

JOSEPH and the Coat of Many Colors

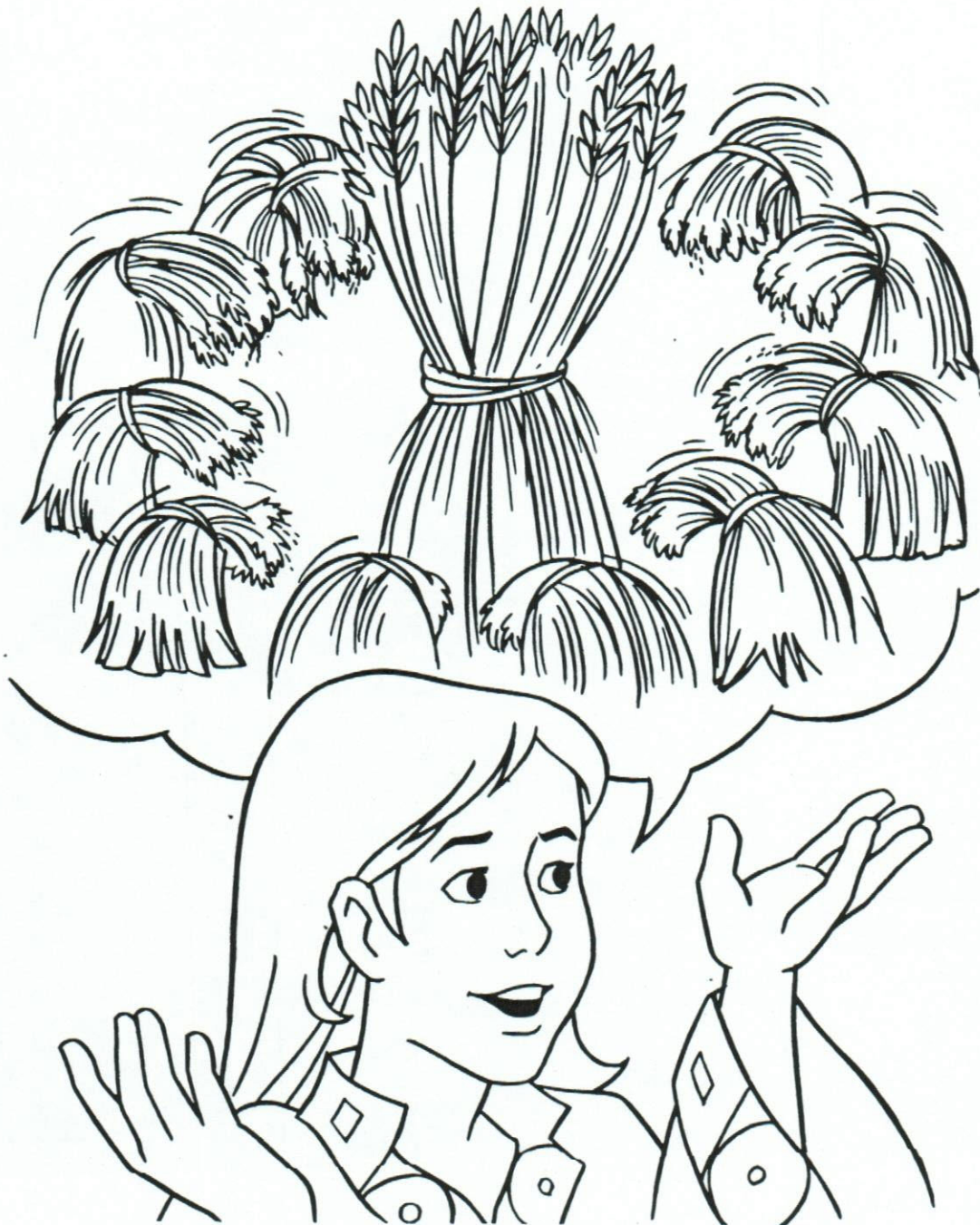




Joseph's father loved Joseph so much that he gave him
a present of a long, beautiful robe.



Joseph's brothers hated him for being their father's favorite,
and were jealous of him.



Joseph said to his brothers, "I had a dream last night that we were tying bundles of straw and my bundle stood up. Then your bundles stood around mine, and bowed down!"



Joseph's brothers hated him all the more for his dreams. His brothers would say, "Do you think that we would bow down to YOU?"



One day, Jacob said to Joseph, "Go check on your brothers tending the flocks, and bring me word."



"Here comes the dreamer!" said one of Joseph's brothers.



"Let's get rid of him and say that he was killed by a lion,"
said another brother.

