they were supposed to be they weren't there.

Gen.37:15-17 “And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou? And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks. And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.” (KJV)

This stranger was none other than Yeshua in pre-incarnate form, the “Angel/Messenger/ Word of YHWH” Though the Sages said it was Gabriel.

Notice that the Torah says “the man” and that Jasher says an, “Angel of the LORD” and both are correct because Yeshua was God and man, just as he appeared when he wrestled with Ya'akov.

Jasher 41:22-23 And an angel of the Lord found him wandering in the road toward the field, and Joseph said unto the angel of the Lord, I seek my brethren; hast thou not heard where they are feeding? And the angel of the Lord said unto Joseph, I saw thy brethren feeding here, and I heard them say they would go to feed in Dothan. And Joseph hearkened to the voice of the angel of the Lord, and he went to his brethren in Dothan and he found them in Dothan feeding the flock.

The reason the brothers decided to go to Dothan was because they found out through Divine revelation that the Hivites were going to make war with them.

According to the legend this “Angel” told Yosef that the Egyptian bondage would begin today and that he’d be the first subject to it. This is interesting because Yeshua being the Second Adam took the total bondage of sin (which has spiritually be equated with Egypt) upon Himself on the Roman Cross and was the first to come out, as was Yosef was when the Children of Israel carried his bones out as he requested they do when the Exodus occurred.

Gen. 37:18 “And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.” (KJV)

Like Yeshua, Yosef was condemned to die:

“But they cried, saying, Crucify him! Crucify him! (Luke 23:21).”

Gen. 37:19-22 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon

him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.” (KJV)

Re’uven (Reuben) knew Yosef’s death would be on his head, being the eldest son, and so Re’uven wanted to spare Yosef. I do not think Reuben’s motives were altruistic, I believe after the Bilhah debacle that Reuben was looking for a way to come back under his father’s good graces and good favor and thought that this would be a way to do it. Because he didn’t like Joseph either, he was a direct threat to his inheritance as firstborn.

The Sages say that because Re’uven intended on freeing Yosef, God granted Bezer in the territory of Re’uven to be the first of the Cities of Refuge.

Legends of the Bible says that ADONAI said to Re’uven “As Thou wast the first to endeavor to restore a child unto his father, so Hosea (the Prophet); one of their descendants shall be the first to endeavor to lead Israel back to his Heavenly Father.”

Gen 37:23 “And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

Matt.27:28 “And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.”(KJV)

Gen.37:24 “And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.”(KJV)

Jasher 41:28 And they took him and cast him into a pit, and in the pit there was no water, but serpents and scorpions. And Joseph was afraid of the

serpents and scorpions that were in the pit. And Joseph cried out with a loud voice, and the Lord hid the serpents and scorpions in the sides of the pit, and they did no harm unto Joseph.

Matt.12:40 “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”(KJV)

Interesting enough, legend says that Yosef was in the pit/well for 3 days before his brothers sold him into slavery.

“So shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matt. 12:40b).”

It is also said that the pit was a dry well with snakes and scorpions, but they did not harm him.

In other words he became a servant as Yeshua:

“And Joseph was brought down to Egypt...and he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian.” (Gen. 39:1-2).

“I am among you as he that serveth.” (Luke 22:27b).

”...took upon him the form of a servant.” (Phil. 2:7b).

Gen.37:25-28 “And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.”(KJV)

This is how Jasher said it went down:

Jasher 42:5-19 And whilst they were discoursing about this matter, and before the company of Ishmaelites had come up to them, seven trading men of Midian passed by them, and as they passed they were thirsty, and they lifted up their eyes and saw the pit in which Joseph was immured, and they looked, and behold every species of bird was upon him. And these Midianites ran to the pit to drink water, for they thought that it contained water, and on coming before the pit they heard the voice of Joseph crying and weeping in the pit, and they looked down into the pit, and they saw and behold there was a youth of comely appearance and well favored. And they called unto him and said, Who art thou and who brought thee hither, and who placed thee in this pit, in the wilderness? and they all assisted to raise up Joseph and they drew him out, and brought him up from the pit, and took him and went away on their journey and passed by his brethren. And these said unto them, Why do you do this, to take our servant from us and to go away? surely we placed this youth in the pit because he rebelled against us, and you come and bring him up and lead him away; now then give us back our servant. And the Midianites answered and said unto the sons of Jacob, Is this your servant, or does this man attend you? peradventure you are all his servants, for he is more comely and well favored than any of you, and why do you all speak falsely unto us? Now therefore we will not listen to your words, nor attend to you, for we found the youth in the pit in the wilderness, and we took him; we will therefore go on. And all the sons of Jacob approached them and rose up to

