

Tracing the Hand of God in the Life of Joseph

Genesis 37-50

Session 1

This is a record of how God used Joseph, the rejected son of the family of God, to save & reconcile the covenant family

Main Principle:

Though the wicked may prosper for a time, the righteous trust the sovereign Hand of God & maintain integrity

Main Doctrine: The Sovereignty and The Providence of God.

AIM:

Gain a grasp of the height and depth of God's overall purpose

Rest in providence/sovereignty of God

Trace the providence of God in your own life

Trust in faithfulness of God & the Truth of His Word

Exalt Jesus Christ with a life like His

Be content in whatever state God has you

Know that God has marked you out to sing the Lord's song in a strange land

In the providence of God, Joseph's life takes him from the pit to prison to palace

A principle is a truth for all time for all people everywhere.

I. **The Providence of God:**

A. **Principles**

1. God carries out extraordinary ends thru ordinary means
2. God works thru the normal course of events
3. God's providence is behind the darkest deeds of men and works to the ultimate good of those in Christ. Romans 8:28
4. God's wisdom & power brings about His will in the normal course of life
5. God can invade the normal course of life & suspend the natural order if He so chooses and often for His grand purposes, He did suspend the natural laws to work in miraculous ways to authenticate His message & messengers
6. God brings about His sovereign will....most often.... for each day/person.... through the normal course of life in a fallen world
7. Even though everyday life events... the natural occurrences of the created world....and the consequences of both the good and the bad choices of man carries with it billions of contingencies, billions of choices, the billions of circumstantial situations that occur in the normal course of life, GOD works out His overpowering providence to His planned ends.
8. The providence of God is in the continuous activity of His creation by which He preserves, governs, fulfills, protects & carries out His promises, and purposesconcurrently/in concert w/the free moral actions of people....even in a corrupt world.

B. **Westminster Catechism:**

God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy. (WCF 5.1

You may want to listen to the series on Joseph to help you gain a greater grasp on Providence of God
GIBC Jupiter. Media. Genesis. Life of Joseph. Jerry Wragg. Introduction/First part: Nov 15, 2015
<http://www.gibcjupiter.org/pages/sermons/detail/sermon/2582>

- C. **Romans 8:28** begins with: And we know.....
A certainty, a clarity, a hope comes to the soul of the believer anchored in what we **know**.
Worry/anxiety/sinful fear is almost always driven by what you don't know & can't control

We can be consumed/constantly struggling with what we don't know, instead of being comforted by what we do know

What we **know** must guard/direct your/my thoughts.
Our comfort is driven by faith in what we **do know**.

This is how we live in God-centered confidence in a world of man-centered fear.

D. In the life of Joseph Genesis 37-50

1. God has preserved a record of the life of Joseph that we might see His providence in a real life.
2. There is no suspension of the natural order/laws. No miracles. Life ebbs/flows....& you see the normal course of life. Horrendous abuse. An innocent victim. Terrible things happen. Yet God says to Joseph over and over: "I will be with you."
3. The providence & sovereignty of God is what you see in the life of Joseph.

II. God's People

- A. God called out Abraham to be the father of a people whom He would call His Own.
- B. He promised His Presence, His provision, His protection, preservation as He carries out His plan
- C. God's plan/purposes will NEVER be thwarted
- D. There is a GOAL in Mind of God. He knows the beginning from the end. He sees it all
- E. Joseph
 1. One/most beautiful characters in Bible
 2. Outstanding for his singleness of heart/devotion to God
 3. Pure/high morality; perseverance/dignity during servitude
 4. Heart made tender thru suffering
 5. Amazing abilities/energy
 6. a TYPE of Christ
 7. from happiness to heartache to hardship to hope to humility to honor Like Jesus

Joseph's sufferings were personal; the sufferings of Jesus were substitutionary –

Jesus took on YOUR punishment for your offenses against the holy righteousness of God so that you might be SAVED from the wrath of GOD. Jesus came to RESCUE YOU/me from punishment for your/my sin
Life of Jesus: NOT easy. Life of Joseph: was not easy

Hardship/heartache. The headaches! Life can be Very hard.

From the heights of HEAVEN..... LORD JESUS CHRIST understands! He KNOWS! *Hebrews 4:15*

We grieve over sin disease death wickedness. We suffer in a fallen world,,,,,
God is working through all of that....through the good bad ugly for His purposes & for your sanctification.

