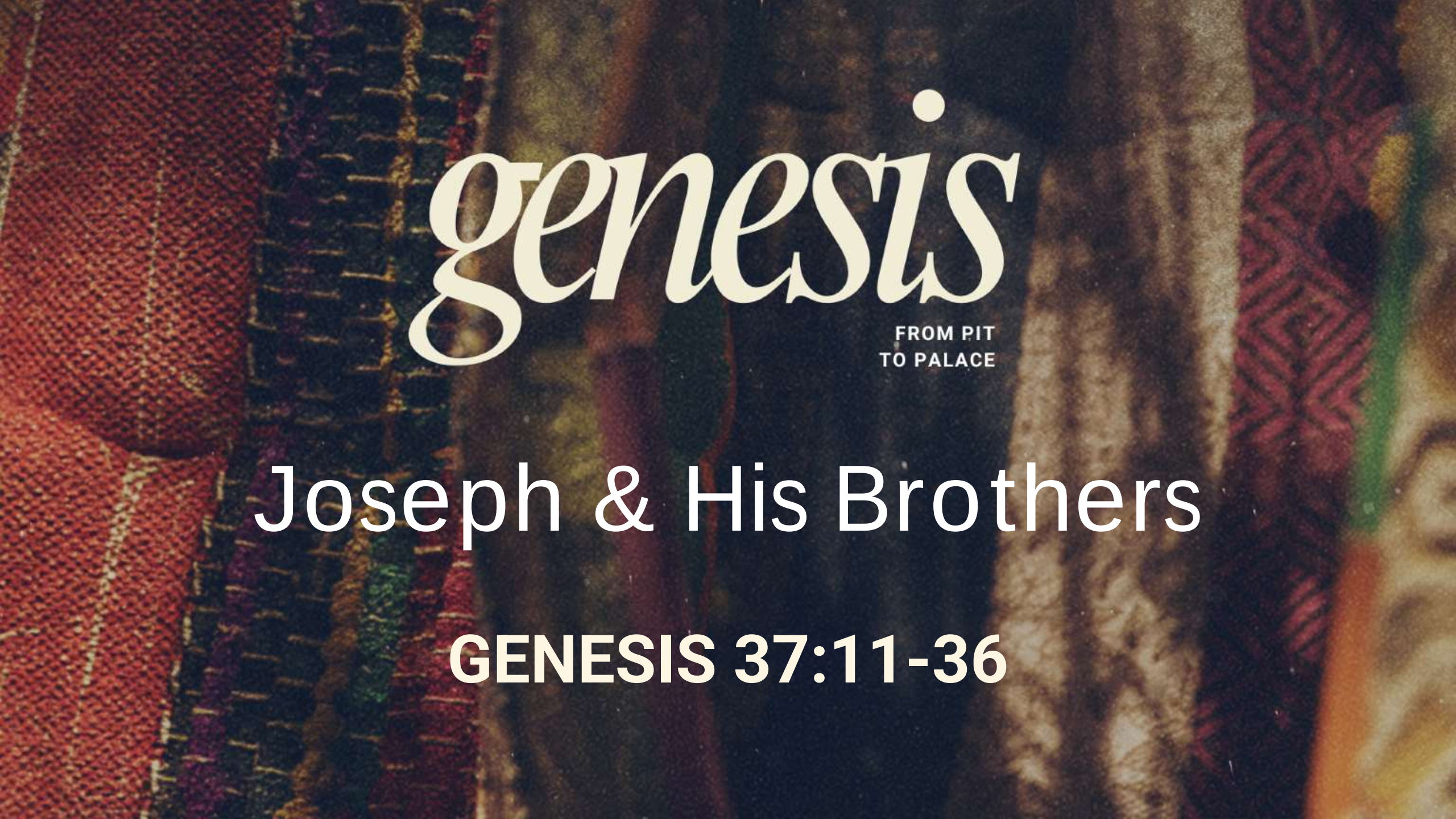




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Joseph & His Brothers

GENESIS 37:11-36

William Wordsworth

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“It is incomprehensible to think about man’s inhumanity to man.”

Genesis 37:11-14

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“And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind. Now his brothers went to pasture their father’s flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, ‘Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.’ And he said to him, ‘Here I am.’ So he said to him, ‘Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me ...’”

Genesis 37:14-17

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“‘word.’ So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, ‘What are you seeking?’ ‘I am seeking my brothers,’ he said. ‘Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.’ And the man said, ‘They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’’ So Joseph went after his brothers and found ...”

Genesis 37:17-22

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“them at Dothan. They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. They said to one another, ‘Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.’ But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, ‘Let us not take his life.’ And ...”