them and said unto them, Give us back our servant, and why will you all die by the edge of the sword? And the Midianites cried out against them, and they drew their swords, and approached to fight with the sons of Jacob. And behold Simeon rose up from his seat against them, and sprang upon the ground and drew his sword and approached the Midianites and he gave a terrible shout before them, so that his shouting was heard at a distance, and the earth shook at Simeon's shouting. And the Midianites were terrified on account of Simeon and the noise of his shouting, and they fell upon their faces, and were excessively alarmed. And Simeon said unto them, Verily I am Simeon, the son of Jacob the Hebrew, who have, only with my brother, destroyed the city of Shechem and the cities of the Amorites; so shall God moreover do unto me, that if all your brethren the people of Midian, and also the kings of Canaan, were to come with you, they could not fight against me. Now therefore give us back the youth whom you have taken, lest I give your flesh to the birds of the skies and the beasts of the earth. And the Midianites were more afraid of Simeon, and they approached the sons of Jacob with terror and fright, and with pathetic words, saying, Surely you have said that the young man is your servant, and that he rebelled against you, and therefore you placed him in the pit; what then will you do with a servant who rebels against his master? Now therefore sell him unto us, and we will give you all that you require for him; and the Lord was pleased to do this in order that the sons of Jacob should not slay their brother. And the Midianites saw that Joseph was of a comely appearance and well-favored; they desired him in their hearts and were urgent to purchase him from his brethren. And the sons of Jacob hearkened to the Midianites and they sold their brother Joseph to them for twenty pieces of silver, and Reuben their brother was not with them, and the Midianites took Joseph and continued their journey to Gilead.

Gen. 37:25-28 (KJV) And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt... And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of

Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

If you read the text carefully you will notice that it seemed a bit disjointed and perhaps even a bit contradictory. I mean, who did Joseph get sold to anyway, the Ishmaelites or the Midianites!? And in turn which one sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt!?

We know from the Scriptures that Ishmael is a son of Abraham through Hagar (Gen. 16:1-16; 25:12) and Midian is also a son of Abraham through Keturah (Gen. 25:1-2). Some Rabbis believe that Keturah is Hagar who converted to Abraham's faith and God and the name change indicated her conversion and Abraham took her back as a wife after the death of Sarah. Changing ones name upon converting to a religion is very common with Christians and Jews in foreign countries, indigenous folk who convert take on a Christian or Jewish name to publically profess their conversion. So at best Ishmael and Midian are brothers, at least; half-brothers, both having Abraham as their father.

Let's see if we can clear this little conundrum up, shall we? According to the book of Jasher (Josh. 10:13, II Sam. 1:18) in chapter 42, the sons of Israel saw the Ishmaelites first on the horizon and either due to hilly terrain of that region the Midianites which were ahead of the Ishmaelites were hid in a valley behind a hill or because the Midianites came in the opposite direction of the Ishmaelites, which was more likely the case, the Sons of Israel, despite seeing the Ishmaelites first, ended up meeting the Midianites first. As the Midianites arrived in the area of Shechem where Israel's sons were tending the flock, the Midianites happened upon the dry well or pit, where the sons of Israel threw Joseph into. They opened the mouth of the well intending to quench their thirst and saw Joseph and pulled him up and out. By this time the sons of Israel found Joseph with the Midianites and ask what they were doing with their rebellious slave whom they tossed in the well to smarten him up. The Midianites offered to take Joseph off their hands and was sold to the Midianites first. As the Midianites left, they ran into the Ishmaelites headed their way and sold Joseph to them because they began to feel bad about what they had done and suspected Joseph was not a slave but a kidnapped victim. Thus Genesis 37:36 which says Midian sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt, should be understood in the context that via the Midianites Joseph was sold into Egypt by the hand of the Ishmaelites as stated clearly in Genesis 39:1

Gen. 39:1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmaelites, which had brought him down thither.