Here's Joseph---in living color—to show us a life who, in thf
e providence & sovereignty of God, experienced the inscrutable ways of God, and rose from a pit to prominence in the palace of a king. In the record of his life—God gives personal details about Joseph so that.....we can trace the Hand of God working again/again to accomplish His plan.

III. Joseph's History

- A. Happy, favored young man v. 37:1-2
- B. Hated kid v. 37:3-11
- C. Harassed to point of death v. 37:12-27
- D. Heartache of Jacob v.37:29-35
- E. Hardship for Joseph begins v. 37:28, 36

Principle: God hates evil but His plan is never thwarted

God has marvelous things you can see about His character & His love.

In survival swimming, babies are taught to roll over & look UP.

When people are drowning in depression and discouragement, God has people around you to help. Your pastors....your sisters in Christ....LORD JESUS in His Word has help for you

God has not promised a perfect little world. He has promised to be WITH you in a very imperfect world.

That's what God did for Joseph. Bible says: The Lord was w/Joseph

You R placed right where you R w/the resources you have....to EXALT CHRIST...to TRUST Sovereign Hand of GOD....trace HIS HAND of PROVIDENCE& maintain integrity!

Why does God allow tragedies in the life of Joseph?

God is inscrutable....*Romans 11:33-34; Isaiah 55:8-9; Proverbs 25:2; I Corinthians 2:11*

Genesis 18:25 Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Deuteronomy 32:4; Job 1:21; Job 13:15; Mark 7:37; Job 5:9

Did God use suffering/persecution/prejudice to develop maturity in Joseph? YES

Romans 5:3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Additional Principles:

1. *Carey Hardy: My circumstances are never the most important issue. Pleasing Christ is.*
2. *Elisabeth Elliot: The secret is Christ in me; not me in a different set of circumstances.*
3. *Matthew Henry: The way to better our condition is to get our spirits in a better frame; and instead of asking, "were it not better to go to _____ (fill in the blank). Ask instead, "were it not better to be content and make the best of that which is?"*
4. *Self-pity distorts our view of reality: past, present, and future. What steps will you take the next time you find yourself spiraling into self-pity?*

NOTES:

The Hand of God in the Life of Joseph

Session 2

Genesis 39-43

The Injustice of it all

Joseph went from:

Happiness (youth) to Heartache (@age 17), Hardship, Hope, Honor restored
& somewhere in there....he learned Humility

Attribute of God:

God is inscrutable

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

This attribute of God refers to inexplicable/mysterious ways of God

Aim:

Colossians 3:23 whatever you do, do it heartily (excellence) as unto the Lord knowing that your reward is from Him

Elisabeth Elliot: We are women, and my plea is 'Let me be a woman, holy through and through, asking for nothing but what God wants to give me, receiving with both hands and with all my heart whatever that is.

Theme: Injustice = when life is NOT fair

Principles:

1. God works thru circumstances, events, people to accomplish His plan
2. Afflictions refine some....consume others
3. Jerry Wragg: God works out His overpowering providence in the continuous activity of His creation by which He preserves, governs, fulfills, protects & carries out His promises, purposes.....concurrently/in concert w/the free moral actions of people, both good and evil.
4. In Life of Joseph, God's unseen Hand is behind every detail, circumstance/event/person is working concurrently w/the choices of individuals....whether good or bad....to preserve, protect, provide for His FAMILY/His people.
5. When you stop asking God: Why are you doing this TO me?
You can start asking God: Why are you doing this FOR me?

Outline:

Joseph's Hardship Genesis 39-44

- I. Injustice Genesis 39-40
 - A. Identity Changed v. 39:1-6
 - B. Increased Blessing v. 39:1-6
verbs: succeeded, prospered, blessed, favored, elevated position
 - C. Integrity Challenged v. 39:6b-12a
 - D. Incorruptibility v. 39:8-12b
- II. Imprisonment of the innocent one Genesis 39:20-41:36
 - A. Slander & lies of Mrs. Potiphar v. 39:19-20
 - B. Interpretation of Pharaoh's Dreams v. 41:1-36
- III. Joseph Exalted v. 41:37-57
- IV. Joseph Entertains his Brothers Gen 42-43

Though the wicked may prosper for a time...the righteous trust sovereign Hand of God & maintain integrity like: Daniel, David, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Our Lord Jesus....and Joseph

How did Lord Jesus do that? How did Joseph do that? How can you/I do that?

