




SOVEREIGNTY AND A SAVIOR



In this chapter you will ...

- (1) Clearly see Joseph as a “type” of Christ.
- (2) Delight in God’s sovereign rule in history.
- (3) Recognize the preserving care of God over His people.
- (4) Heed Joseph’s words to not follow him “in the place of God.” (Genesis 50:19)

Genesis 50:18-21 - The Preparation of a Redeemer



The narrative of Joseph’s journey is one of the most powerful pictures of the sovereignty of God in the Bible. From a spoiling father to jealous brothers, and from a falsely accusing employer to a forgetful cell-mate, God was directing the course of Joseph’s life for good and not for evil. In His Fatherly care He was preparing Joseph for his role as second-in-command over Egypt, and preparing the circumstances of famine that would bring Joseph’s family to Egypt to be preserved. Though many of Joseph’s choices are admirable, following the morals of Joseph is not the point of the story. God was preparing a savior, one who through suffering and slavery would be in a place as redeemer to his brothers. Joseph couldn’t always see God’s hand in his life, but he trusted God’s heart. And in the end, his own testimony declares the truth of God’s loving care over him and his family.



Sovereignty and Salvation

How will God reverse the curse? How will the Genesis 3:15 promise of the seed of the woman crushing the head of Satan come to pass? It doesn’t take too long for us to see that God’s ways are very different than man’s ways. God’s redemptive plan takes the twists and turns of a rushing river. But just because the story doesn’t unfold how we might write it, make no mistake - God is in control. And all things will come to pass at just the right time, in just the right way, according to His perfect plan. God is sovereign and that can be trusted!

Seeing with Faith



Joseph was *a* savior, but not *The* Savior. As we walk through the amazing adventures of Joseph we see the sovereign hand of God sending him to Egypt to redeem a people, just as the Father sent His Son to earth to redeem a people. And as sure as Joseph’s sufferings led to his throne, so Jesus’ sufferings to His. Joseph’s brothers were delivered by his sacrifice and authority, and through Jesus’ sacrifice many sons are brought to glory. We are the family rescued from famine. We see the providential hand of God in the Joseph story, the sovereign wisdom of God in Jesus’ incarnation, and we learn to trust that God is indeed working all things together for our good (Romans 8:28). He wastes nothing, but uses the places of the story we might edit out as the very thing that move other people’s story forward (2 Corinthians 1:3-7). Walk in faith my friend!

Story-Tellers Takeaways ...

- (1) Joseph points us to Jesus, the great Savior of the family of God.
- (2) History is moving somewhere ... right according to God’s sovereign plan.
- (3) Even in suffering, God exercises His preserving care over His people. You are not alone.
- (4) Joseph is not to be worshipped. He got to his position by the sovereign hand of God, not his own cunning. In fact for all of Joseph’s “character” the seed-line of the Redeemer did not go through him.

My Notes:

How to Read the Story ... the Big into the Small, and the Small into the Big ... all to Penetrate Our Hearts!

Feathers - You must have an understanding of the epic narrative of God's story ... this is Biblical Theology that guides our reading of the story.

Shaft - You must approach each text of Scripture honestly and openly ... this is Exposition of Scripture that shapes our understanding of the story.

Point - You must have a soft heart to worship the author of the story ... this is Gospel Centeredness that changes life.

For Discussion:

- (1) Where do you find the greatest delight in seeing God's hand in Joseph's life?
- (2) Discuss sovereignty and how you learn to trust God.
- (3) How might God right now be preparing you for a purpose greater than you?
- (4) Where do you feel mistreated, misunderstood, or forgotten? How do you need to think about those situations with Gospel thinking that trusts the sovereignty of God?