Mystery solved. So it pays to be familiar with the extra Biblical texts, especially ones mentioned by the Scriptures themselves such as the Book of Jasher.

So we see Reuven wasn't with the rest of his brothers when all this went down. So where was Reuven?

“Where had he been? Rabbi Eleazar said: He was taken up with his fasting and sackcloth (in repentance over his sin in violating his father's marital bed), and when he became free he went and looked into the pit.... Rabbi Judah said: Every one of them attended his father one day, and that day it was Reuben's turn.” -- Midrash Rabbah

And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go? – Gen 37:29-30

Reuben wasn't really concerned for Joseph, just himself, because Joseph's demise would fall on Reuben being the eldest. As eldest, he was put in charge responsible for the actions of his siblings. He would ultimately be blamed for Joseph's death and seeing as he was already on the outs with his father, this would be another strike against him.

Compare to:

John 20:2-15 “And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?” Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.” (KJV)

Kefa (Peter) saw the tomb was empty, like Re’uven, and Mary asked where the body was like Re’uven. Also notice the grave clothes were left behinds as was Yosef’s multi-colored coat.

Gen.37:31 “And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;”(KJV)

Gen.37:28 “Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.”(KJV)

Matt. 26:15 “And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.” (KJV)

Both of these amounts were common for the price of a slave, we see in 2000 years the price of slaves went up by 10 pieces of silver. Not bad for inflation eh?

It is also said that the 20 pieces of silver was just enough for each brother to buy a pair of shoes. As it is written:

Amos 2:6 “Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes;” (KJV)

And this verse is said to refer to Re’uven’s sin of taking Bilhah to bed, and to hint that Re’uven was away in repentance when the sale of Yosef occurred.

Amos 2:7 “That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name:” (KJV)

Gen. 37:31a “And they (Yosef’s brothers) took Joseph's coat,”

Genesis Rabbah 85:10 says, “The Holy One said to Judah: ‘You deceived your father with a kid. By your life, Tamar will deceive you with a kid!’”

Luke 23:34b “And they parted his (Yeshua’s) raiment, and cast lots.”

Remember that the brothers slaughtered a goat and covered Yosef's coat in blood and presented it to their father to perpetuate the false story that Yosef was killed by a wild animal. This all occurred (according to tradition) on Tishri 10, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement when a goat was slaughtered for all of Israel in the Tabernacle and Temple periods. In Jasher 43 Issachar tearing the coat and dip it in goat's blood, and Naftali presented the coat to Ya'akov. The brothers took an oath not to reveal to their father what they had done or else be put to death. They immediately repented once they saw how grieved their Father Ya'akov was. They then made plans to go look for him and try to find him and buy him back. This reminds us of Judas repenting after betraying Yeshua and tried to return the money he received for betraying Messiah. Yehudah laid Ya'akov's head in his lap and wiped his tears from his eyes. Bilhah and Dinah (their sister) died of grief that day when they heard of Yosef's fate. Ya'akov had to deal with 3 losses all at once!

Verse 31-35 the brothers just couldn't come home without Joseph and they couldn't say, "Hey Dad, we sold the brat to a band of traders." They had to come up with some sort of plausible plan. They would take their animosity out on a goat, and Joseph's coat, they symbol of all the love and favor they were not getting from their father; a symbol of their status as second class sons. So they shredded the coat that symbolized Jacob's love, favor and intentions of inheritance to Joseph. Then they slaughtered a young goat and saturated Joseph's torn coat in the blood to make it look as if a wild beast fell upon Joseph and ripped him to shreds. Apocryphal literature tells us a she-wolf would be blamed.