God has lessons for us in the way Joseph conducted his life, working thru/in spite of the hardship/harassment/heartache ...and INJUSTICE.

Take note: not only does the *construction* of Joseph's life look like Jesus.....so did his conduct.

Joseph became the innocent victim of terrible tragedy in his life.

I. Injustice Genesis 39-40

A. Identity Changed v. 39:1-6

1. Home

2. Hyksos Kings reigned

3. Losses

B. Increased blessing from the Lord and to others v. 39:1-6

Verbs:

C. Integrity Challenged v. 39:6b-12a

D. Incorruptibility of Joseph v. 39:8-12b

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him..

Joseph---has taken responsibility & completed his tasks as unto the Lord in spite of:

1. headship
2. heartache from his losses
3. handicap...
 - a. he is a minority race in Egypt...a Hebrew... which was considered inferior culture
 - b. coming from a dysfunctional home
 - c. surrounded by pagans both in Canaan & Egypt

But God has given Joseph His presence & he has chosen to work heartily as unto the Lord

Proverbs 22:29 Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand in the presence of kings.

Principle: Do what you're supposed to do---do the tasks God gives you & God will give the increase

God holds the one in authority responsible for his/her treatment of you.

God can take a young person & transform him/her....create a new identity in Christ....enable that person to overcome temptation & preserve a walk according to Scripture in the power of the Holy Spirit...remaining pure in morals/true in doctrine/wholly pleasing to God...maintaining integrity in an amoral/immoral world....like Joseph.

Joseph has brought blessing to household of Potiphar. But the household of Potiphar has not brought blessing to Joseph.

II. Imprisonment of the innocent one v. 39:19-40:23

A. Slander & lies of Mrs. Potiphar v. 39:19-20

B. BUT The LORD...v. 39:21-23

v. 39:21 *was with Joseph and extended kindness to him. He granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 22 The warden put all the prisoners who were in the prison under Joseph's authority, and he was responsible for everything that was done there. 23 The warden did not bother with anything under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him, and the Lord made everything that he did successful.*

C. Joseph hopes his wrongful imprisonment will be mentioned v. 40:5-23

v.40:5 *Each had dream that no one could interpret & Joseph said.... v. 8 "Don't interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams"*

v. 14-15 *But when all goes well for you, remember that I was with you. Please show kindness to me by mentioning me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this prison. 15 For I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should put me in the dungeon."*

v. 40:22-23 *Pharaoh hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had explained to them. 23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he forgot him*

How do you respond to strange/inexplicable circumstances that invade your comfort zone?

How do you respond when it appears that God is unconcerned?

Principle:

Every minute God's deliverance is delayed is another minute experiencing God's Presence in circumstances of life.

Every minute God's deliverance is delayed is another minute Joseph grew in character

His suffering was not wasted

III. In the Household of the Pharaoh Genesis 41

A. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's Dreams v. 41:1-27

v. 41:14-16 *Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and they quickly brought him from the dungeon. He shaved, changed his clothes, and went to Pharaoh. 15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said about you that you can hear a dream and interpret it. 16 "I am not able to," Joseph answered Pharaoh. "It is God who will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."*

Truth about God just comes out of his mouth b/c that's what was in his mind...& GOD receives the glory

v. 41:25b*God has revealed to Pharaoh what He is about to do. 26 The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven ripe heads are seven years. The dreams mean the same thing. 27 The seven thin, ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven worthless, scorched heads of grain are seven years of famine.*

B. Joseph makes recommendations to Pharaoh v. 41:28-36

C. Joseph exalted v. 41:37-57

v. 38 *Then Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find anyone like this, a man who has God's spirit^[c] in him?" 39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as intelligent and wise as you are. 40 You will be over my house, and all my people will obey your commands. Only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you."*

The man Pharaoh needed.....was GOD's man....& that's exactly where God has positioned/prepared Joseph to be.

God has shown this pagan man & the magicians around him: The LORD GOD is The One True God; there is NO other.

In spiritual battle after spiritual battle, the gods of the magicians/the pagan idolators R revealed to be NOTHING...

& The One True Creator GOD is EVERYTHING

HE is The Almighty over all! HE is all powerful! HE is wisdom! HE is omniscient! HE rules His creation!

He Wins all spiritual battles against false gods.