Genesis 37:22-25

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“Reuben said to them, ‘Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him’—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat ...”

Genesis 37:25-27

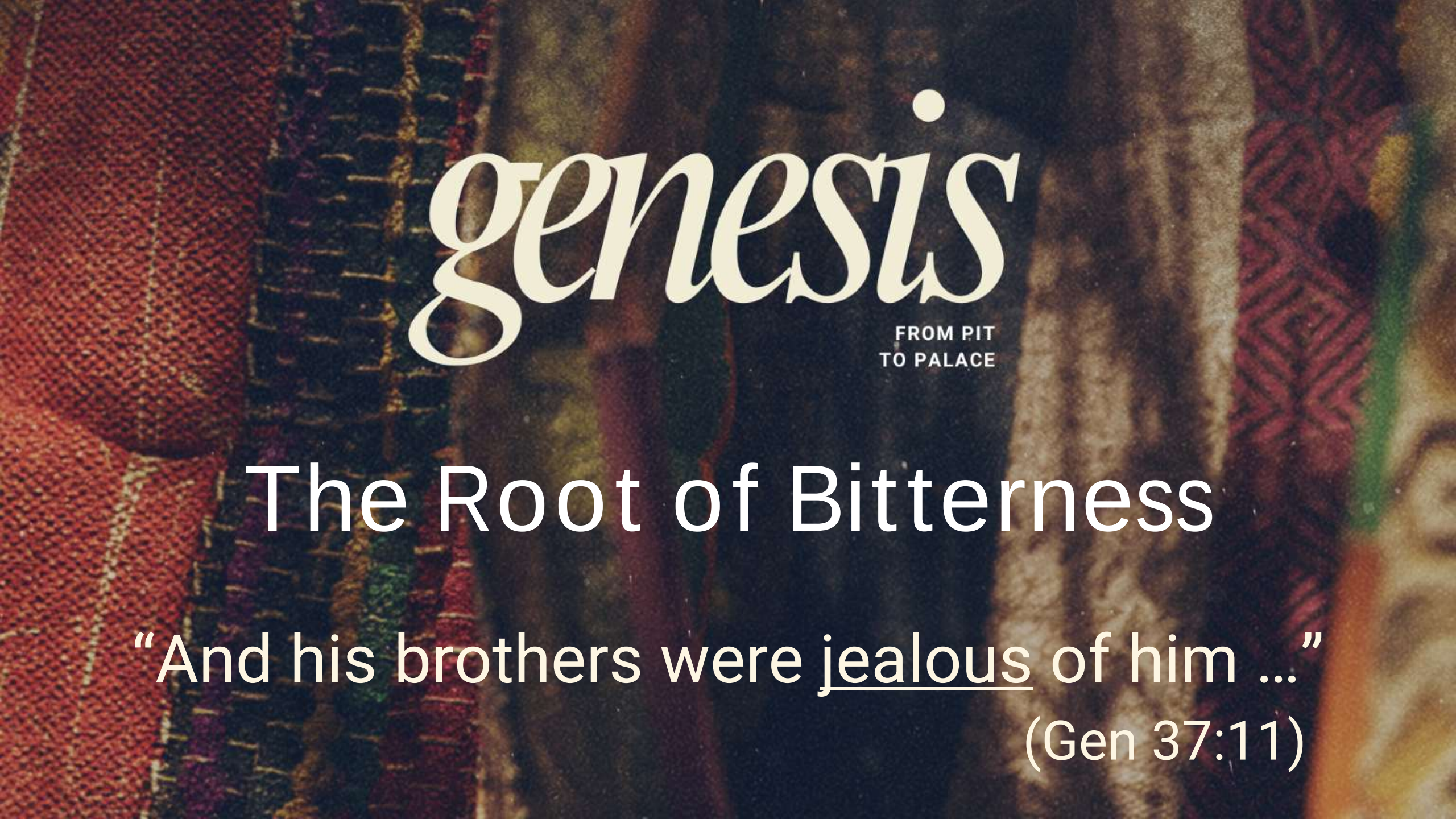
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down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh' ..."

Genesis 37:27-28

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“And his brothers listened to him. Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.”
(ESV)



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The Root of Bitterness

“And his brothers were jealous of him ...”
(Gen 37:11)

Envy/Jealousy (קנא)

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Ill will, occasioned by another's good fortune.
The desire to have what someone else
possess.

Hebrews 12:15

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“See to it ... that no ‘root of bitterness’ springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.” (ESV)

Proverbs 14:30

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“Envy makes the bones rot.”

(ESV)

James 3:16

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“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.”

