

# PART ONE: TRANSITIONAL AND FORMATIVE YEARS

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## I. Joseph's Dysfunctional Family

Joseph's family was extremely dysfunctional, even by today's standards.

### A. Joseph's Dysfunctional Father

#### Jacob's Family Tree with Many Branches

*What were the circumstances surrounding Jacob's marriage?*

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*What was this polygamous marriage like for the sisters?*

*Were there problems?*

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*How did it come about that Jacob had children from four different women?*

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#### Jacob's Character Traits

Jacob is "a classic illustration of a man who was too busy for his family, too preoccupied and unconcerned, which meant he was too passive to deal with what was occurring in the lives of any of his children."

## B. Jacob's Dysfunctional Siblings

### Dinah's Tragedy and Her Brothers' Response

*What tragedy occurred in Joseph's family after they left his grandfather Laban's house to go to Canaan?*

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*What is the response to this brutal violation?*

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## Trilogy of Tragedies along the Journey to Canaan

*In Genesis 35:1, where did God tell Jacob to go and what was he to do?  
What is significant about that place?*

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*What tragedies occurred during their journey to the Promised Land?*

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#1 –

#2 –

#3 –

*What happened to Rachel during the birth of her second child?*

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*As Jacob/Israel was mourning the loss of his beloved wife, what did his firstborn son do that brought shame to the family?*

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*What can we learn from this overview of Joseph's family history?*

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