

DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” ROM 8:28

GOD IS _____ = THAT MEANS HE IS IN CONTROL AND SUBORDINATE TO NONE

“God is the great mover and shaper of history... God is always behind the scenes (and sometimes more visibly in the scene), working *through* and *in* the circumstances of life **to accomplish his purposes for his people.**” Dr. Bill T. Arnold, *Encountering the Book of Genesis* (154-156)

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT [GENESIS 37-50]

“The LORD was with Joseph.” GEN 39:2, 3, 21, 23

Joseph’s narrative is all about the **SOVEREIGN** work of God in the lives of those who **SERVE** Him

Joseph’s narrative is a masterfully told story of **BETRAYAL, SUSPENSE, INTRIGUE,** and **FAITHFULNESS**

- Outrageous family _____

“When Joseph’s brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. ‘Here comes the dreamer!’ they said. ‘Come on, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, ‘A wild animal has eaten him.’ Then we’ll see what becomes of his dreams... Instead of hurting him, let’s sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother – our own flesh and blood!’” GEN 37:18-20, 27

- Relentless sexual _____

“Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, and Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. ‘Come and sleep with me,’ she demanded... She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible.” GEN 39:6-7, 10

- Unshakable personal _____

“You intended to harm me, **but God** intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” GEN 50:20

- Full on _____

“After burying Jacob... Joseph’s brother became fearful. ‘Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him,’ they said... But Joseph replied, ‘Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you... No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.’ So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.” GEN 50:14-15, 19, 21

HOW DID JOSEPH PERSEVERE?

“Perhaps more than any other Old Testament figure, Joseph is an example of holiness and faithfulness for all believers of every generation. He is an example for all of us who seek to be faithful to our calling before God, but who often find ourselves in trying circumstances.” Arnold (157)

1. He was _____ when tempted

[Pharaoh] “Can we find anyone else like this man [Joseph] so obviously filled with the spirit of God?” GEN 41:38

[Joseph] “I am a God-fearing man.” GEN 42:18

2. He was _____ when challenged

“The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did...” GEN 39:2

“Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, ‘God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief.’” GEN 41:52

3. He found _____ through faithfulness

“The LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love.” GEN 39:21

WE FIND GRACE IN ADVERSITY WHEN WE...

“Seek the **Kingdom of God** above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” MAT 6:33