So that....pagans would see the futility of idols & His people would see HE is THE All powerful Creator God.
Exodus 15:11; Deuteronomy 4:35; 8:60; 10:17; 32:39; 6:4; Psalm 18:31; Isaiah 43:10,11; 44:6-8; 45:5; Acts 4:11,12

What do you do when you're surrounded by people who have different beliefs than what Bible teaches?

Do you stand up for Jesus when you're outnumbered?bold to give GOD glory w/humble, thankful heart?

Sometimes you may say too much....or you say too little....& you think...oh no...I just made it worse...

God will take what you said from the Bible....principles, verses & use it for His purposes in that life. Don't you worry.

v. 41:51 Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, meaning, "God has made me forget all my hardship in my father's house." ⁵² And the second son he named Ephraim, meaning, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

In the Bible, forgetting means: not to hold against..... what a person dwells on or chooses to emphasize.

He chose not to hold it against them. How do you live like that? FORGIVE

Choose NOT to hold a grievance against that person. Choose NOT to dwell on the offense

Concentrate on being FRUITFUL for the LORD

Just as every sinner is destined to spend eternity in the pit...those who trust Christ Jesus will be saved from that pit to spend eternity in palace of heaven....

In between....there is trouble.... affliction....disease ...in this world & behind it all...there is the AMAZING work of God!

IV. Joseph & his Brothers Genesis 42-44

A. Famine was a catastrophe in ancient times

B. Today...we have a famine of the Word of God

Hosea 4:6a My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge

1. Unbelievers lack The Bread of Life: Christ Jesus

2. Believers lack the true meat of the Word

You R uniquely positioned ---by God---to feed the hungry....just as Joseph was

C. 1st journey to Egypt = 10 Brothers to Egypt accused of being spies. 9 return **Genesis 42**

v. 42:6....when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground

v. 42:8-9 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. 9 Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

v.42:36 Their father Jacob said to them, "You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!"

D. 2nd journey to Egypt = 10 Brothers to Egypt = 11 return **Genesis 43-44**

v. 43:1-25---departed w/Jacob's prayer & Benjamin

v. 43:11-14 Jacob is defeated by complaints/fears/weak faith

Principle: God blesses the one who trusts Him w/ her beloved Benjamin

Whatever/Whoever you hold dear...has been lent to you by The LORD.

Hold w/an open hand....trusting that God knows what is best.

v.43:26-34 feast w/Joseph

v. 43:32 They served him by himself, the brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews, for that is detestable to Egyptians. 33 The men had been seated before him in the order of their ages, from the firstborn to the youngest; and they looked at

each other in astonishment. 34 When portions were served to them from Joseph's table, Benjamin's portion was five times as much as anyone else's. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

- v. 44:1-13 Benjamin seized for theft of cup
- v. 44:14-34 Judah offers himself = substitute

In all the conversation: Joseph is listening for confession/conviction of their sin. He doesn't hear it
So he plants silver in Benjamin's sack to see if they return or abandon Benjamin & go on home

Through it All

I've had many tears and sorrows. I've had questions for tomorrow. There've been times I didn't know right from wrong
But in every situation, God gave blessed consolation That my trials only come to make me strong

I've been a lot of places. And I've seen so many faces. But there've been times I've felt so all alone/
But in that lonely hour....In that precious, lonely hour....Jesus let me know I was His own

Through it all. Through it all. I've learned to trust in Jesus. I've learned to trust in God
Through it all. I've learned to depend upon His Word

So I thank God for the mountains. And I thank Him for the valleys. I thank Him for the storms He's brought me through.
'Cause if I never had a problem. I wouldn't know that He could solve them.
I wouldn't know what faith in His Word could do

Through it all. Through it all. I've learned to trust in Jesus. I've learned to trust in God.
Through it all. Through it all. I've learned to depend upon His Word.
Yes, I've learned to depend upon His Word. I've learned to depend upon His Word

NOTES:

Tracing the Hand of God in the Life of Joseph

Session 3

We say Goodbye to Joseph

Genesis 44-50

Psalm 40:3.....sing a new song

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

God had so constructed the life of Joseph....God had so equipped him....that He placed him as Chaplain in US Capitol for a reason: "marked him out," he says "To sing the Lord's song in a strange land"....

Like Joseph: marked out....equipped....placed in position of influence/power in a strange land....to protect & provide for God's FAMILY.

