



# THE STORY OF THE WORLD



## Shocking Sin, Sexual Scandal, & the Savior

Genesis 37-50

### Main Idea

God is faithful to his faithless people; you can trust him in difficult circumstances as he works out his sovereign purposes and fulfills every one of his promises.

### Overview

#### **I. God is Faithful, So You Can Trust Him in in Difficult Circumstances**

- Joseph's brothers sale him into slavery (37:19-20)
- Joseph is bought by Potiphar, a high-ranking Egyptian official (37:36)
- Joseph is then betrayed by Potiphar's wife who tries to seduce him (39:6-10)
- Joseph is thrown into prison, the betrayed by the cupbearer (40:8, 23)
- Throughout all this, the text says four times "The Lord was with Joseph" (39:2, 3, 21, 23) and Joseph remains steadfast in trusting God

#### **II. God is Faithful, So You Can Trust His Sovereign Purposes**

- Pharaoh has a dream, and Joseph correctly interprets that dream – 7 years of feast will be followed by 7 years of famine (41:16, 25.36)
- Pharaoh then makes Joseph a commander in Egypt to help prepare for the famine (41:39-40)
- The famine is so bad it affects Joseph's family back in Canaan, and they come to Egypt to buy food (41:57, 42:1-5)
- Joseph recognizes his brothers, but they do not recognize him (42:6-9)
- After testing his brothers multiple times in various ways, Joseph reveals himself to his brothers (45:1-3)
- Joseph then reveals that it was not their sinful plan but God's sovereign purposes that sent him to Egypt (45:4-9; 50:20; cf. Psalm 105:16-19)

#### **III. God is Faithful, So You Can Trust His Promises**

- Eventually word makes it back to Jacob that his son Joseph is alive and well
- Not only that, but Joseph is the ruler of Egypt, and has the best land in Egypt waiting for Jacob and his brothers to come dwell in (46:1-4)
- God promises to bring Jacob out of the Land (the book of Exodus!)
- Just as Abraham blessed Isaac to be the chosen son, and Isaac blessed Jacob to be the chosen son through whom God would work, we now get Jacob's blessing of his sons
- We fully expect Jacob to bless, and God to choose Joseph as the next person in the line
- Genesis 49 records the blessings on Jacob's sons; though Jacob's blessing of Joseph is generous and significant, it's overshadowed by one of the other sons Gn. 49:8-12)
- From the line of Judah, will come no ordinary king, but a King who all peoples, not just Israel, worship and obey (v49:10)

- So God promises to bring about the Promised One of Genesis 3:15 through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and now Judah, which is quite stunning when you realize Judah's past sins (see Ch 38!)
- God promises to bring about the Promised One of Genesis 3:15 through the line of Judah – and he's faithful to do just that (Mt. 1; Rev. 5:5, 9-10)

### Questions

*Discussion Starter: Why is it dangerous and/or confusing to read the Bible as a bunch of random stories about various heroes we are to copy?*

1. Read Genesis 37:19-20, 29-34; 39:1-23; 40:1-8, 23. List all the ways you see Joseph being betrayed. List all the ways you see Joseph being faithless or disobedient.
2. Now discuss the significance that four times the text says, "The Lord was with Joseph" (39:2, 3, 21, 23). How does this correct a theology that says "obedience equals blessing – that is, blessing the way we define it, comfort and ease"?
3. Read 40:9-16, 25-32. How do you see Joseph's continued trust in God's character not his present circumstances? How does this challenge you?
4. Read 42:1-9; 45:1-9; 50:20. In what ways does the text show God's sovereignty?
5. Why is it important that we have a category in your mind for God being sovereign over and even the designer of evil, without being responsible, morally culpable, for that evil?
6. How does the story and life of Joseph point us to the greater Joseph Jesus?
7. Why it is important to realize God's sovereign purpose are not individual and isolated, but corporate and connected?
8. Read Genesis 49:8-10, Matthew 1:1-3, Revelation 5. How do these verses encourage you to trust in God's faithfulness and his promises?

*Accountability Question: Where are treating God like a Piñata to be whacked with your obedience rather than a Person to be worship through your obedience?*