

E	J
<p><b>Joseph and His Brothers</b></p> <p>GEN 37:5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it to his brethren; and they hated him (yet the more).<sup>6</sup> And he said unto them: ‘Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: <sup>7</sup>for, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves came round about, and bowed down to my sheaf.’<sup>8</sup> And 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.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it to his brethren, and said: ‘Behold, I have dreamed yet a dream: and, behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to me.’<sup>10</sup> And 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 to thee to the earth?’<sup>11</sup> And his brethren envied him; but his father kept the saying in mind.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> And his brethren went to feed their father’s flock in Shechem.<sup>13</sup> And Israel said unto Joseph: ‘Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them.’ And he said to him: ‘Here am I.</p> <p><sup>14b</sup> So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.<sup>19</sup> And they said one to another: ‘Be-</p>	<p><b>Joseph and His Brothers</b></p> <p>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.<sup>4</sup> 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.</p> <p><sup>14a</sup> And he [<i>Israel</i>] said to him: ‘Go now, see whether it is well with thy brethren, and well with the flock; and bring me back word.’</p> <p><sup>15</sup> And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying: ‘What seekest thou?’<sup>16</sup> And he said: ‘I seek my brethren. Tell me, I pray thee, where they are feeding the flock.’<sup>17</sup> 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.<sup>18</sup> And they saw him afar off, and before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.</p> <p><sup>23</sup> And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph of his coat, the coat of many colours that was on him; And they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites came from Gilead, with their camels bearing spicery and balm and ladanum, going to carry it down to Egypt.<sup>26</sup> And Judah said unto his brethren: ‘What profit is it if we slay our brother and conceal his blood?’<sup>27</sup> Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for</p>
( added by redactor )	{ problematic }

P	Notes
<p><b>Joseph and His Brothers</b></p> <p>GEN 37:2 (These are the generations of Jacob.) Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren, being still a lad even with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives; and Joseph brought evil report of them unto their father.</p> <p>[Gap in P]</p>	<p><b>Joseph and His Brothers</b></p> <p>The tribes supposedly descended from Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, were the most powerful and prosperous tribes in the early days of settlement in Canaan. The Joseph stories justify their superiority over the other tribes.</p> <p><b>Separating the Texts</b></p> <p>There are clearly contradictions in the story of Joseph that show it is made up of more than one text, but there are differences among scholars about how to assign the story to the E and J texts.</p> <p>This edition uses the following criteria to distinguish between texts:</p> <p>E uses the word “God” and J uses “the Lord.” This is the easiest way to distinguish between texts, but there are relatively few uses of these words in this story, and none in its earliest parts.</p> <p>In E, Reuben saves Joseph’s life. In J, Judah saves Joseph’s life. Scholars agree that J gave this sympathetic role to Judah because she is from the kingdom of Judah.</p> <p>In E, the brothers put Joseph in a pit, and while they are not watching, Midianite slave traders take him from the pit. We assign this story to E because Reuben finds that the pit is empty. In J, the brothers deliberately sell Joseph to Ishmaelite slave traders.</p> <p>In E, the brothers are angry because of Joseph’s dream that they bowed down to him and in J because Jacob has given him the coat of many colors. Though many scholars would disagree, this edition assigns Joseph’s dreams to E because dreams are important throughout the E text, and because Joseph’s dream turns out to be prophetic, like the other dreams in the E version of this story. The text itself points out that this dream was prophetic: “<sup>GEN 42:6</sup> And Joseph was the governor over the land; he it was that sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph’s brethren came, and bowed down to him with their faces to the earth.”<sup>9</sup> And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them.” This edition assigns the coat of many colors to J, because there are two reasons in JE for the brothers being angry at Joseph, so it is most plausible that one reason comes from each of the two texts, and we know that dreams are emphasized throughout E.</p>
[ used more than once ]	“ quoting older text ”