Ya'akov sent his sons to find the wild animal that killed his son:

Jasher 43:36-48 And after this, Jacob rose up from the ground, and his tears were running down his cheeks, and he said unto his sons, Rise up and take your swords and your bows, and go forth into the field, and seek whether you can find my son's body and bring it unto me that I may bury it. Seek also, I pray you, among the beasts and hunt them, and that which shall come the first before you seize and bring it unto me, perhaps the Lord will this day pity my affliction, and prepare before you that which did tear my son in pieces, and

bring it unto me, and I will avenge the cause of my son. And his sons did as their father had commanded them, and they rose up early in the morning, and each took his sword and his bow in his hand, and they went forth into the field to hunt the beasts. And Jacob was still crying aloud and weeping and walking to and fro in the house, and smiting his hands together, saying, Joseph my son, Joseph my son. And the sons of Jacob went into the wilderness to seize the beasts, and behold a wolf came toward them, and they seized him, and brought him unto their father, and they said unto him, This is the first we have found, and we have brought him unto thee as thou didst command us, and thy son's body we could not find. And Jacob took the beast from the hands of his sons, and he cried out with a loud and weeping voice, holding the beast in his hand, and he spoke with a bitter heart unto the beast, Why didst thou devour my son Joseph, and how didst thou have no fear of the God of the earth, or of my trouble for my son Joseph? And thou didst devour my son for naught, because he committed no violence, and didst thereby render me culpable on his account, therefore God will require him that is persecuted. And the Lord opened the mouth of the beast in order to comfort Jacob with its words, and it answered Jacob and spoke these words unto him, As God liveth who created us in the earth, and as thy soul liveth, my lord, I did not see thy son, neither did I tear him to pieces, but from a distant land I also came to seek my son who went from me this day, and I know not whether he be living or dead. And I came this day into the field to seek my son, and your sons found me, and seized me and increased my grief, and have this day brought me before thee, and I have now spoken all my words to thee. And now therefore, O son of man, I am in thy hands, and do unto me this day as it may seem good in thy sight, but by the life of God who created me, I did not see thy son, nor did I tear him to pieces, neither has the flesh of man entered my mouth all the days of my life. And when Jacob heard the words of the beast he was greatly astonished, and sent forth the beast from his hand, and she went her way. And Jacob was still crying aloud and weeping for Joseph day after day, and he mourned for his son many days.

According to some sources the whole time Ya'akov had a sneaking suspicion that Yosef was still alive because even after a year he could not come to terms with his loss. Yitzhak knew by Divine revelation of Yosef's fate but was not permitted by God to tell his son Ya'akov. Ya'akov took Yosef's death as a rejection from God because of some hidden sin he committed because there were no more 12 tribes

thus God's promises couldn't be fulfilled. He thought because of this he was doomed to hell and he mourned 22 years straight.

“Why didn't G-d reveal to him the truth? Because when the brothers sold Joseph, they made a vow that none of them would tell their father of their deed, and they included G-d in their vow.” -- Midrash; Rashi

“From here we learn that the Divine spirit does not rest upon one who is in a state of torpor, nor on one who is in a state of sorrow; this is why Jacob could not know the fate of Joseph.” -- Lekach Tov

“One can be consoled over the dead, but not over the living... For regarding the dead it has been decreed that they be forgotten from the heart, but no such decree was decreed regarding the living.” -- Midrash Rabbah; Rashi

All I will say about the whole Yehudah and Tamar affair here is to quote from the Midrash Rabba:

“The sons of Jacob were engaged in selling Joseph, Jacob was taken up with his sackcloth and fasting, and Judah was busy taking a wife, while the Holy One, blessed be He, was creating the light of Messiah. (Peretz, born of Judah and Tamar, is the ancestor of King David and the Messiah.)”

“Why does the Torah adjoin the incident of Potiphar's wife to the incident of Tamar? To tell us that just as Tamar acted for the sake of Heaven, so did Potiphar's wife act for the sake of Heaven. For she saw through her astrologers that she was destined to produce children from him. But she did not know whether through herself or through her daughter (Joseph married Potiphar's daughter, as per Genesis 41:45)” –Rashi

Yeshua the Messiah came from this union of Yehudah and Tamar.

The Midianites have second thoughts about the acquisition of their new slave. They thought it all smelled fishy.

Jasher 42:20 They were going along the road, and the Midianites repented of what they had done, in having purchased the young man, and one said to the other, What is this thing that we have done, in taking this youth from the Hebrews, who is of comely appearance and well favored.

So Yosef is sold to the Ishmaelites:

Jasher 42:24 And they did so, and they reached the Ishmaelites, and the Midianites sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver which they had given for him to his brethren.