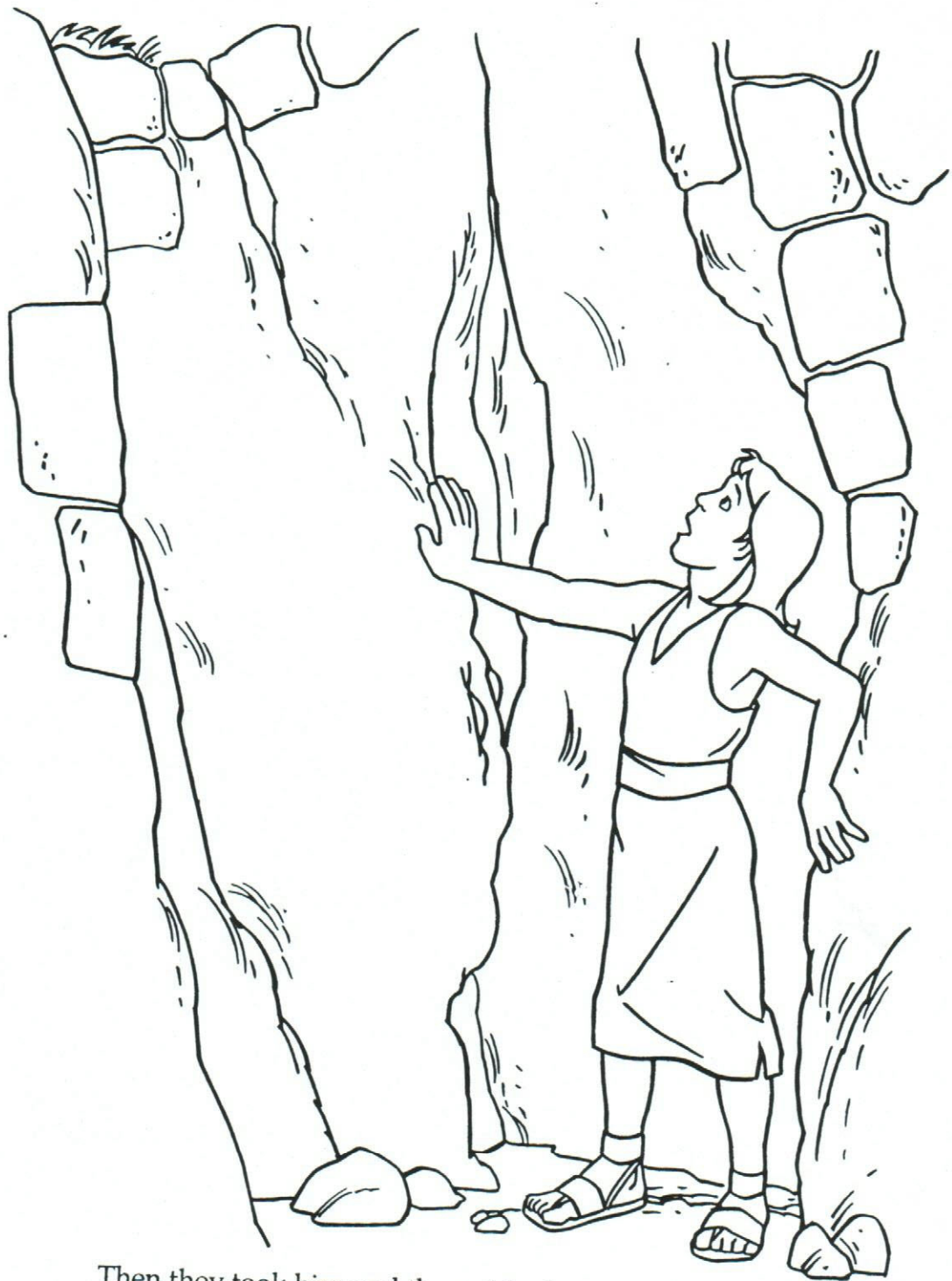


"No!" said Reuben, the oldest brother. "Do not kill him. We will put him in the well out here in the wilderness."