I. Joseph watches for conviction and contrition in his brothers Genesis 44

A. Benjamin seized for theft of cup v. 44:1-13

B. Judah offers himself = substitute v. 44:14-34

v. 44:33 Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers

JESUS ---in love---offered Himself to be your SUBSTITUTE

He took on your punishment/my punishment for our offenses against holy God

God is holy! & you R not. & I am not. We offend our God with behavior, words, attitudes that are not godly and His justice will hold you/me to account

BUT GOD....became Man. God the Son did for you/me what we cannot do....He laid down HIS sinless LIFE for yours.

Jesus: The PERFECT SACRIFICE offered to PERFECT GOD & accepted by Him.

In page after page after page, Exodus & Leviticus record all the requirements for the daily sacrifices necessary for atonement under the OLD COVENANT.

But God has recorded in Hebrews, the fulfillment of all those requirements in His Son under the New Covenant in His blood. Read Hebrews & you will see what CHRIST has done for each and every believer in Him.

Joseph has seen conviction/confession/repentance from his bros....which is exactly what God brings about in the believer. When we recognize/admit/confess....I am AWFUL before YOU, HOLY GOD

My attitude stinks. My anger stinks. My self centered/absorption...disgraceful.

I am a stench before the LORD...UNTIL.....I ask for MERCY. I BOW LOW to THE GOD WHO CREATED ME.....TRUSTING that JESUS CHRIST is my only HOPE.

I admit....I sin. I need a covering for my offenses & that's exactly what CHRIST JESUS has done

Jesus covered your sin in HIS BLOOD as your SUBSTITUTE & gives to you a ROBE of HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS so that you can stand before HOLY GOD with your SIN paid for/FORGIVEN ONCE FOR ALL.

It's all in The BOOK. READ THE BOOK. You have much to learn...

God has given Joseph a NEW song. Remember....there is JOY in the Christian life...It's not ALL trouble...& suffering. But in the midst of it....or in spite of it....God LOVES that you have encouragement...joy & fun in His created world!

Watch what He has done for Joseph after 13 years of hardship & an irreconcilable family dynamic
It's amazing & it's just fun to see:

II. Brothers Reconcile v. 45:1-15

Joseph did not minimize sin, but rather he maximized God's grace.
Joseph is choosing to put the past behind him
Joseph is more interested in reconciliation than condemnation

FB Meyer: It is very sweet, as life passes by, to be able to look back on dark and mysterious events, and to trace the hand of God where we once saw only the malice and cruelty of man

When you think of difficult people you deal w/---people who've hurt you...can you forgive them ---
.....choose NOT to hold their offense against them? but rather....in pity---pray for them....b a reconciler...an ambassador
....pleading w/them to be reconciled to God. *II Corinthians 5:20 ... we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

Do you know why you live where you live? ---work where you do? ---have the home you do? ---come in contact w/the
ppl you do? ---run in the social circles you do?

God has positioned you there to tell of God's provision of JesusThe One Who reconciles you to holy God

God had divinely positioned Joseph like Esther 4:14placed in position of royalty...for such a time as this.
And if you R a believer....you R a child of The King.... placed right where you are.... for His purposes.

John 4:34 Jesus said: My food is to do will of Him Who sent Me & to accomplish His work...

v. 45:9-11 Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. 10 You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. 11 I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.

III. 11 brothers return to Jacob & escort the families to Goshen v.45:16-47:12

A. **It is enough—Joseph is alive!** (*Genesis 45:28*) So says a gracious soul!

II Corinthians 6:10 ...as grieving yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing yet possessing everything.

Can you say with Jacob: It is enough...!

....though honor is not, and riches are not, and health is not, and friends are not—It is ENOUGH that Jesus died & that He died for me. It is enough that Christ is alive! that He reigns, conquers, and triumphs!

B. **v. 45:31 Joseph said....“I will go up and inform Pharaoh,**

C. **v. 47:1-5 So Joseph went and informed Pharaoh: “**

D. **v. 47:7-12 Jacob blessed Pharaoh & settled in the best part of the land of Rameses**

Isn't it gracious of our God to reveal all the details of these events so we can see how He intervenes
---reaches down into the impossible & pulls out a Perfectly Executed Plan!

