

### **Why Did Joseph create so many scenarios for his brothers?**

The love of his father Jacob brought him much joy, while his brothers found this relationship to be of concern to them and staged his untimely and fictitious demise. Not to be overlooked though was God's watch care and concern for the well being of Joseph. From Joseph's flight from Potifer's wife to his over two year stay in Pharaoh's prison God's provision to Joseph is highly evident. This is the established stage from which Joseph creates "scenarios" for his brothers, and it will do well to remember this background to answer the question at hand.

The question itself could be cited as incorrect in assuming that Joseph created these scenarios. One could argue that just as Joseph repeatedly states that God alone can interpret dreams, Joseph could well have been depending on God's direction as he set out trials that his brothers were to face. In fact several commentaries that I reviewed made this assumption and stated this to be a case of God's leadership.

Whatever the case it was a clear set of trials based on setting the brothers of Joseph in a collision course to face their guilt, shame and dishonor over their massive misdeed. Why was Joseph not "harder" on his brothers? It is said "The best revenge is to live well". Joseph was living very well, and they were the ones seeking him for food. Why didn't Joseph have them put in jail or have them killed for what they did? It can also be said "Then they wouldn't learn anything". The redemption of his brothers was what either Joseph or God had a greater design on in these episodes. Redemption can be a longer road, but redemption is notably God's greater plan for the family than revenge. What a blessing that God's design on this family was to teach them how to love, honor and respect one another, and to these ends the "scenarios" were created.