Jasher 42:25 And the Midianites went on their road to Gilead, and the Ishmaelites took Joseph and they let him ride upon one of the camels, and they were leading him to Egypt.

Gen.37:36 “And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.” (KJV)

There is a very interesting parallel in the Book of Jasher and Yeshua in Gethsemane.

Jasher 42:29-43 And they said to each other, What is this thing that God has done to us in the road? and they knew not that this befell them on account of Joseph. And the men proceeded on the road, and they passed along the road of Ephrath where Rachel was buried. And Joseph reached his mother's grave, and Joseph hastened and ran to his mother's grave, and fell upon the grave and wept. And Joseph cried aloud upon his mother's grave, and he said, O my mother, my mother, O thou who didst give me birth, awake now, and rise and see thy son, how he has been sold for a slave, and no one to pity him. O rise and see thy son, weep with me on account of my troubles, and see the heart of my brethren. Arouse my mother, arouse, awake from thy sleep for me, and direct thy battles against my brethren. O how have they stripped me of my coat, and sold me already twice for a slave, and separated me from my father, and there is no one to pity me. Arouse and lay thy cause against them before God, and see whom God will justify in the judgment, and whom he will condemn. Rise, O my mother, rise, awake from thy sleep and see my father how his soul is with me this day, and comfort him and ease his heart. And Joseph continued to speak these words, and Joseph cried aloud and wept bitterly upon his mother's grave; and he ceased speaking, and from bitterness of heart he became still as a stone upon the grave. And Joseph heard a voice speaking to him from beneath the ground, which answered him with bitterness of heart, and with a voice of weeping and praying in these words: My son, my son Joseph, I have heard the voice of thy weeping and the voice of thy lamentation; I have seen thy tears; I know thy troubles, my son, and it grieves me for thy sake, and abundant grief is added to my grief. Now therefore my son, Joseph my son, hope to the Lord, and wait for him and do not fear, for the Lord is with thee, he will deliver thee from all trouble. Rise my son, go down unto Egypt with thy masters, and do not fear, for the Lord is with thee, my son. And she continued to speak like unto these words unto Joseph, and she was still. And Joseph heard this, and he wondered greatly at this, and he continued to weep; and after this one of the Ishmaelites observed him crying and weeping upon the grave, and his anger was kindled against him, and he drove him from there, and he smote him and cursed him. And Joseph said unto the men, May I find grace in your sight to take me back to my father's house, and he will give you abundance of riches. And they answered him, saying, Art thou not a slave, and where is thy father? and if thou hadst a father thou wouldst not already twice have been sold for a slave for so little value; and their anger was still roused against him, and they continued to smite him and to chastise him, and Joseph wept bitterly.

Compare to:

Matt. 26:36-46 “Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.”(KJV)

Here Rachel is as in the place of God and Yosef as in the place of Yeshua. In both cases Yosef and Yeshua gain strength to go through what they need to go through from their Parent.

Also in Jasher (42:42-53) the Ishmaelites beat Yosef and as a result their hands withered and darkness, thunder and lightings came upon the earth, this caused the Ishmaelites to acknowledge that he may be noble born and it was because of him that all this has befallen them and they asked him to forgive them. This is much like what happened at Yeshua’s crucifixion.

Luke 23:34a “Then said Jesus (Yeshua), Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (KJV)

Matt. 27:45-54 “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.” (KJV)

Yosef for kept silent about his true identity to his slave masters as did Yeshua:

Isa.53:7 “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” (KJV)

Matt.27:11-14 “And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest. And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.” (KJV)

In Jasher 44 It is said that Yosef was kept for a short time by Ishmaelite shopkeepers who prospered under his service. One day Potiphar’s wife saw Yosef in the shop, told her husband about him, and that if they purchased him, they would prosper like the Ishmaelites, so Potiphar came and bought him.

Gen.39:1-6 “And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.” (KJV)

Potiphar (Poti-phera) was also a priest of On and Potiphar ended up treating Yosef like a son, and Potiphar greatly prospered on account of Yosef.

“And...the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.” (Gen. 39:3b).

“and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.” (Isaiah 53:10b).

Now comes the part where Yosef is tempted by Zuleika/Zelilah, which was the name of Potiphar's wife. We can like this to Yeshua's temptation on the wilderness. Both won, but both suffered as a result too! Yosef was imprisoned and so was Yeshua, except Yeshua was eventually put to death.

