



Welcome

to

**CANYON BIBLE**

**CHURCH**

**Please Silence**  
**All Cell Phones For**  
**The WORSHIP SERVICE**



**Worship  
in  
Song**

CCLI License # 11074362

## **Joy To The World**

**Joy to the world,  
the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her King;**

**Let every heart**

**prepare Him room,**

**And Heaven and nature sing,**

**And Heaven and nature sing,**

**And Heaven, and Heaven, and**

**nature sing.**

**He rules the world  
with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.**



# Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**



**See Him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise.**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**



# Hark The Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! The herald angels sing,**

**“Glory to the newborn King;**

**Peace on earth, and mercy mild,**

**God and sinners reconciled!”**

**Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th' angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to  
the newborn King!”**

**Hail the heav'n born**

**Prince of Peace**

**Hail the Sun of righteousness**

**Light and life to all He brings**

**Ris'n with healing in His wings**

**Mild He lays His glory by**

**Born that man no more may die**

**Born to raise the sons of earth**

**Born to give them second birth**



**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to  
the newborn King!”**



**O Come All Ye Faithful**

**O come all ye faithful**

**Joyful and triumphant**

**O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem**

**Come and behold Him**

**Born the King of angels**

**O come let us adore Him**

**O come let us adore Him**

**O come let us adore Him**

**Christ the Lord**

**Yea Lord we greet Thee  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus to Thee be glory given  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing**

**O come let us adore Him**

**O come let us adore Him**

**O come let us adore Him**

**Christ the Lord**



# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**John 21:17 "He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."**



**A few years ago, there was a song that became very popular. The name of the song was "Love in Any Language." Can you say, "I love you" in any different languages? This morning we can learn at least three different ways to say, "I love you." In German, you would say, "Ich liebe dich!" Can you say that?**

**In Spanish, you would say, "¡Te amo!" That is pretty easy -- try it. In sign language, you would say, "I love you" like this. (Hold up the "I love you!" sign.) I know that you can all say, "I love you!" in sign language!**

**You know, it is pretty easy to say, "I love you," but it is sometimes a lot harder to show it by our actions. That is what our Bible story is about today. After Jesus was raised from the dead, he appeared to his disciples several times. On the third time that Jesus appeared to his disciples, he was with them on the shore by the Sea of Galilee. He turned to Peter and said, "Peter, do you love me?"**

**Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Then, Jesus said to Peter, "Feed my lambs." Jesus asked Peter again, "Do you love me?" Again, Peter answered, "Yes Lord, I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep." A third time Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Now Peter was very sad that Jesus asked him this question again, but he answered Jesus again, "Lord, you know all things, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."**

**Why did Jesus ask Peter the same question three times? I think he wanted Peter to understand -- and he wanted you and me to understand -- that it isn't enough just to say, "I love you." We must show our love for Jesus by showing our love for one another and caring for one another.**

**Do you love Jesus? Then feed and take care of his sheep! Now, that is love that can be understood in any language.**

我爱你

Wǒ ài nǐ

**CHINESE**

**JE T'AIMÉ**

**FRENCH**

**Ich liebe dich.**

**GERMAN**

'Te Amo'

**SPANISH**



© Chancey Gardener



**I LOVE YOU**



# MORNING PRAYER



**Worship  
in  
Song**

CCLI License # 11074362

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**O little town of Bethlehem,**

**how still we see thee lie!**

**Above thy deep and dreamless sleep**

**the silent stars go by.**

**Yet in thy dark streets shineth**

**the everlasting Light;**

**The hopes and fears of all the years**

**are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep,  
the angels keep their watch of  
wondering love**

**O morning stars together,  
proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth!**

**How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous Gift is giv' n;  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of His Heav' n.**

**No ear may hear His coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will  
receive Him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.**



**O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin,  
and enter in,  
be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!**



