

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY NOTES ▪ October 22, 2017

Pastor Terry Brown

**SERMON:** God Brought Me Through It!

**Text:** Genesis 50:20

The book of Genesis is where we are introduced to God. Who is He? What is He like? What is He able to do? Who does He call or use for His glory?

We see God as *creator*, *coverer*, and *caller* in the early chapters of Genesis. God is creator in Genesis 1:1 where the bible says that, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." When men build, we must use our hands; but, when God created, He used His voice. In Genesis 1, we see the phrase, "And God said..." ten times to let us know the power of God's voice and God's word. God's voice structures, sustains and shapes the universe.

God is also coverer in Genesis. His creation, Adam, and his bride, named Eve, who God created out of Adam's side, would sin in the sight of God. They would run from God, but God wouldn't let them hide because of His love for them. When they sinned, they ran from God; but God, who is so full of unconditional love for undeserving people, came walking and calling for Adam. When they sinned, the bible says that they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves a garment, attempting to cover their nakedness which was the result of sin. God is coverer. He finds them

and covers them in Genesis 3:21 with garments of skin and clothes them as a reminder to them and us that only God has the answer to our human condition which is sin. Genesis 3:21 also encourages humanity that when we sin, we don't have to run from God, but we can run to God.

God is also caller in Genesis. God would call Enoch to walk with him. God would call Noah to build the ark. God would call a 75-year-old man named Abraham to start the race of faith. At the end of Genesis 11, Abraham's father had just died. In Genesis 12, Joseph's eyes are filled with tears as he grieves the passing of his dad. Genesis 12 starts off with these words, “Now the Lord said to Abram...”, meaning that God doesn't call us to trust him when things seem convenient and comfortable to us. God usually calls us to walk by faith at a time when life is hard, heavy, and apparently hopeless. But, as Enoch, Noah, and Abram did, we also must trust that the God that creates, covers, and calls is able to provide, protect, and preserve us.

**God is worthy of our worship and trust because He is the CREATOR!**

**God is worthy of our worship and trust because He is the COVERER!**

**God is worthy of our worship and trust because He is the CALLER!**

For the first 36 chapters of Genesis, God is creator, coverer, and caller. But, just when we think that God can be figured out and understood, God presents himself as a conqueror, implying that there is absolutely nothing that God cannot bring his child through, over, or out of; and Joseph is our case study for God to show himself strong.

Joseph is the great grandson of Abraham, the grandson of Isaac, and the

son of Jacob. Joseph's great granddaddy knew God, his granddaddy knew God, and his father knew God. But God, by providential circumstances, would introduce himself to Joseph so that Joseph would have his own testimony.

In chapter 37, Joseph would have these dreams of providential promotions from God where God was going to mature, elevate, and promote him. And Joseph was like many of us...he got excited about the plan. But, God didn't reveal to him the path that he would have to travel for the plan to be fulfilled.

Joseph shares this with his brothers and, as days go by, Joseph's brothers would become a little angrier day by day. From this, we learn that some dreams, hopes, and plans can't be shared with everybody.

Joseph is ferociously attacked by his siblings in Genesis 37:20. He is thrown in a pit by his siblings, sold to the Ishmaelite's for twenty shekels of silver, and taken to Egypt.

In Genesis 39:14, Potiphar's wife falsely accuses Joseph, and he finds himself in a prison. While in prison he helps two servants of the king by interpreting their dreams. One servant will die while the other servant will live but forget to tell his master that Joseph helped him.

In Genesis 50:20, Joseph is standing before his siblings that threw him in a pit many years ago. Life has a way of allowing us to cross paths with people that attacked us, doubted us, hurt us and spoke evil against us.

This text is a beautiful picture of the conquering power of God, but it’s also a beautiful picture of how God’s children can forgive those that have plotted against them, hurt them, or disappointed them.

So, how does this text encourage and inspire us to forgive but also understand the sovereignty of God and how God permits evil to occur but uses evil for the development of His child?

The verse has three movements that jump out of this biblical passage.

**20** As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

## **The Plot of His Siblings**

**Joseph acknowledges the plot of his siblings in verse 20a:** “As for you, you meant evil against me....” Family hurt is the worst kind of hurt, be it from biological family members or spiritual family members. When people that should be clapping for you are plotting against you, it hurts. When people that should be applauding your success seem to grow jealous and envious of you, it hurts. When people that should be hoping your dreams come true but are secretly sabotaging you, it hurts. That’s what happened to Joseph, but God permitted it and now Joseph acknowledges it.

