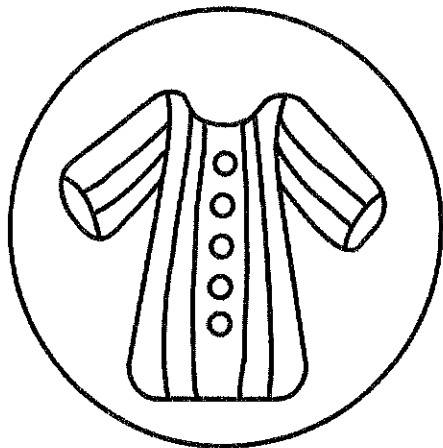


December 7: Joseph, son of Jacob



One of Jacob's twelve sons was named Joseph. Jacob loved Joseph very much because he was the son of his old age. He made him a special coat of many colors. It made his brothers so jealous that Jacob was Joseph's favorite son that they sold him into slavery in Egypt. However, this turned out to be for the best because Joseph eventually became a ruler in Egypt. Later Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had a dream that he didn't understand. Joseph interpreted the dream to mean that there would be a severe famine. Then Joseph told Pharaoh how to help his people. He told him to store up food during the next seven prosperous years so that the people would have food during the following seven years of famine. Back at home, Jacob and his family were suffering from the lack of food. They heard there was food in Egypt so Jacob sent some his sons to Egypt to buy food. Joseph forgave his brothers, and the family eventually all went to live in Egypt with Joseph during the famine. That is how the Israelites came to live in Egypt.



"Joseph and His Brethren
Welcomed by Pharaoh"
James Tissot, c. 1900



Genesis 37:1-4, 24, 28. ¹Jacob lived in the land of his father's travels, in the land of Canaan. ²This is the history of the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. Joseph brought an evil report of them to their father. ³Now 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 colors. ⁴His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, and they hated him, and couldn't speak peaceably to him....

²⁴...and they took him, and threw him into the pit. The pit was empty. There was no water in it... ²⁸Midianites who were merchants passed by, and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. They brought Joseph into Egypt....

Genesis 41:15-16, 28-30, 40. ¹⁵Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have dreamed a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."¹⁶ Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It isn't in me. God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."...

²⁸That is the thing which I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁹Behold, seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt are coming. ³⁰Seven years of famine will arise after them, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt...

⁴⁰You shall be over my house, and according to your word will all my people be ruled. Only in the throne I will be greater than you."