

SYNCHRONIZING THE HOLY BIBLE (KJV&NAS) and JASHER

The story format is for easier reading. Duplications removed.

Jacob's story to Joseph continues, Part 13

By Maralyn B. Dyck

Introduction: Where the Dead Sea Scrolls are the same as the Bible, I have, for the most part, used the Dead Sea Scrolls for this story. The Bible version, of course, you can read from the Bible. My comments are in brackets. The Holy Bible will be in black normal writing and the scrolls will be in Italics. Remember, the scrolls are not divine scripture, but they appear to be very accurate as far as history is concerned; they give more details which are very interesting. Various interpreters could have changed things a bit over the years.

Genesis 37:1-29-36; Jasher 43

And when the sons of Jacob had sold their brother Joseph to the Midianites, their hearts were smitten on account of him, and they repented of their acts, and they sought for him to bring him back, but they could not find him.

And when Reuben returned to the pit in which Joseph had been put, in order to lift him out, and restore him to his father, Reuben stood by the pit, and he heard not a word, and he called out Joseph! Joseph! And no one answered or uttered a word.

And Reuben said, Joseph has died through fright, or some serpent has caused his death; and Reuben descended into the pit, and he searched for Joseph and could not find him in the pit, and he came out again.

And Reuben tore his garments and he said, The child is not here, and how shall I reconcile my father about him if he be dead? and he went to his brethren and found them grieving on account of Joseph, and counseling together how to reconcile their father about him, and Reuben said unto his brethren, I came to the pit and behold Joseph was not there, what then shall we say unto our father, for my father will only seek the lad from me.

And his brethren answered him saying, Thus and thus we did, and our hearts afterward smote us on account of this act, and we now sit to seek a pretext how we shall reconcile our father to it.

And Reuben said unto them, What is this you have done to bring down the grey hairs of our father in sorrow to the grave? the thing is not good, that you have done. And Reuben sat with them, and they all rose up and swore to each other not to tell this thing unto Jacob, and they all

said, The man who will tell this to our father or his household, or who will report this to any of the children of the land, we will rise up against him and slay him with the sword.

And the sons of Jacob feared each other in this matter, from the youngest to the oldest, and no one spoke a word, and they concealed the thing in their hearts.

And they afterward sat down to determine and invent something to say unto their father Jacob concerning all these things.

And Issachar said unto them, Here is an advice for you if it seem good in your eyes to do this thing, take the coat which belongeth to Joseph and tear it, and kill a kid of the goats and dip it in its blood.

And send it to our father and when he seeth it he will say an evil beast has devoured him, therefore tear ye his coat and behold his blood will be upon his coat, and by your doing this we shall be free of our father's murmurings.

And Issachar's advice pleased hem, and they hearkened unto him and they did according to the word of Issachar which he had counselled them.

And they hastened and took Joseph's coat and tore it, and they killed a kid of the goats and dipped the coat in the blood of the kid, and then trampled it in the dust, and they sent the coat to their father Jacob by the hand of Naphtali, and they commanded him to say these words:

We had gathered in the attle and had come as far as the road to Shechem and farther, when we found this coat upon the road in the wilderness dipped in blood and in dust; now therefore know whether it be thy sons's coat or not.

And Naphtali went and he came unto his father and he gave him the coat, and he spoke unto him all the words which his brethren had commanded him.

And Jacob saw Joseph's coat and he knew it and he fell upon his face to the ground, and became as still as a stone, and he afterward rose up and cried out with a loud and weeping voice and he said, It is the coat of my son Joseph!

And Jacob hastened and sent one of his sevrants to his sons, who went to them and found them coming along the road with the flock.

And the sons of Jacob came to their father about evening, and behold their garments were torn and dust was upon their heads, and they found their father crying out and weeping with a loud voice.

And Jacob said unto his sons, Tell me truly what evil have you this day suddenly brought upon me? And they answered their father Jacob, saying, We were coming along this day after the flock had been gathered in, and we came as far as the city of Shechem by the road in the wilderness and we found this coat filled with blood upon the ground, and we knew it and we sent unto thee if thou couldst know it.

And Jacob heard the words of his sons and he cried out with a loud voice, and he said, It is the coat of my son, an evil beast has devoured him; Joseph is rent in pieces, for I sent him this day to see whether it was well with you and well with the flocks and to bring me word again from you, and he went as I commanded him, and this has happened to him this day whilst I thought my son was with you.

And the sons of Jacob answered and said, He did not come to us, neither have we seen him from the time of our going out from thee until now.

And when Jacob heard their words he again cried out aloud, and he rose up and tore his garments, and he put sackcloth upon his loins, and he wept bitterly and he mourned and lifted up his voice in weeping and exclaimed and said these words,

Joseph my son, O my son Joseph, I sent thee this day after the welfare of thy brethren, and behold thou hast been torn in pieces; through my hand has this happened to my son.

It grieves me for thee Joseph my son, it grieves me for thee; how sweet wast thou to me during life, and now how exceedingly bitter is thy death to me.

O that I had died in thy stead Joseph my son, for it grieves me sadly for thee my son, O my son, my son. Joseph, my son, where art thou, and where hast thou been drawn? Arouse, arouse thy place, and come and see my grief for thee, O my son Joseph.

