

of Egypt.” How Joseph got down into Egypt or what happened to him there is not in the P document at all. It just jumps from Jacob right over into the time when Joseph is already in Egypt. The P document is very incomplete at that point. According to the critical theory, chapter 37 can be divided into two distinct stories of Joseph going down into Egypt, one of which is the E story, and the other is the J story. They give a verse to one and a verse to the other, a section to one and a section to the other.

Thus they claim to get two complete stories, supposedly the E story and the J story. Addis says, “These documents are independent in style, substance, and author. They have been welded together by an editor who made free use of these documents and added a little of his own from other sources.” He compares the stories saying that in the Elohist story Joseph’s brothers hate him because he tells tales and has dreams which predict his superiority over them, but according to the J story Joseph’s brothers hate him because he is his father’s favorite and because his father made him a long-sleeved robe such as princes wore. You see the contrast. In one case his brothers hate him because he tells tales and has dreams which predict his superiority, while in the other case his brothers hate him because he is his father’s favorite and because his father made him a coat of many colors. But the question is, can this be one story which mentions these different reasons why the brothers hate him or are there two distinct stories? As Addis presents them, there seems to be a contradiction between them as to the reason why the brothers hate Joseph. But is there a conflict? Why could they not hate him for one reason and then go on to find new reasons to do so? I think you will find that when people do hate someone for any reason they find new reasons to do so and sometimes even completely forget the original cause.

In the second place the J story tells how Joseph goes to visit his brothers who are with their flocks and they resolve to kill him, but Judah persuades them to sell him to a caravan of Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. The E story says that when Joseph went to visit his brothers who were with their flocks they resolved to kill him, and then put him into a cistern, and that Reuben, not Judah, persuades them not to kill him, but merely to throw him into an empty cistern,