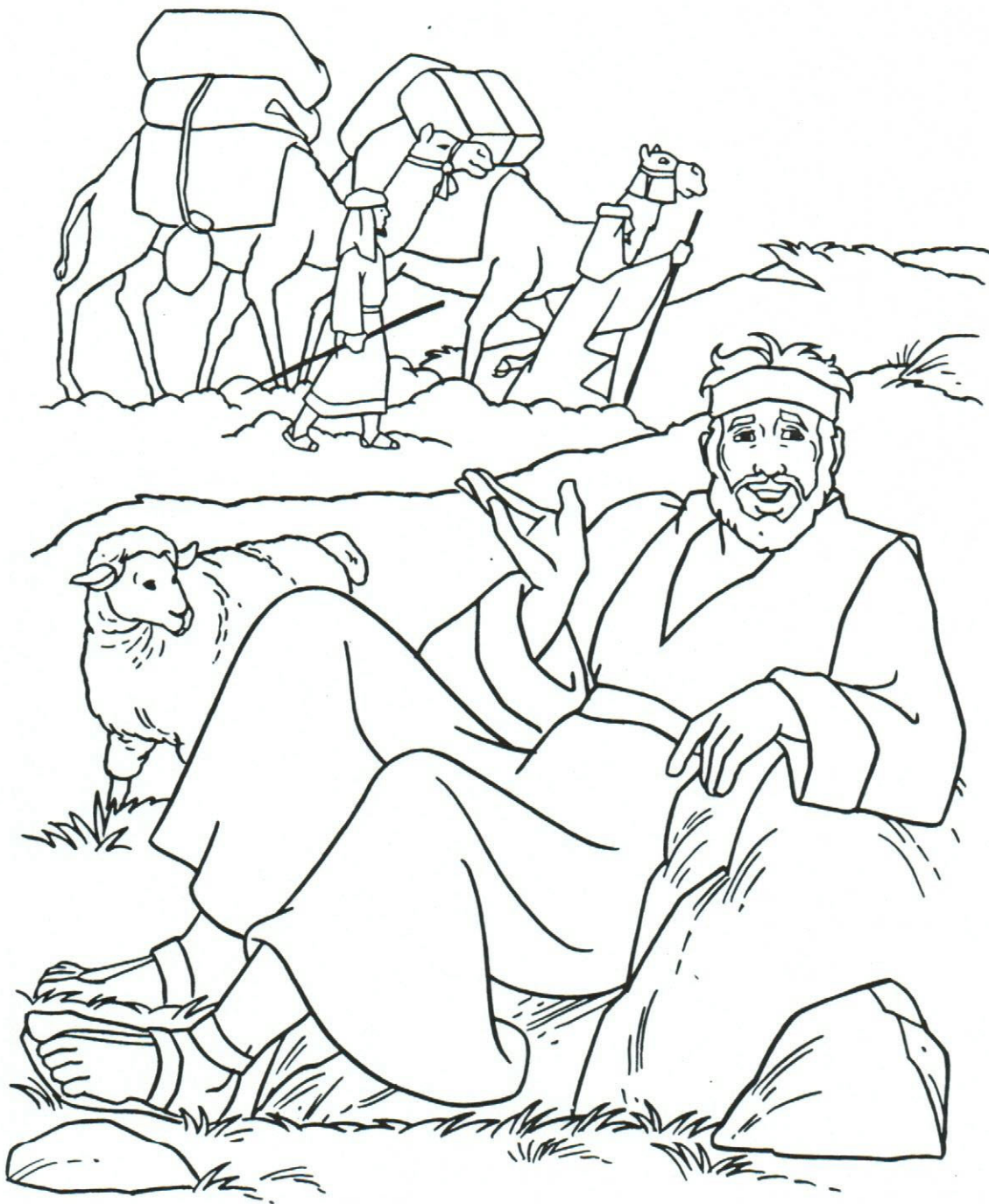


When Joseph arrived, his brothers took his beautiful coat.





Then they took him and threw him into a dry well.



"Let's sell Joseph as a slave to the Ishmaelites!"



Joseph's brothers sold him to the Ishmaelites
for twenty pieces of silver.



Joseph's brothers gave their father his coat,
and told him that he was killed by a wild animal.



Joseph was sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh.



Potiphar's wife did not like Joseph.
She told lies about him to get him in trouble.



Joseph was put in jail because of the things
Potiphar's wife said.



Joseph became well respected in the prison,
and was in charge of the other prisoners.



The Pharaoh's butler, and the Pharaoh's baker who had also been imprisoned each told Joseph of their troubling dreams.