Come now and number the tears gushing from my eyes down my cheeks, and bring them up before the Lord, that his anger may turn from me.

O Joseph my son, how didst thou fall, by the hand of one by whom no one had fallen from the beginning of the world unto this day; for thou hast been put to death by the smiting of an enemy, inflicted with cruelty, but surely I know that this has happened to thee, on account of the multitude of my sins.

Arouse now and see how bitter is my trouble for thee my son, although I did not rear thee, nor fashion thee, nor give thee breath and soul, but it was God who formed thee and built thy bones and covered them with flesh, and breathed in thy nostrils the breath of life, and then he gave thee unto me.

Now truly God who gave thee unto me, he has taken thee from me, and such then has befallen thee.

And Jacob continued to speak like unto these words concerning Joseph, and he wept bitterly; he fell to the ground and became still.

And all the sons of Jacob seeing their father's trouble, they repented of what they had done, and they also wept bitterly.

And Judah rose up and lefted his father's head from the ground, and placed it upon his lap, still as a stone.

And the sons of Jacob saw their father's trouble, and they lifed up their voices and continued to weep, and Jacob to weep, and Jacob was yet lying upon he ground still as a stone.

And all his sons and his servants' children rose up and stood around him to comfort him, and he refused to be comforted.

And the whole household of Jacob rose up and mourned a great mourning on account of Joseph and their father's trouble, and the intelligence reached Isaac, the son of Abraham, the father of Jacob, and he wept bitterly on account of Joseph, he and all his household, and he went from the place where he dwelt in Hebron, and his men with him, and he comforted Jacob his son, and he refused to be comforted.

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 he seized her, and brought her unto their father, and they said unto him, This is the first we have found, and we have brought her 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 you 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 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.

[Remember, animals could speak before the Fall and God closed their mouths when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. All creation was cursed by that incident. Balaam's ass also was allowed to speak!]

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 wolf 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.

And the sons of Ishmael who had bought Joseph from the Midianites, who had bought him from His brethren, went to Egypt with Joseph, and they came upon the borders of Egypt, and when

they came near unto Egypt, they met four men of the sons of Medan the son of Abraham, who had gone forth from the land of Egypt on their journey.

And the Ishmaelites said unto them, Do you desire to purchase this slave from us? And they said, Deliver him over to us, and they delivered Joseph over to them, and they beheld him, that he was a very comely youth and they purchased him for twenty shekels.

And the Ishmaelites continued their journey to Egypt and the Medanim said to each other, Behold we have heard that Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, seeketh a good servant who shall stand before him to attend him, and to make him overseer over his house and all belonging to him.

Now therefore come let us sell him to you for what we may desire, if he be able to give unto us that which we shall require for him.

And these Medanim went and came to the house of Potiphar, and said unto him, We have heard that thou seekest a good servant to attend thee, behold we have a servant that will please thee, if thou canst give unto us that which we may desire, and we will sell him unto thee.

And Potiphar said, Bring him before me, and I will see him, and if he please me I will give unto you that which you may require for him.

And the Medanim went and brought Joseph and placed him before Potiphar, and he saw him, and he pleased him exceedingly, and Potiphar said unto them, Tell me what you require for this youth?

And they said, Four hundred pieces of silver we desire for him, and Potiphar said, I will give it to you if you bring me the record of his sale to you, and will tell me his history, for perhaps he may be stolen, for this youth is neither a slave, nor the son of a slave, but I observe in him the appearance of a godly and handsome person.

And the Medanim went and brought unto him the Ishmaelites who had sold him to them, and they told him, saying, He is a slave and we sold him to them.

And Potiphar heard the words of the Ishmaelites in his giving the silver unto the Medanim, and the Medanim took the silver and went on their journey, and the Ishmaelites also returned home.

And Potiphar took Joseph and brought him to his house that he might serve him, and Joseph found favor in the sight of Potiphar, and he placed confidence in him, and made him overseer over his house, and all that belonged to him he delivered over into his hand.

And the Lord was with Joseph and he became a prosperous man, and the Lord blessed the house of Potiphar for the sake of Joseph.

And Potiphar left all that he had in the hand of Joseph, and Joseph was one that caused things to come in and go out, and everything was regulated by his wish in the house of Potiphar.

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.

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 hand 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.

And the women of Egypt came to visit her, and they said unto her, Why art thou in this declining state? Thou that lackest nothing; surely thy husband is a great and esteemed prince in the sight of the king, shouldst thou lack anything of what thy heart desireth?

And Zelica answered them, saying, This is the day it shall be made known to you, whence this disorder springs in which you see me, and she commanded her maid servants to prepare food for all the women, and she made a banquet for them, and all the women ate in the house of Zelicah.

And she gave them knives to peel the citrons to eat them, and she commanded that they should dress Joseph in costly garments, and that he should appear before them, and Joseph came before their eyes and all the women looked on Joseph, and could not take their eyes from off him, and they all cut their hands with the knives that they had in their hands, and all the citrons that were in their hands were filled with blood.

And they knew not what they had done but they continued to look at the beauty of Joseph, and did not turn their eyelid from him.

And Zelica saw what they had done, and she said unto them, What is this work that you have done? Behold I gave you citrons to eat and you have all cut your hands.

(Continued in the next article.)

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