

Dreamer: The Life of Joseph A Study in Genesis 37-50

Meant for Good
Genesis 50:1-26
September 12, 2021

Then Joseph said, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?
As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for
good... - Genesis 50:19

I. A FINAL FORGIVENESS

- Joseph's brothers, with the death of their father, expect a final reckoning with their brother (Gen. 50:15-18).
- They seek peace either through a lie, or through the final plea of their father.
- Guilt-laden lives lead to remorse and fear (Ps. 38:4; 2 Cor. 7:10).
- Joseph is brought to tears over the distrust of his brothers and the years of guilt they have carried with them (Gen. 50:17).
- The brothers acknowledge their sin, and Joseph freely grants forgiveness (Gen. 50:17, 21).

II. GOD'S GOOD PURPOSES

- Joseph, in granting forgiveness, shares two truths: First, his brothers act was intended for evil, therefore it was sin. Second, God planned it and turned it for good (Gen. 50:19-20).
- God does not plan evil for his children. Both discipline and hardship are part of God's plan to bring good to us (Jer. 29:11; Rom. 5:2-5, 8:28; Heb. 12:3-11; 1 Peter 1:6-7).
- By his own admission, Joseph is not in God's place, therefore he has every reason to forgive (Gen. 50:19; Matt. 18:21-22).
- The Genesis narrative ends with Joseph's body awaiting the promised exodus from Egypt (Gen. 15:13-14, 46:4, 50:24-25).
- The Sovereignty of God permeates the narrative of Joseph. We are never outside of God's activity in our lives to bring about his good purposes (Gen. 26:24, 28:15; 39:23; Isa. 41:8-10, Matt. 28:20; 1 Thess. 5:6-11).

KNOW: We have come to a right understanding of God and our place in this world when we are able to acknowledge that even events that we may perceive as negative are ultimately part of a greater plan that is under God's control.

DO: Christ followers, remember this: God is for you!

Suggested Reading:

Suffering is Never for Nothing by Elisabeth Elliot (LifePoint Library #248.86)

The Problem of Pain by C.S. Lewis (LifePoint Library #248.86 LEW)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 50:1-26

1. Summarize this chapter. What is happening and why?
2. Why does Moses tell us about Joseph's death at the end of this book?
3. As you look back over all of Joseph's story, does it trouble you that God allowed so much "bad" in his life? How about so much "good" for the last 80 years of his life?
4. What can we learn from Joseph's willingness to forgive?
5. How has this series in Genesis benefited you, if at all?
6. What are your primary takeaways from this series? What have you learned? What have you applied?