## **What Child Is This**

**What Child is this who laid to rest**

**On Mary's lap is sleeping**

**Whom angels greet**

**with anthems sweet**

**While shepherds watch are keeping**

**This this is Christ the King**

**Whom shepherds guard**

**and angels sing**

**Haste haste to bring Him laud**

**The Babe the Son of Mary**

**So bring Him incense**

**gold and myrrh**

**Come peasant king to own Him**

**The King of kings salvation brings**

**Let loving hearts enthrone Him**

**Raise raise the song on high**

**The virgin sings her lullaby**

**Joy joy for Christ is born**

**The Babe the Son of Mary**





**Emmanuel**

**Emmanuel Emmanuel**

**His name is called Emmanuel**

**God with us**

**revealed in us**

**His name is called Emmanuel**

**Emmanuel Emmanuel**

**His name is called Emmanuel**

**God with us**

**revealed in us**

**His name is called Emmanuel**



**WORSHIP  
THE LORD  
IN HIS WORD**

# **When Life Is the Pits**

**TEXT: (Genesis 37:1-11)**

**Please open your Bible and read  
along with us.**

**Genesis 37:1-11** “Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan. These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his

**brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him. Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. He said to them, “Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.**

**Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.”** (ESV)



# **Introduction:**

**God uses one-fourth of the book of Genesis (chapters 37-50) to detail Joseph's life.**

**The same number of chapters is used for Abraham's life.**

**While the life of Abraham is more important spiritually, Joseph's life may be more important practically.**

**Joseph's life is a 'journey from tragedy to triumph.'**

**From beginning to end he never doubted God and was faithful in all the injustices of his life.**

**Joseph never complained, never compromised, and never condemned those who wronged him.**

**Moreover, in spite of his many problems and adversities we have no record that Joseph ever did anything wrong.**

**Though he was not perfect, his life was “squeaky clean.”**

**Joseph was not a priest, prophet, or king; he was just a godly businessman.**

**The life of Joseph parallels the life of Christ more than any other person in the Bible.**

For example,

**he was loved by his father,**

**hated by his own people,**

**conspired against,**

**stripped of his clothing,**

**sold for money, and**

**exalted after tribulation.**

**But more importantly  
why were both Joseph  
and Jesus so important  
to their own people?**

**Genesis 50:19-20 "Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."**

**Matthew 1:21 ""And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.""**



**Why did God record the life of Joseph in such detail?**

**Undoubtedly because there is so much in his life with which all of us can so easily identify, such as adversity, envy, injustice, temptation, family problems, work problems, people problems, etc.**

**Let's look at this great man by first considering.**

## **I. The Setting (Genesis 37:1-17)**

**Joseph is the great-grandson of Abraham, grandson of Isaac, and the son of *Jacob* (37:2).**

Genesis 32:28 "And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, *but Israel*; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.""

**"Who prevails with God."**

**Joseph's mother was Rachel, for whom Jacob worked 14 years.**

**As the scene unfolds, Joseph is seventeen years old (37:2).**

**We read in Genesis 37:3 that Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors.**

**This tunic was a multicolored, ornate robe.**

**It was not the type of clothing in which one would do manual labor.**

**This clearly signaled to Joseph's brothers that he was favored by his father, and as a result we read,**

**“But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.” (Genesis 37:4)**

**To add to the bitterness of his brothers,**

**Joseph has a series of dreams implying he will one day reign over his family (Genesis 37:5-11).**

**Being young and naive, Joseph shares his dreams with his brothers.**

**The result is found in:**

**Genesis 37:8 "And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words."**



**While his brothers go to feed their father's flock in Shechem (37:12), (60 Miles away)**

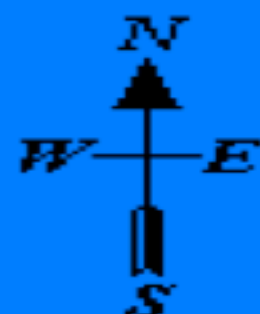
**Jacob, concerned about his other sons, asks Joseph; “Please go and see it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me.”**

**So, Jacob sends Joseph from the**  
**Valley of Hebron. . .to Shechem**  
**(Genesis 37:14).**

**Though Joseph knows of his**  
**brothers' hatred for him, he obeys**  
**his father and goes from his home**  
**to Shechem.**

# Shechem

Mediterranean  
Sea



Raphia

Beersheba

Daily Bible Study

[www.keyway.ca](http://www.keyway.ca)

Galilee

Sea of  
Galilee

Yarmuk  
River

Jordan  
River

Jabbok  
River

Mount  
Nebo

Dead Sea

Arnon  
River

Zoar

Dor

Jezeel

Samaria

Tirzah

**SHECHEM**

Bethel

Jericho

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Judea

**HEBRON**

Masada

**After losing his way and getting help from a stranger, Joseph finds his brothers in Dothan (37:15-17). (4-8 Miles from Shechem)**

**Joseph arrives after a difficult trip of some 65 miles, which brings us to our next point...**

## II. The Scheme (37:18-22)

**As soon as Joseph's brothers see him coming, they conspire against him to kill him (37:18).**

**The brothers then scheme:** “Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, ‘Some wild beast has devoured him.’ We shall see what **w i l l b e c o m e o f h i s dreams!**” (37:20).