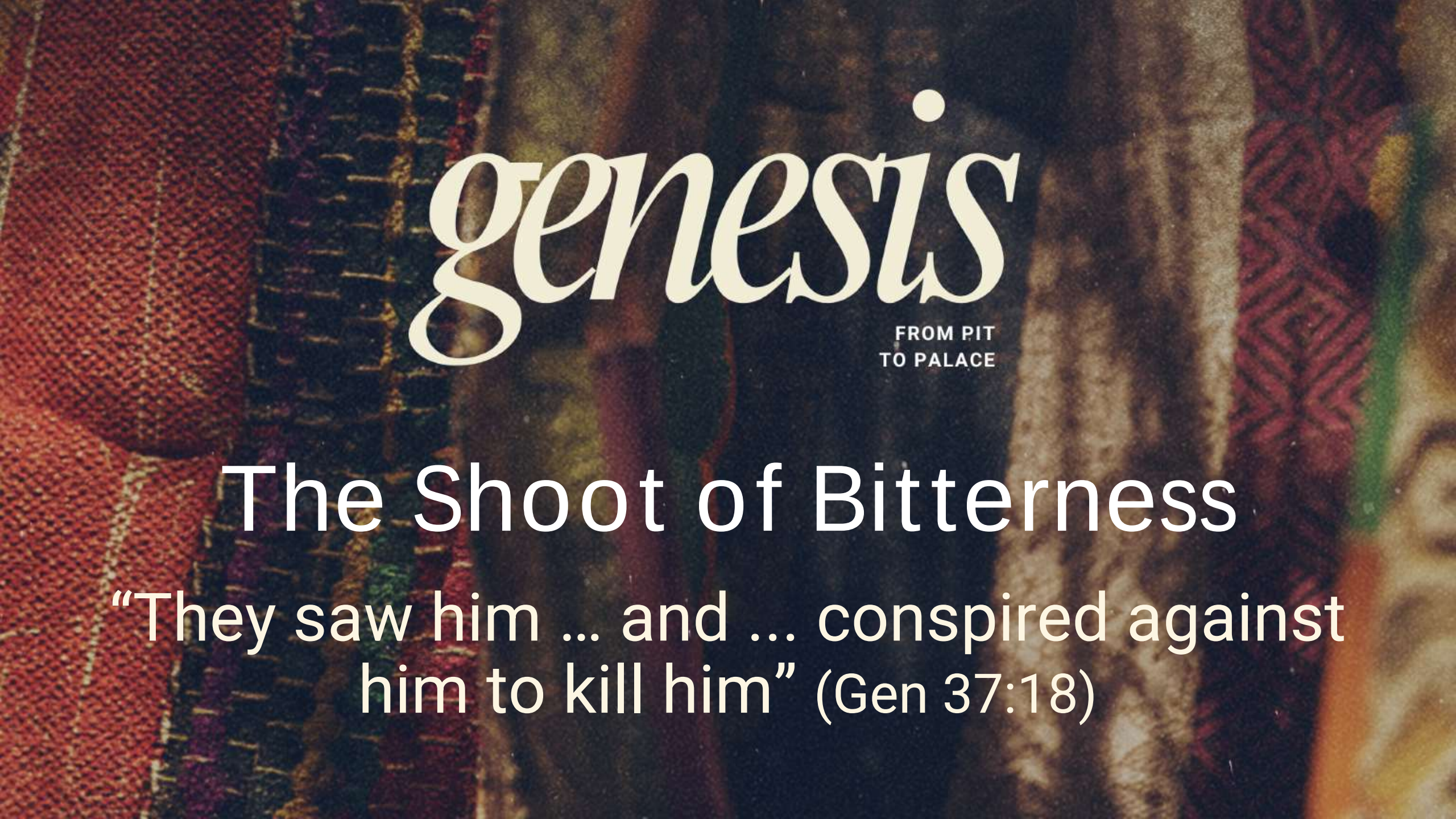
(ESV)

1 Peter 2:1

“So put away all malice and all deceit and
hypocrisy and envy and all slander.” (ESV)

Application

- Be careful not to allow envy and jealousy to take root.
- If you have been envious, acknowledge it, confess it, and take steps to correct it.
- If unchecked, envy and jealousy will spiral downward.



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The Shoot of Bitterness

“They saw him ... and ... conspired against
him to kill him” (Gen 37:18)

Hate (שנא)

- “They hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.” (37:4)
- “They hated him even more.” (37:5)
- “So they hated him even more.” (37:8)

Genesis 37:18

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“They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him.” (ESV)

Jeremiah 38:6-7

“So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern ... letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.”

(ESV)

Genesis 37:25

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“Then they sat down to eat.”

