

## Hebrews 13:1

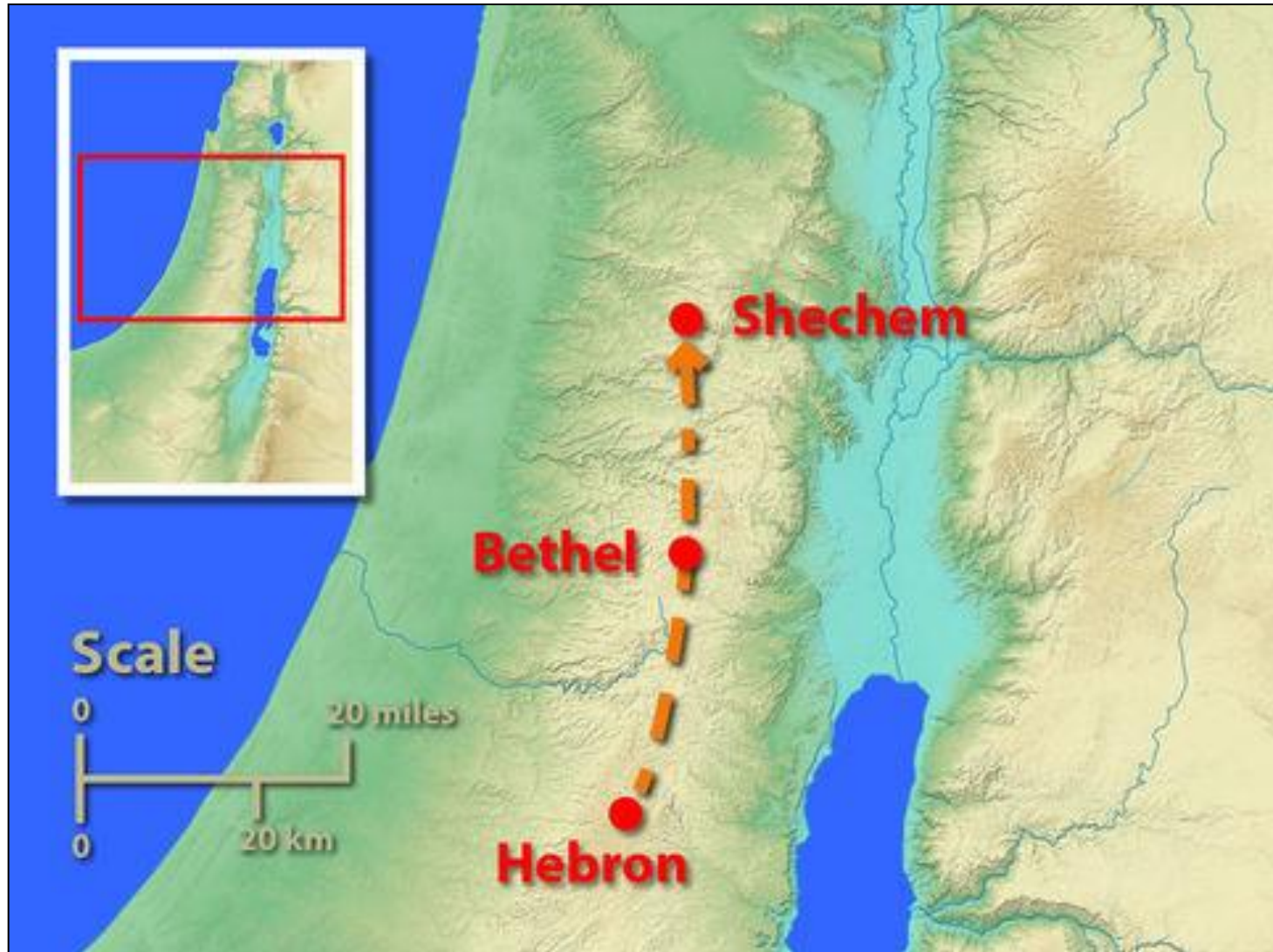
Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

*NIV 2011 Edition*



**Genesis 37 :12-36**

Now his brothers had gone to graze their father`s flocks near Shechem, v12



A dangerous place to go

and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them."  
v13



A father's concern

"Very well," he replied. So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me."  
v14



A willing response  
to his father's will  
On an errand of grace

Throughout the story note the parallels with Jesus' mission.