**It is very important to note they want to kill him to prevent *his dreams* from being fulfilled.**

**This clearly indicates they believe there is validity in the dreams and they are from God.**

**Therefore, their anger is not only toward Joseph but God as well.**

**However, Reuben says, “Let us not kill him.”**

**He then says to them, *“Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him.”***



**Reuben does this** that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father (37:21-22).

**Reuben thinks he can rescue Joseph and take him home to his father.**

**Three times in this chapter we are told Joseph's brothers hated him (37:4, 5, & 8).**

**Why did they hate him?**

**Because they were envious of him.**

**Envy** is the root of the most horrible sins in human history.

**When Paul wrote his Philippian letter from a Roman prison, what did he say caused many of the problems in the church of his day?**

**Philippians 1:15 "Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will:"**

**It is likely Paul was martyred by the Romans as a result of the actions of some jealous Christians.**

**ILL. When Pilate, trying to rescue Christ from crucifixion, offers to release either the notorious Barabbas or Christ, the crowd, led by the Jewish leaders, chooses Barabbas to be freed.**

**To Pilate, the reason is obvious.**

**Matthew 27:18 "For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy."**

**All of us from time to time will be faced with the temptation to be envious when we see someone receive an honor, promotion, prosperity, or some place of prominence that we do not think he or she deserves.**

**However, whatever the circumstances, we must be careful not to be envious because of the ominous warning found in:**

**James 3:16 "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."**



**There is no place in the life of a believer for envy.**

**Anyone who has envy in his heart is a messenger of the devil.**

**Philippians 2:3 teaches the attitude of a follower of Jesus Christ.**

**Philippians 2:3 "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."**

**Having looked at the setting and the scheme, let's now consider**

### **III. The Selling of Joseph (37:23-28)**

**Following the suggestion of Reuben, his brothers strip Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors he is wearing.**

**Then, they take him and throw him into an empty pit, with *no water in it* (37:23-24).**

**With Joseph in the pit, his brothers sit down to eat (37:25).**

**Though not recorded  
in this chapter, we  
learn what Joseph is  
doing while his  
brothers are eating;**

**Genesis 42:21 "Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us.""**

**As they eat, they can hear Joseph pleading for his life from the pit.**

**The cries of Joseph fall on ears of indifference.**

**Even worse than being in the pits of life is to find no one seems to care you are there.**

**You are seriously ill in bed, and no one calls.**

**You go through a divorce, and no one visits you.**

**You lose your job, and no one is concerned.**

**You have problems with your children, and a caring ear is hard to find.**



**Being in the pit and feeling no one cares only makes the pit seem deeper and darker.**

**However, the worst thing that happens to us is not being in the pits and finding no one seems to care;**

**It is knowing someone who is in the pits and being insensitive to them.**

**Living the Christian life is not just memorizing Scriptures, attending church, praying, etc.**

**Jesus said, If you love Me, keep My commandments (John 14:15).**

**According to Galatians 6:2, when do we best fulfill the commandments of Christ and why?**

**Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."**

**As Joseph's brothers are enjoying their meal and ignoring the pleas of their brother, they see a *company of Ishmaelites* (Arabian traders) . . . *on their way to Egypt* (37:25).**

**Judah (JEW) then says to his brothers, “What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?”**

**“Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh.”**

**His brothers like Judah's proposal.**

**Therefore, when the traders pass by, they take Joseph out of the pit and sell him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. (About 8 ounces) So, they take Joseph to Egypt (37:26-28).**