IV. We say Goodbye to Jacob and Joseph Genesis 47:13-50

- A. v. 47:13-22 Joseph acquired all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh**
- B. v. 47:23-26 Joseph required 1/5 of harvest for Pharaoh; 4/5 for people**
- C. v. 47:27-31 Israel Settles in Goshen**
- D. v. 48:1-28 Jacob blesses Ephraim over Manasseh, the firstborn of Joseph**
- E. v. 49:1-28 Jacob blesses all of his sons with a prophecy for each one re: his future**
- F. v. 49:29-33 Jacob dies**
- G. v. 50:1-14 Jacob is embalmed 40 days, mourned 70 days & taken to Canaan**
- H. v. 50:15 Joseph promised care, comfort & kindness to his brothers & died at 110 years old**
- I. v. 50:15-26 Before he died.....look how his life ends**

v. 50:16 So they sent this message to Joseph, "Before he died your father gave a command: 17 'Say this to Joseph: Please forgive your brothers' transgression and their sin—the suffering they caused you.' Therefore, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when their message came to him. 18 Then his brothers also came to him, bowed down before him, and said, "We are your slaves!" 19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people. 21 Therefore don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. 24 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will certainly come to your aid and bring you up from this land to the land He promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." 25 So Joseph made the sons of Israel take an oath: "When God comes to your aid, you are to carry my bones up from here." 26 Joseph died at the age of 110. They embalmed him and placed him in a coffin in Egypt.

Remember how God had to get His people out of Canaan to preserve them? They were in danger of being assimilated/intermarrying w/pagan culture of the Canaanites.....

You can trace the Hand of God all the way thru the story of Joseph. He preserved, protected His people thru the events, people, circumstances, both good and evil, to His purposed end. AMAZING how God does that!

FB Meyer: It is very sweet, as life passes by, to be able to look back on dark and mysterious events, and to trace the hand of God where we once saw only the malice and cruelty of man

If you R one of His Own....He will provide, preserve you as one of His people.

God has you in His Hand

John 10:28-30 My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish—ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 The Father and I are one

What lessons for your own life can you take from life of Joseph....

What did he do?

What attributes of God are prominent in Genesis 37-50?

While God was working His plan throughout all circumstances, events, ppl

Joseph couldn't see the end. He only knew this moment. He only knew to do the task laid before him.... every day....with INTEGRITY....knowing that God was with him.

God has marked you out to sing His praises in a strange landto exalt CHRIST JESUS until He comes or takes you Home.

To God be the Glory!

Some thoughts:

1. Have you given thought to your own memorial service?

In what specific ways do you plan to honor God and your loved ones?

2. Memorize Genesis 50:19–20.

3. Do you suppose there were times when Joseph wondered what God was doing in his life?
Have you asked God that question at times in your life?

Ask not: What is God doing **to** me?

Ask: What is God doing **FOR** me?

God answers you in His Word:

Romans 5:1-4

I Thessalonians 4:3a

II Corinthians 4:16, 17

II Corinthians 12:9

Genesis 50:20

Isaiah 64:8

I Peter 1:6-7

Isaiah 40:29

Deuteronomy 7:9

Psalms 32:8

Isaiah 46:4

Isaiah 30:18

Philippians 4:7

Isaiah 65:24

Psalms 121:7, 8

Proverbs 2:5

John 17:17

I Thessalonians 5:23

Romans 8:29

What other verses tell you what God is doing?

4. Will you:

rest in providence/sovereignty of God?

trust in faithfulness of God/truth of His Word...

trust His providential Hand in your life...

exalt Jesus Christ with a life like HIS...

be content in whatever state God has you...

gain a grasp of the height of God's purposes

trace the providence of God in your life

know that God has marked you out to sing the Lord's song in a strange land

know you are marked for eternity.

Which of these might you take for your personal goal?

5. Through it all...what have you learned?

I've had many tears and sorrows. I've had questions for tomorrow. There've been times I didn't know right from wrong. But in every situation, God gave blessed consolation, that my trials only come to make me strong.

I've been a lot of places And I've seen so many faces...But there've been times I've felt so all alone
But in that lonely hour....In that precious, lonely hour...Jesus let me know I was His own

Through it all. Through it all. I've learned to trust in Jesus. I've learned to trust in God
Through it all. Through it all. I've learned to depend upon His Word

So I thank God for the mountains. And I thank Him for the valleys.
I thank Him for the storms He's brought me through. 'Cause if I never had a problem
I wouldn't know that He could solve them. I wouldn't know what faith in His Word could do.

Through it all. Through it all. I've learned to trust in Jesus. I've learned to trust in God.
Through it all. Through it all. I've learned to depend upon His Word
Yes, I've learned to depend upon His Word
I've learned to depend upon His Word