

THINK ON
THESE
THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

God Meant It For Good



THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

Gen. 50:17-21

- **Joseph's Conversation with His Brothers**
 - **Jacob Dies and They Fear Joseph**
 - **He Reassures Them**



THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

Gen. 50:17-21

- **The Events Leading Up to This**
 - **Sold Him Into Slavery** **Gen. 37:20-33**
 - **In Potiphar's House** **Gen. 37:36; 39:1**
 - **In Prison** **Gen. 39:7-20; 40**
 - **His Elevation** **Gen. 41:1-40**
 - **The Famine and the Reunion** **Gen. 42:2; 42-49**



WHAT WE CAN KNOW FROM THIS

- **God Had A Part in These Events**

- **The Dreams**

Gen. 37:5-8, 9-11

- **In Potiphar's House**

Gen. 37:28, 36; 39:2-6

- **In Prison**

Gen. 39:20-23

- **Interpreting Dreams**

Gen. 40:1-8; 41:14-16, 39



WHAT WE CAN KNOW FROM THIS

- **Joseph Recognized God's Hand**
 - **When Exalted** **Gen. 41:45, 50-52**
 - **When Reunited** **Gen. 45:3-8**
 - **After Jacob's Death** **Gen. 50:15-21**
 - **[The Psalmist** **Psalm 105:16-22]**



WHAT WE CAN KNOW FROM THIS

- **The Reality of Providence**
 - God Does Not Make Anyone Act



WHAT WE CAN KNOW FROM THIS

“The whole matter was as God had sent him, or had commanded him to go. And yet it was brought about as the result of a series of acts of the most wicked character; by the envy and the hatred of his brethren; by their guilt and hardness of heart in proposing at first to put him to death, and then in their arrangements for selling him to hopeless slavery; by their plan so to dispose of him that their father might never hear of him again, and that they might be troubled with him no more. God did not cause these acts. He did not command them; he did not approve of them. And yet, since they did occur, and since Joseph’s brethren were so wicked, God made use of these things to accomplish his own benevolent purposes, and to carry out his great designs.” [Barnes, Albert; *Notes on the Old Testament*, Psa. 105:17.]



WHAT WE CAN KNOW FROM THIS

"It is certainly Bible teaching that God 'calls' and 'chooses' some as He does not others, and that He does this in keeping with His eternal purpose. But the choice is never exclusively for the sake of the chosen; It is seen at last to be a point on which turns God's purpose for the many...The sale of Joseph by his jealous brothers, the bitter early experiences of Joseph in Egypt, and the heartache of Jacob over the loss of his favorite son, were directly caused by unworthy emotions, words, and actions, but God took them all into the sweep of His purpose for Israel.

"To trace every situation and every event directly to God's will is beyond Scripture. Events that were not of God's ordaining, since they sprang so clearly from evil causes, may not altogether escape the divine control by God of situations He did not directly will is another aspect of providence."

[Harper's Bible Dictionary on Providence]



WHAT WE CAN KNOW FROM THIS

- **The Reality of Providence**
 - **God Does Not Make Anyone Act**
 - **Man Always Has A Choice**
 - **Not Everything Will Be A Good Experience**



WHAT THIS SHOULD MEAN TO US

- **God Meant Good For His Family**
 - **To Save Their Lives**

Genesis 50:20; 45:5-7

- **It Was Accomplished!**

Genesis 46:1-7; 47:11, 12



WHAT THIS SHOULD MEAN TO US

- **God Meant Good For the Nation of Israel**
 - **The Promises to Abraham**
 - Genesis 12:2, 7; 13:14, 15; 15:13, 14**
 - **It Was Accomplished!**

Joshua 21:43



WHAT THIS SHOULD MEAN TO US

- **God Meant Good For All Mankind**
 - **Another Promise to Abraham**

Genesis 12:3; 22:12, 18

- **It Was Accomplished!**

Galatians 3:16; Acts 3:25, 26