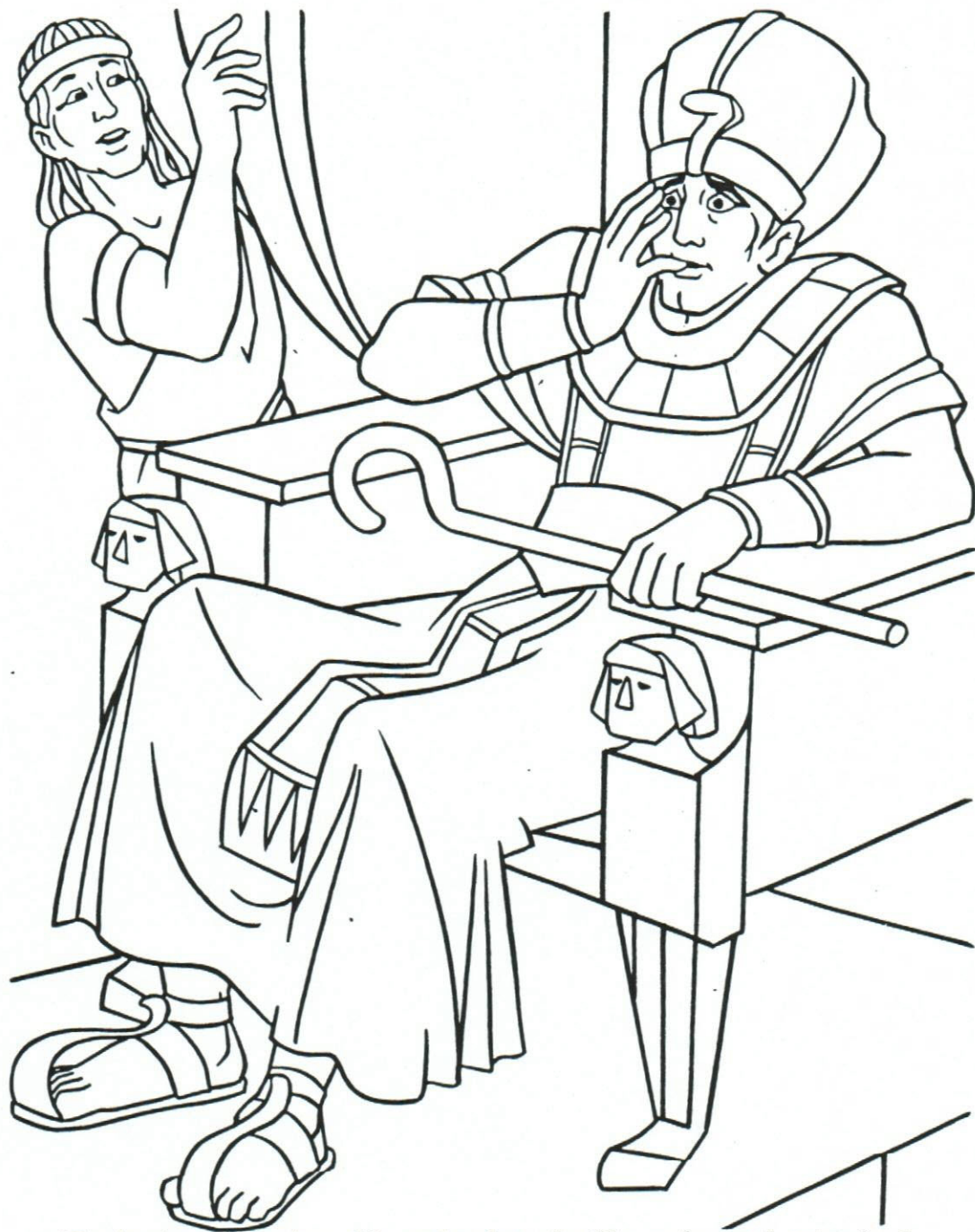
Joseph told the butler what his dream meant. He said, "Within three days Pharaoh will take you out of prison and give you your job back."



Then Joseph told the baker the meaning of his dream. The baker was frightened because his dream meant that he would not be set free.



Joseph's meanings were right. After three days
the butler was released.



The butler remembered Joseph when the Pharaoh was having bad dreams. He told Pharaoh about Joseph, and that Joseph would be able to tell him what his dreams meant.



Joseph told the Pharaoh what his dreams meant.
He said, "There will be seven years of plentiful crops
followed by seven years of hunger and famine."



The Pharaoh was so thankful that Joseph told him the meaning of his dreams that he gave Joseph authority over all of Egypt to prepare for the seven years of hunger.



The seven years of bountiful harvest came. Joseph had the grain stored away to prepare for the seven years of famine.



Throughout the seven years of famine
there was food in Egypt, thanks to Joseph.



Joseph's brothers did not recognize him when they came to beg him to sell them food.



Jacob finally greeted Joseph, his son who he thought was dead, and said, "I am so happy that I have seen your face, and know that you are still alive."