Here's how Genesis said it went down:

Gen. 39:7-10 “And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.” (KJV)

Here’s the “behind the scenes” according to the book of Jasher.

Zulicah first tried to seduce Yosef through sensuality, then she resorted to threats and blackmail.

Jasher 44:14 And Joseph was eighteen years old, a youth with beautiful eyes and of comely appearance, and like unto him was not in the whole land of Egypt.

18 years old, popular among the household, hormones raging... Yeah this was a true temptation. Yet he resisted just like Yeshua!

“For such an high priest was fitting...who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners...(Heb. 7:26).”

”...[he] was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15b).”

Now, on with the text of Jasher:

Jasher 44:15-26 At that time whilst he was in his master's house, going in and out of the house and attending his master, Zelicah, his master's wife, lifted up her eyes toward Joseph and she looked at him, and behold he was a youth comely and well favored. And she coveted his beauty in her heart, and her soul was fixed upon Joseph, and she enticed him day after day, and Zelicah persuaded Joseph daily, but Joseph did not lift up his eyes to behold his master's wife. And Zelicah said unto him, How goodly are thy appearance and form, truly I have looked at all the slaves, and have not seen so beautiful a slave as thou art; and Joseph said unto her, Surely he who created me in my mother's womb created all mankind. And she said unto him, How beautiful are thine eyes, with which thou hast dazzled all the inhabitants of Egypt, men and women; and he said unto her, How beautiful they are whilst we are alive, but shouldst thou behold them in the grave, surely thou wouldst move away from them. And she said unto him, How beautiful and pleasing are all thy words; take now, I pray thee, the harp which is in the house, and play with thy hands and let us hear thy words. And he said unto her, How beautiful and pleasing are my words when I speak the praise of my God and his glory; and she said unto him, How very beautiful is the hair of thy head, behold the golden comb which is in the house, take it I pray thee, and curl the hair of thy head. And he said unto her, How long wilt thou speak these words? cease to utter these words to me, and rise and attend to thy domestic affairs. And she said unto him, There is no one in my house, and there is nothing to attend to but to thy words and to thy wish; yet notwithstanding all this, she could not bring Joseph unto her, neither did he place his eye upon her, but directed his eyes below to the ground. And Zelicah desired Joseph in her heart, that he should lie with her, and at the time that Joseph was sitting in the house doing his work, Zelicah came and sat before him, and she enticed him daily with her discourse to lie with her, or ever to look at her, but Joseph would not hearken to her. And she said unto him, If thou wilt not do according to my words, I will chastise thee with the punishment of death, and put an iron yoke upon thee. And Joseph said unto her, Surely God who created man looseth the fetters of prisoners, and it is he who will deliver me from thy prison and from thy judgment. And when she could not prevail over him, to persuade him, and her soul being still fixed upon him, her desire threw her into a grievous sickness.

So if Yosef did all he could to keep away from Zelicah, how did he end up alone in the house with her?

Jasher 44:47-48 And it was after this that the brook of Egypt was filled above all its sides, and all the inhabitants of Egypt went forth, and also the king and princes went forth with timbrels and dances, for it was a great rejoicing in Egypt, and a holiday at the time of the inundation of the sea Sihor, and they went there to rejoice all the day. And when the Egyptians went out to the river to rejoice, as was their custom, all the people of the house of Potiphar went with them, but Zelicah would not go with them, for she said, I am indisposed, and she remained alone in the house, and no other person was with her in the house.

And we know how the rest of it went:

Gen.39:11-20”And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.” (KJV)

Yosef was falsely accused just like Yeshua:

Matt. 26:60b-61 “At the last came two false witnesses, And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.” (KJV)

It is said that Potiphar suspected the guilt of his wife but for the sake of reputation among Egyptian Nobel society, he had to punish Yosef. Legends of the Bible quote Potiphar as saying, “I know you are not guilty of this vile crime, but I must put thee in durance, lest a taint cling to my children.” So what did he do? Like Yeshua when Pilate found him innocent, but for the sake of the people he had him flogged.

Jasher 44:62 And Potiphar heard the words of his wife, and he ordered Joseph to be punished with severe stripes, and they did so to him.