**Joseph’s acknowledgement is direct in verse 20a:** “As for you...” He is face to face with those that plotted against him. One of the first steps to forgiving someone is personally confronting them with what you know

they did. Joseph is no longer a seventeen-year-old kid. He is now a grown man that is handling this situation in a spiritual way. No, you don't run and tell everybody else what they did, but you first personally confront them with what they did.

**Joseph's acknowledgement is descriptive in verse 20a:** "You meant evil against me..." We must address the wrong directly, and we must call it what it is clearly. Joseph said, "You all did 'evil to me.'"

So, what did they do? They ripped his coat, they threw him in a pit, they dipped his coat in animal blood to make it look like he was attacked by a wild animal, they lied to his father, they wrote him off, and they thought they would never see him again.

God permitted it all to happen - not for Joseph's detriment, but for his development.

They thought it would go one way, but God intervened and used it another way.

God could have stopped it, God could have blocked it, God could have prevented it, but God used it for Joseph's maturity. God often uses circumstances to mature us but also for us to be able to see him more clearly.

Notice the clause starts off with, "But", which is a conjunction. But, this is contrasting conjunction. Meaning that what's about to be said overruled what had previously happened.

## The Providence of His Savior

**Joseph acknowledges the providence of his Savior in verse 20b.** On the front side of a situation, we wonder why Lord; but, looking back, we say thank you Lord. Joseph is saying, *it took that to bring about this!*

Joseph experienced the providence of God, meaning things could have been worse, but God intervened, intercepted the evil, and stepped into the situation with Joseph so that His child would be elevated and not eliminated.

In Genesis 39:2, the bible says that the Lord was with Joseph in Potiphar's house. In Genesis 39:21, the bible says that the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the prison. When the Lord is with you, your circumstances won't have the final word! When the Lord is with you, you understand that a few bad chapters aren't the end of the story!

The word "meant" doesn't need to be overlooked; it's where we get our English weave. "God *meant* it for good..."...*meant* means to weave, it means to take colors and create a picture that's worthy of testimony. God was weaving everything that happened to Joseph to make Joseph into a person with a testimony. The bad news is that we might not like what we are going through, but the good news is that God isn't finished with the picture yet! God is still writing your story!

Joseph now sees God more clearly. We only see God clearly by Him

placing us in a situation with which only He can help us.

Joseph would be one of the first biblical characters to acknowledge the providence of his savior, but he wouldn't be the last.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would be thrown in the fire, but God got in the fire with them. They also had a “but God” testimony!

Daniel would be thrown in a lion's den, but God kept the lion from devouring him. Daniel also had a “but God” testimony!

David would stand before Goliath, and Goliath would fall. David also had a “but God” testimony!

Paul and Silas would be placed in a prison, but they prayed and sang hymns. The shackles fell off, and the prison doors opened. Paul and Silas also had a “but God” testimony!

God still steps into the fire with His people, God is still opens doors for His people, God still can shut the lion's mouth for His people, and God still can move mountains for His people by us having faith in Him.

## **The Purpose of His Suffering**

**Joseph acknowledges the purpose of his suffering in verse 20c:** “To bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

Joseph now speaks a word about time, “...to bring it about”, or to bring it to pass. Joseph now speaks a word about transition, “...many people

should be kept alive as they are today.” Joseph now sees that the dreams weren’t about him, but they were about God positioning him to be a blessing to other people.

When we read Genesis 37 and look at how many times Joseph uses personal pronouns such as me, I and my, we see that he was full of self and pride. But God had a sovereign plan to break Joseph from Joseph.

- 1) God permitted him to be separated from his father, Jacob.
- 2) God permitted him to be attacked by his brothers.
- 3) God permitted him to be sold for 20 pieces of silver.
- 4) God permitted him to be lied on by Potiphar’s wife.
- 5) God permitted him to be forgotten in the prison for two years.

But, God had a bigger plan from heaven than what Joseph could see from earth.

Joseph thought it was all about him, but God was making sure that Joseph’s story would shape him into a child of God with some similarities to his son Jesus Christ:

- 1) God permitted Jesus to be separated from him.
- 2) God permitted Jesus to be attacked.
- 3) God permitted Jesus to be sold for 30 pieces of silver.
- 4) God permitted Jesus to be lied on by false witnesses. God permitted Jesus to be beaten all night long.
- 5) God permitted Jesus to be hung on a cross and die on a Friday.

But the same God that permitted it all is the same God that used it all for

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*"Knowing God and Making Him Known"*

his purpose to be fulfilled. Jesus had to endure Friday to get to Sunday. And, by God's power, Jesus rose early on Sunday morning so that you and I would understand that evil never wins, and that God can give us the strength to overcome odds, obstacles and opposition.

If we could talk to Joseph, he would testify that God brought him through it!!!!!!!

**God is always up to more than we can see from our view!**