**\$216.25 with silver at \$26.83 per ounce today.**

**Twenty shekels of silver (eight ounces) was the usual price paid for a young slave (Lev. 27:5).**

**Sometimes when we are in the pits of life, things get worse before they get better, as with Joseph.**

**For days Joseph travels as a slave of the Ishmaelites.**

**I'm sure as he lies under the stars at night looking toward heaven he wonders why God is allowing this to happen to him.**



**He wants a word from God, but God is silent, which brings us to the next scene.**

#### **IV. The Stained Coat (*37:29-35*)**

**It is clear Reuben had no part in the plan to sell Joseph.**

**When he returns to the pit and finds Joseph is not there, he tears his clothes in grief.**

**To cover their evil deeds, the brothers take Joseph's tunic, kill a young goat, and dip the tunic in the blood.**

**Then, they take the tunic to their father and say, “We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son’s tunic or not?” (37:31-32).**

**As they expect, Jacob recognizes the tunic, assumes the worse, and says,**

**“A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces.”**

**Then,** Jacob tears his clothes, puts sackcloth on his waist, and mourns for his son many days (37:33-34).

**It is ironic Jacob's sons use a goat's blood to deceive their father. ??????????????????**

**Now Jacob himself is cruelly deceived by goat's blood on Joseph's coat, and so great is Jacob's grief that all his sons and all his daughters could not comfort him (37:35).**

**None of them know it is all a part of**

## **V. The Strategy of God (37:36)**

**In Egypt, the Midianites sell Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard (37:36).**

**Little do the Midianites know when they take Joseph to Egypt, they are just providing free transportation to put Joseph in a strategic location for fulfilling God's providence.**

**As difficult as it was to see at the time, God was deeply involved in everything that was happening to Joseph.**

**The Lord had promised the land of Canaan to Abraham, but what did He also tell Abraham in Genesis 15:13?**



**Genesis 15:13 "Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years."**

**Not only did God's plan for Israel involve being in Egypt for 400 years, but also a great deliverance.**

**However, He had to get them in before He could get them out.**

**Joseph was the way in; Moses was to be the way out.**

**There was no way Joseph could understand it at the time, but God had very good reasons for what He was allowing to happen, and the same is true when we find ourselves in the pits.**

**1 Peter 4:12-14** “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.” **(ESV)**

**When life is the pits, there is a wonderful promise we should never forget.**

**It is so familiar to most of us that if I just mention the reference you can quote the verse.**

**Romans 8:28;**

**Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (ESV)**

**But it is not enough to know  
it, or even be able to quote it.**

**We must  
believe it!**

**This verse does not say everything that happens to us is good, because it is not.**

**Additionally, it doesn't say God causes all things to happen.**

**He does not.**



**But this verse clearly does say  
God uses all things that happen in  
our lives, even very bad things,  
and causes good to come from  
them.**

**However, Romans 8:28, cannot be  
properly understood without  
verse 29-30;**

**Romans 8:29-30** “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed** to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.” (ESV)

**When life is the pits, God is hammering out the characteristics of Christ on the anvil of adversity to make us more like Jesus Christ.**

**Most of us desire to be more like Jesus but do everything we can to avoid the very process that makes us more like Him.**

**Because of the life of Joseph, when life is the pits we can be assured that in His time and in His way God will keep the wonderful promise found in Psalm 34:17.**

**Psalms 34:17 "The  
righteous cry out, and the  
LORD hears, And delivers  
them out of all their  
troubles."**

**And in the New Testament...**

**1 Corinthians 10:13** “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

## Conclusion:

**The setting, the scheme, the selling of Joseph, and the stained coat all fit into the strategy of God.**

**What have you  
discovered today  
that should  
encourage you most  
when life is the pits?**





**INVITATION**

# **The First Noel**

**The first Noel**

**the angel did say**

**Was to certain**

**poor shepherds**

**in fields as they lay**

In fields where they lay

keeping their sheep

On a cold winter's night

that was so deep

Noel Noel Noel Noel

Born is the King of Israel

**They looked up  
and saw a star  
Shining in the east  
beyond them far  
And to the earth  
it gave great light**

**And so it continued**

**both day and night**

**Noel Noel Noel Noel**

**Born is the King of Israel**

**Then let us all  
with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made  
heav'n and earth of naught**

**And with His blood  
mankind hath bought  
Noel Noel Noel Noel  
Born is the King of Israel**

# Benediction & Fellowship