



God Meant It For Good  
Genesis 45 and 50

Rock Creek Baptist Church  
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God Meant It For Good - Genesis 45  
and 50

Perhaps the struggle you face, the unexplainable cascade of one thing after another, is God preparing you for something you can't yet imagine...

There's a story told in Genesis 37 of Joseph, who is his father's favorite, receiving a special coat from his father and a vision from God that his brothers will bow down to him. Angered, they consider killing him but decide to sell him into slavery to the Ishmaelites instead.

After a series of events recorded in Genesis 37 and 39-41, Joseph goes from being a slave in Pharaoh's palace to being put in charge of all of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. So now a descendant of Isaac, a worshiper of God, is in charge of Egypt before the famine happens. Hearing from God that there will be a famine, he puts a 20% tax on grain, that 1/5th of all the grain should be stored up in preparation for the famine. Interesting to note that those growing the grain who know about the famine don't put back any additional grain on reserve.

Famine affects the entire world and people everywhere travel to Egypt for grain. Eventually, Joseph's family comes to Egypt for grain. This could have been the opportunity for Joseph to "get even" but instead look at what he says

Genesis 45:4-8

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

Genesis 50:19-21

But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Joseph illustrates a vital principle that we are going to talk more about next week as it pertains to Israel's story: Don't do to others the bad that has been done to you.

Joseph’s brothers wanted to kill him.

He kept them alive

They wanted to rip that coat of many colors right off of him

He gives each of them new clothes

Genesis 45:22

To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothes.

His brothers had tried to push him away

He gives them the best of the land so that they can live closer to him

Joseph's boss the Pharaoh is so pleased to hear that Joseph's family is coming in that he tells them to move into Goshen, the best land, and don't even bother packing because we're going to give you all new stuff when you get here!

Genesis 45:16-20

When the news reached Pharaoh’s palace that Joseph’s brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.’” “You are also directed to tell them, ‘Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come. Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.’”

Genesis 47:5-6

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you, and the land of Egypt is before you; settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land. Let them live in Goshen. And if you know of any among them with special ability, put them in charge of my own livestock."

Joseph treats his brothers FAR better than they treated him

Now God's chosen family line has the best land and food. No one else has food...can you see how some tension might develop later on?

Side note: The Hyksos Empire who overthrew the Egyptian government were a Semitic people who would prefer to promote a fellow Semite like Joseph to a high status rather than promote the Egyptians already there. God used a whole revolution to prepare the way for Joseph!

Sometimes God puts you into situations you don't want to be in, allows bad things to happen, because He is preparing the way for you to be in the right place, at the right time, fully prepared for something great He wants to do with you.

Joseph dealt with betrayal from his family, slavery, false accusations, abandonment in jail, before he became the ruler over all of Egypt and was able to not only live through the famine but save his family!

Story: Let me take just one thing up to heaven with me...

Story: Br'er rabbit

Notice that no matter how good Joseph was he still went through hardship on the way to the place God wanted him.

Story: "God bless the broken road that led me straight to you"

Genesis 47:15-27

When the money of the people of Egypt and Canaan was gone, all Egypt came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? Our money is all gone." "Then bring your livestock," said Joseph. "I will sell you food in exchange for your livestock, since your money is gone." So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in exchange for their horses, their sheep and goats, their cattle and donkeys. And he brought them through that

year with food in exchange for all their livestock. When that year was over, they came to him the following year and said, “We cannot hide from our lord the fact that since our money is gone and our livestock belongs to you, there is nothing left for our lord except our bodies and our land. Why should we perish before your eyes—we and our land as well? Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we with our land will be in bondage to Pharaoh. Give us seed so that we may live and not die, and that the land may not become desolate.” So Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh. The Egyptians, one and all, sold their fields, because the famine was too severe for them. The land became Pharaoh’s, and Joseph reduced the people to servitude, from one end of Egypt to the other. However, he did not buy the land of the priests, because they received a regular allotment from Pharaoh and had food enough from the allotment Pharaoh gave them. That is why they did not sell their land. Joseph said to the people, “Now that I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh, here is seed for you so you can plant the ground. But when the crop comes in, give a fifth of it to Pharaoh. The other four-fifths you may keep as seed for the fields and as food for yourselves and your households and your children.” “You have saved our lives,” they said. “May we find favor in the eyes of our lord; we will be in bondage to Pharaoh.” So Joseph established it as a law concerning land in Egypt—still in force today—that a fifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh. It was only the land of the priests that did not become Pharaoh’s. Now the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen. They acquired property there and were fruitful and increased greatly in number.

While the Egyptians are struggling in their own land, Israel is THRIVING in a foreign land.

Genesis 50:24-25

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place.”

What are they about to be rescued from?

Genesis 15:13-14

Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be

enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

Sometimes God has to make you uncomfortable before you will leave your comfort zone and head out to the place He wants you to be. Otherwise we might stop short of the goal.

Story: momma bird and the nest

Maybe you're settling for mediocre when God is calling you to something greater. Maybe you feel assailed from every side when God is simply preparing the way for something great! If you give up, the struggle will be for nothing. Like Winston Churchill said "If you're going through hell...keep going!"