(ESV)

Application

This text should serve as a warning because it still happens today. It may not happen to the same extent, but we see the consequences of envy and bitterness all around us.



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The Fruit of Bitterness

“Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned”

(Gen 37:34)

Genesis 37:29

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“When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes ...” (ESV)

Proverbs

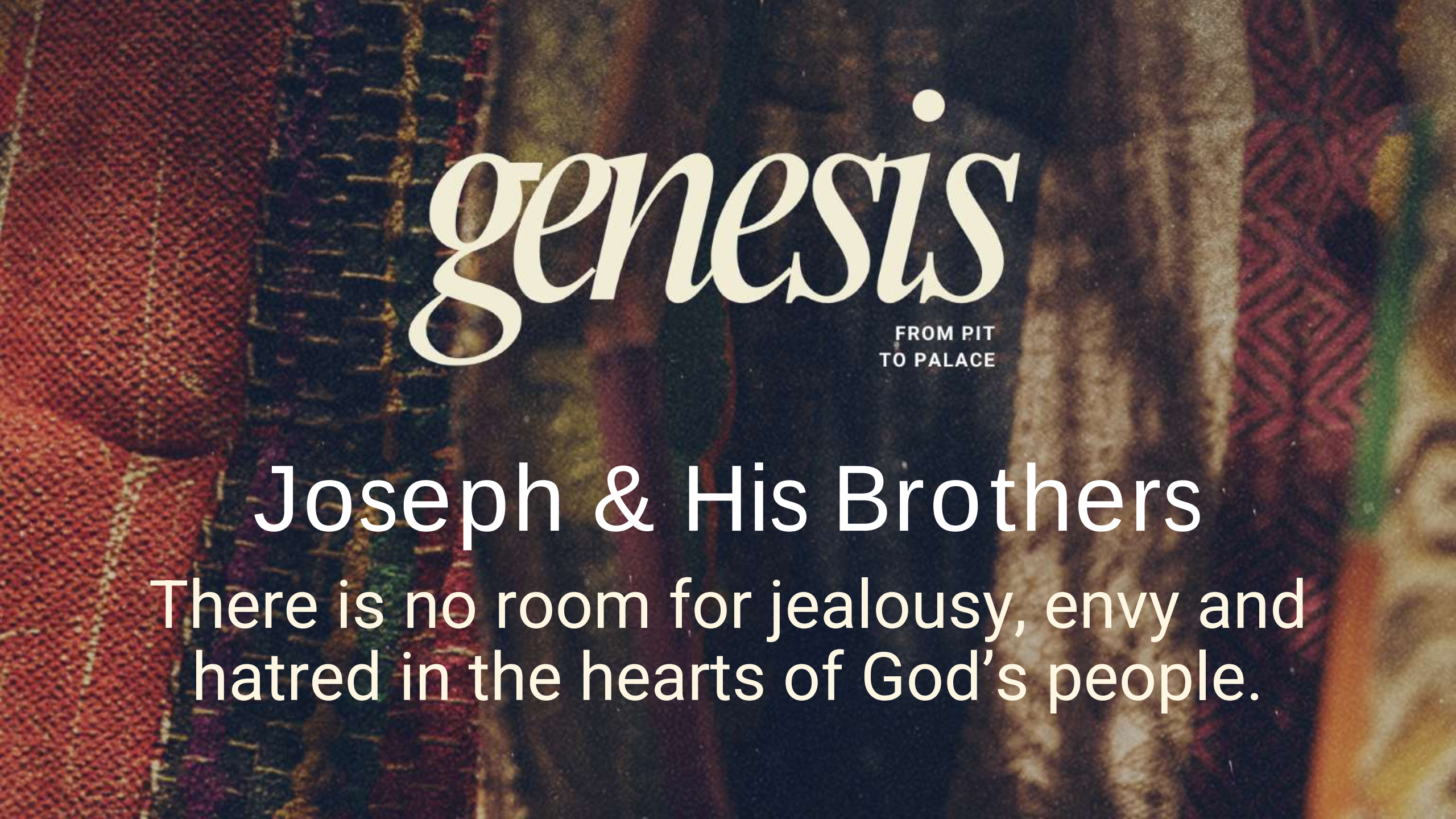
- “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper ...” (28:13, ESV)
- “The mercy of the wicked is cruel.” (12:10, ESV)

Philippians 2:3-8

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (ESV)

Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (ESV)



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Joseph & His Brothers

There is no room for jealousy, envy and hatred in the hearts of God's people.

Next Steps

- I will ask God to replace my selfishness with selflessness
- I will confess my bitterness toward _____ to God
- The fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22-23) I need most in my life is _____
- I will focus on serving others this week by _____