Mark 15:15 “And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.”(KJV)

Yosef was found innocent, and we know Yeshua was innocent of the crimes he was accused of.

Jasher 44:70-75 And Potiphar and Joseph came before the priests who were the king's judges, and he said unto them, Decide I pray you, what judgment is due to a servant, for thus has he done. And the priests said unto Joseph, Why didst thou do this thing to thy master? and Joseph answered them, saying, Not so my lords, thus was the matter; and Potiphar said unto Joseph, Surely I entrusted in thy hands all that belonged to me, and I withheld nothing from thee but my wife, and how couldst thou do this evil? And Joseph answered saying, Not so my lord, as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, my lord, the word which thou didst hear from thy wife is untrue, for thus was the affair

this day. A year has elapsed to me since I have been in thy house; hast thou seen any iniquity in me, or anything which might cause thee to demand my life? And the priests said unto Potiphar, Send, we pray thee, and let them bring before us Joseph's torn garment, and let us see the tear in it, and if it shall be that the tear is in front of the garment, then his face must have been opposite to her and she must have caught hold of him, to come to her, and with deceit did thy wife do all that she has spoken And they brought Joseph's garment before the priests who were judges, and they saw and behold the tear was in front of Joseph, and all the judging priests knew that she had pressed him, and they said, The judgment of death is not due to this slave for he has done nothing, but his judgment is, that he be placed in the prison house on account of the report, which through him has gone forth against thy wife.

Pilate found Yeshua innocent:

Luke 23:22 “And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go.” (KJV)

So we see that Yosef was put in prison, counted as a transgressor:

Isa. 53:12 “Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” (KJV)

Gen. 39:20 “And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.”(KJV)

Luke 22:37 “For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.” (KJV)

Luke 23:33 “And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.”(KJV)

Jasher goes into another “Temptation in the Wilderness” scenario and Yosef resisted temptation again!

Jasher 44:77-80 And notwithstanding this, his master's wife did not turn from him, and she did not cease from speaking to him day after day to hearken to her, and at the end of three months Zelicah continued going to Joseph to the house of confinement day by day, and she enticed him to hearken to her, and Zelicah said unto Joseph, How long wilt thou remain in this house? but hearken now to my voice, and I will bring thee out of this house. And Joseph answered her, saying, It is better for me to remain in this house than to hearken to thy words, to sin against God; and she said unto him, If thou wilt not perform my wish, I will pluck out thine eyes, add fetters to thy feet, and will deliver thee into the hands of them whom thou didst not know before. And Joseph answered her and said, Behold the God of the whole earth is able to deliver me from all that thou canst do unto me, for he openeth the eyes of the blind, and looseth those that are bound, and preserveth all strangers who are unacquainted with the land. And when Zelicah was unable to persuade Joseph to hearken to her, she left off going to entice him; and Joseph was still confined in the house of confinement. And Jacob the father of Joseph, and all his brethren who were in the land of Canaan still mourned and wept in those days on account of Joseph, for Jacob refused to be comforted for his son Joseph, and Jacob cried aloud, and wept and mourned all those days.

Yosef was in prison for a total of 12 years, 10 for tattling on his brothers when they were shepherds, and two extra years for depending on the Cupbearer to get him out of prison and not ADONAI.

“Because Joseph placed his trust in him, he had to remain imprisoned for another two years... Thus it says (Psalms 40:5): "Fortunate is the man who places his trust in G-d, and does not turn to the arrogant." -- Rashi

Jasher 44:76 And Potiphar heard their words, and he placed him in the prison house, the place where the king's prisoners are confined, and Joseph was in the house of confinement twelve years.

Finally we come to the last chapter in this long Parashah concerning the dreams of the Butler, the Baker and the Candlestick maker... Wait, there was no Candlestick maker was there?

We know that Yosef was in Prison with the Pharaoh's Butler (Cupbearer) and Baker. So how did they get put in the clink?

