

# Joseph and his Wonderful Coat

Jacob, Isaac's son, was a rich farmer who lived in Canaan. He had twelve sons and, although he loved them all, he loved his son Joseph most of all. He gave Joseph a wonderful coat. Joseph strutted around in it, thinking himself very grand. His brothers were jealous. They hated him because Joseph said he dreamed he would be much more important than them.

One day, Jacob sent Joseph out to a far valley to his brothers and their flocks of sheep and goats. When his brothers saw Joseph coming, one said, "Let's kill him. We could tell our father that a wild animal has eaten him."

But another brother said, "We mustn't kill him. Let's put him into that pit." Just then, some merchants passed by on their way



to Egypt. The brothers sold Joseph to them as a slave and the merchants led him away. The brothers put goat's blood on Joseph's coat and went home to their father.

"We found this coat. Is it Joseph's?" one brother asked him. Jacob recognized the coat and, when he saw the blood on it, he thought Joseph was dead. He was very sad.

The merchants took Joseph to Egypt and sold him as a slave to Potiphar, the captain of the King's guard. Joseph worked hard and soon Potiphar put him in charge of his household. For a time, all went well, but Potiphar's wife wanted to make trouble for Joseph. She told Potiphar, "That Joseph has been very rude to me."

It wasn't true, but Potiphar was angry with Joseph. He had him put in prison. God had made Joseph very good at telling people what their dreams meant and he explained the other prisoners' dreams to them.

After Joseph had been in prison for two years, the King of Egypt had a strange dream. He asked his wise men what it meant, but no one could explain it. Then someone remembered that Joseph was good at dreams. He was brought to the King. The King told Joseph his dream.