A long journey from home.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

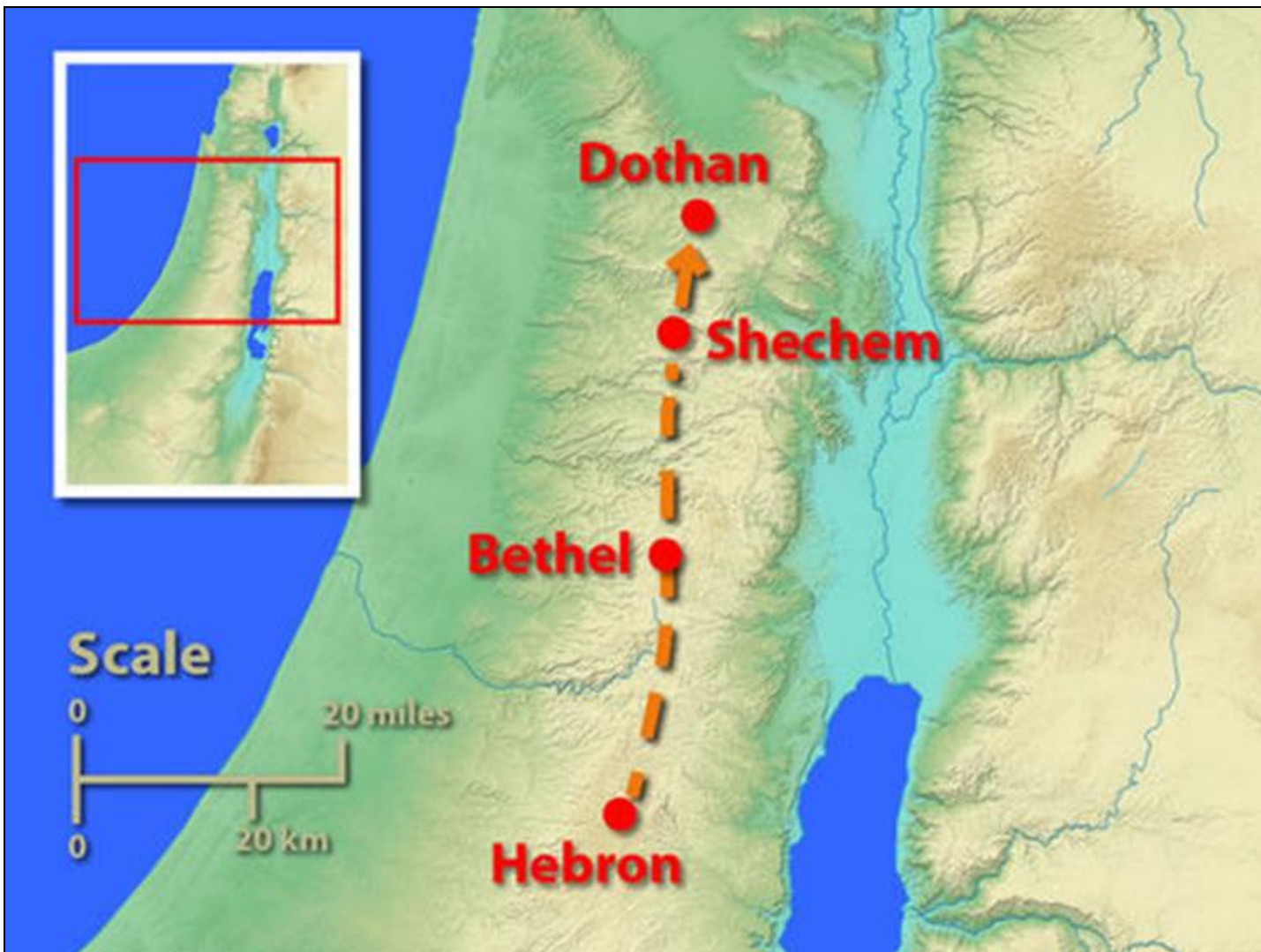
v14-16



He carries on searching rather than giving up

"They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, `Let`s go to Dothan.`"

v17



So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan.  
But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them,  
they plotted to kill him. v7-18



He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

John 1:11



"Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. "Come now, let`s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. **Then we`ll see what comes of his dreams.**"

v19-20



When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let`s not take his life," he said. "Don`t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don`t lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

v21-22



1 out of ten –  
with some compassion

Why was Reuben different ? And why didn't he confront them ?

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe--the richly ornamented robe he was wearing-- and they took him and threw him into the cistern. v23-24



**Shame**



**And “death”  
Left to starve.**



Had Reuben checked first or was it “God luck” ?