“And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt, and his baker, offended their lord the king of Egypt (40:1)

A fly was found in the goblet prepared by the butler, and a pebble in the baker's confection.” -- Midrash Rabbah; Rashi

The Legends of the Bible by Louis Ginzberg says that during the 8 day celebration feast of his son, the future Pharaoh that:

“...Pharaoh's counselors had discovered that it was not the Butler's fault the fly had dropped into the king's wine, but the baker had been guilty of carelessness in allowing the pebble to get into conspiracy to poison the king, while the baker was revealed as one of the plotters, and he had to expiate his crime with his life”

You see anyone of these could have been considered an assassination attempt. Poison could have been dispensed through the fly, or both the fly and the pebble could have been a choking hazard. One account says that the pebble was a chunk of niter. So it could have been a pebble from either the mill that ground up the grain, or a chunk of baking soda.

Okay we all know the dreams of the Butler and the Baker (Gen.40) The Butler dreamt that he had 3 branches of a cluster of grapes and was squeezing them into Pharaoh's cup. That meant in 3 days he would be restored to his office. The Baker thought he would get a favorable interpretation too, so he divulged his dream of having 3 baskets of baked goods for the Pharaoh on his head and the birds were eating the bread. Yosef however gave him the grim news that in 3 days he would be hanged, and it all came to pass as he said.

I Peter 3:17-19 “For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;”

Yosef is sounding more and more like Yeshua in almost every way!

And Just like the thieves on the cross beside Yeshua, one was condemned the other delivered.

“Today shalt thou be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43b).”

Yosef's dreams and interpretation of dreams came to pass, just as Yeshua's prophecies!

“And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us (Gen. 41:13a).”

“Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he (John 13:19).”

However, not many know about the 2nd interpretation to the dream found in Legends of the Bible:

Butler's dream:

“The chief butler was unaware that his dream contained a prophecy regarding the future of Israel, but Yosef discerned and recognized the meaning, and interpreted the dream thus: The branches are the three Fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whose descendants in Egypt will be redeemed by three leaders, Moses, Aaron, and Miriam; and the cup given into the hand of Pharaoh is the cup of wrath that will have to drain in the end. This interpretation Josef kept for himself...”

Baker's dream:

“The three baskets are three kingdoms to which Israel will be made subject, Babylon, Media, and Greece; and the uppermost basket indicates the wicked rule of Rome, which will extend over all the nations of the world, until the bird shall come, who is the Messiah, and annihilate Rome. Again Joseph kept this prophecy secret.”

I truly hope you enjoyed this week's Torah Portion and are even more solidified in the fact that Yeshua is the Messiah, and I hope I have equipped you with knowledge and confidence that will aid you when sharing with others.

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!

-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr

RaYBaSH's Haftarah Hashings

Parashah #9: Vayeshev: "And He Dwelt"

Amos 2:6-3:8

By: Rabbi Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Gen. 37:25-29 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt. And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

Amos 2:6 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes;

Being finite and mortal we are forced to, as an ant, struggling, sinking in white stuff, but once the ant accepts its fate and tastes the situation, what it thought was certain doom is actually the salvation of its colony; a melting ice cream cone.

On the sunny side of life it's easy to glibly quote off the cuff Romans 8:28 and tell one who is in peril that it will be okay. Being an outsider we may actually see that the situation will be okay.

But when we are in the midst of the water inching up to our chin, we too cannot see the forest for the trees.

But if one is truly sold out to ADONAI, His Torah and the Messiah, we can be confident even when someone wrongs us that:

1. Amos 2:6: They will eventually get theirs (Gen. 42:21).
2. Romans 8:28: It's all good! (Gen. 41:37-46).

Gen. 45:5-7 **5**Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Sometimes we truly never know God's ultimate purpose in our life's events until the very end. Sometimes He allows things to come upon us to purge us of some negative trait. Yosef (Joseph) was a tattler and a conceited daddy's boy, and through it all he became a humble and powerful Daddies boy.

Shabbat Shalom and Shavauh Tov.
-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr

RaYBaSH's Brit Chadashah Connections
Parashah # 9: Vayeishev: "And He Dwelt"
Acts 7:9-13
By: Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Summary:

Here is part of the Stephen's drash and hence the reason he was martyred by stoning.

Acts 7:9-13 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house. Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance. But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first. And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.

We must realize that even when we sin God may hide His face from us or remove His Spirit from us as He did Samson. But despite our sin, God is always with us and HE has orchestrated things for a twofold purpose:

1. To change us.
2. To change the world.

All for His Glory

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!
-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr