

From Hurt to Healed to Heroic

(Genesis 37:1-28; Genesis 41:50-52; Genesis 50:15-21)

Rashaud Hudson

How Joseph's experience of family dysfunction guides us through ours.

Hurt: Genesis 37:1-28

Dysfunction, trauma, or the event(s) that forever scar us on one of four levels, if not all – mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. In Joseph's testimony, there are many "hows" leading up to the attack from his brothers:

- Jacob's household structure – 12 sons by 4 wives due to the rivalrous competition between Leah and Rachel for value and love from Jacob (Gen 30:1-34)
- Jacob's favoritism of Joseph over all his sons (Gen 37:3-4)
- His brother's jealousy of God's confirmation of Joseph's future and blessing (Gen 37:11; Acts 7:9)
- Jacob's decision to send Joseph to Shechem to check on his brothers (Gen 37:14)

The most important factor is humanity's depravity, deficiency, and deviation from God's intended design due to sin. By observing the chart of Joseph's dysfunctional family tree, we can connect the dots of sin patterns that accumulated to Joseph's suffering: examples – multiple wives and child preference, brotherly contention, deception and manipulation. **How many patterns of sin can we identify in our own dysfunctions of family? How did it effect us?**

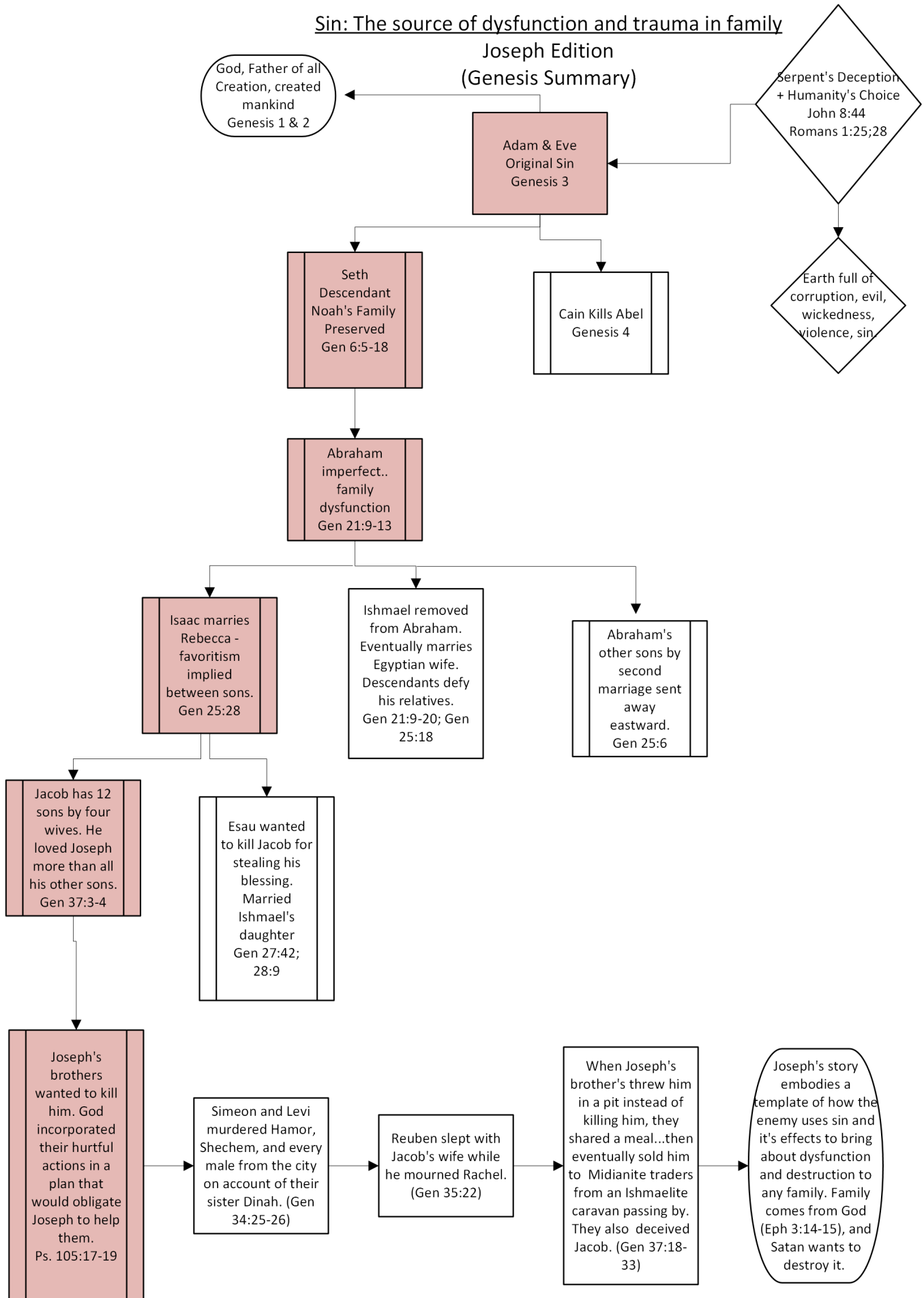
God's sovereign choice to permit our suffering of afflictions is not punishment or abandonment but is ultimately a statement that He loves us more than enough not to let the hurt destroy us as the enemy desires. (Romans 8:37-39)