**How callous can you get ?**

they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead.

v25



They crossed the Jordan to follow the trade route

Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. v25



Merchants following the coastal trade route

Judah said to his brothers, "**What will we gain** if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let`s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; **after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.**" His brothers agreed. v26-27



Judah takes the lead ..... Reuben is somewhere else  
Another 'Judah' did the same to Jesus



So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. v28



twenty shekels blood-money  
Two shekels each !



Midianite or Ishmaelite ?

When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes. He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! Where can I turn now?" v29-30



His plan failed – but God's had not.  
How do you cope when it doesn't work out your way ?

Then they got Joseph`s robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood.

v31



Sin + Lies

They took the ornamented robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is **your** son`s robe." He recognized it and said, "It is my son`s robe ! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces."  
v32-33



Terrible cruelty to their father - make him suffer like us ?

Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days.

v34



A broken man of God – contrast Abraham's response



Did the women know what had really happened ?

What hypocrisy in the brothers – beware of fakes

but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "in mourning will I go down to the grave to my son." So his father wept for him. v35

**SOMETIMES THINGS ARE NOT  
WHAT THEY APPEAR TO BE.**



But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers,  
about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as  
others do who have no hope.      1Thessalonians 4:13

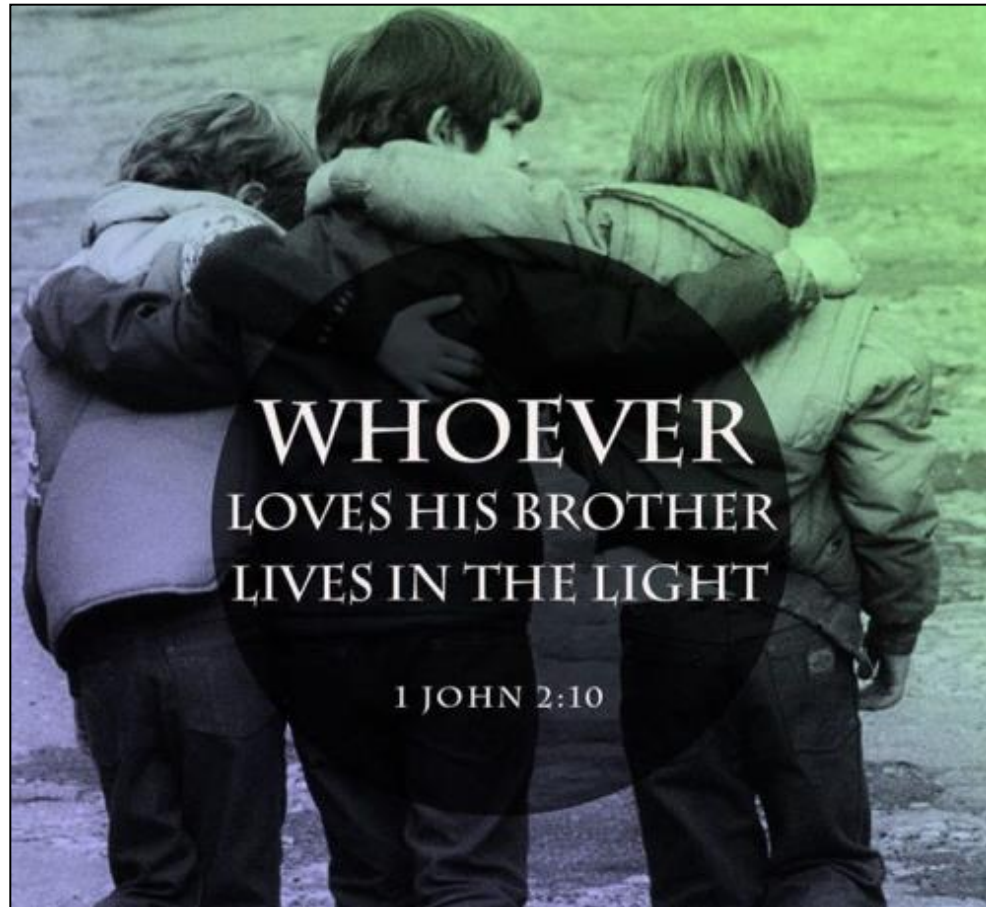
Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard. v36



A valuable commodity – so bought by a rich man



# Does Joseph “love his brothers” now ?



**Joseph will need all his faith to survive this.**

**Does Jesus “love his brothers” now ?**



Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" Luke 24:26