We may look at our stories and still not be able to answer "why on earth?" How ever The Lord has given His Word beyond our time on earth, that He plans to conform us to the image of Christ. A plan so precious, that He suffered to bring it to fruition. (Romans 8:28-29; Hebrews 2:10)

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Sin: The source of dysfunction and trauma in family

Joseph Edition (Genesis Summary)



Healing: Genesis 41: 50-52 (charted)

About 13 years has passed by the time God blesses with a high position and a family of his own. It is important to observe that healing wasn't exclusively attached to vindication and prosperity. Though Joseph still often wept multiple time after things got better, his healing is simply the functionality of obedience to God, and attitude of reverence toward God despite the hardships allowed by God. Will we still obey God's command? Do you still reverence God and thank Him?

VERSE	KEY TERMS/CONCEPTS/PRINCIPLES	THINGS TO CONSIDER
VERSE 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BEFORE THE YEAR OF FAMINE CAME<ul style="list-style-type: none">GOD'S TIMING OF ASSIGNMENT, PROSPERITY, AND FAMILY FOR JOSEPH IS AFTER COMFORTING JOSEPH'S PROBLEMS, AND IN PREPARATION FOR BIGGER PROBLEMS THAT JOSEPH MUST SOLVE. (CH. 41 WHOLE)JOSEPH'S PAINFUL PATH TO SUCCESS MADE HIM ADEQUATE TO BLESS OTHERS	PAIN INDICATES THE PROBLEM OF SIN/EVIL (GEN 3.1619; REV. 21:4).
		PAIN MAGNIFIES GOD AS POWERFUL (ROM 8:28; 35-37).
		GOD USE OF PAIN CAN GROW US AND STRENGTHEN US (JAMES 1:4; PS. 105:18-19)

VERSE 51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MANASSEH – TO MAKE FORGET • TROUBLE – HARDSHIPS, TOIL, LABOR • FATHER’S HOUSE – EVERYTHING ABOUT JACOB’S FAMILY • JOSEPH’S PROCESS WITH PAIN WAS TO TRUST GOD TO MANAGE IT 	OUR COPING METHODS AND MECHANISMS ARE INFERIOR TO GOD’S BALANCED PROCESS. (HOW TO FUNCTION, REST, HEAL, EXPRESS [GEN. 50:17], AND LIVE IN TRUE PEACE.)
VERSE 52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE SECOND – THIS SON INHERITED A GREATER BLESSING • EPHRAIM – DOUBLE FRUITFULNESS • LAND OF MY AFFLICTION – ALLUDES TO SPIRITUAL TERRITORY AND DOMINION AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE ENEMY • JOSEPH’S OUTCOME WAS GOD’S INTENDED GOOD, AS OPPOSE TO JOSEPH’S ATTEMPTED GOOD 	ALLOWING GOD TO MANAGE OUR PAIN GIVES TRUE ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS FOR THOSE AREAS OF HURT. ARE WE SUPERMAN? OR WILL GOD BE THE HERO?

Heroic but not The Hero: Genesis 50:15-21

There are a few observations we can make in the aftermath of Joseph’s reconciliation with his family:

- Joseph’s brothers are prompted by fear to seek forgiveness for their hurt towards him, not necessarily sincere remorse (Gen.50:15)
- Joseph’s brothers' desperation reveals that they still have issues of integrity (Gen 50:16-17)

Our forgiveness is not based on their apology, sincerity, or if they have changed. It is based on our gratitude for God’s forgiveness towards us. (Colossians 3:13; Matthew 6:12)

Observe Joseph’s response:

- He allowed his emotions to have an outlet and cried as he needed to, and still responded the way God would be pleased with. (Gen 50:17b)
- Two implications can be drawn from the question “Am I in God’s place? –
 - a. Joseph relinquished judgment and control to God’s sovereign position over everything and everyone, therefore he had no reason to avenge himself (Romans 12:19-21)
 - b. Joseph rhetorically references the fact that God had now put Joseph in the place where no one could change, and he focused on fulfilling the purpose of God’s Will (Gen 50:20-21)

We do not have to exert ourselves over to understand the hurt, understand we are healed, and/or be the hero to our family that God already is. God places us in Him with access to every spiritual blessing (Eph 1:3) in order that the people who hurt us no longer have the same power, vantage, and ability to hurt us again, yet we can offer them life because God has given it to us. (John 10:10)

What is the next step in your story?