

## **God Is at Work**

Joseph is a prime example of a transformed life. After years of Bible reading, sermons, and Sunday School lessons, I've discovered many people gloss over the fact that Joseph was not always a nice young man. He was the favored, pampered son of Jacob. He knew it, and flaunted his position in front of his brothers every chance he got. He enjoyed a great life, while they went off to the fields every day. Although this in no way justifies what his brothers did to him, it does help us see that if Joseph was to fulfill God's destiny for him, a change had to occur.

Joseph's family was the poster child for dysfunctional. There was favoritism, snitching, jealousy, hatred, murderous thoughts, deception, and lying, among a few of their undesirable qualities. However, Jacob, as a parent, got one thing right. He shared his faith and trust in God with his offspring.

A young man of about 17 years old, we find Joseph dumped into a pit by his brothers. At first he might have thought it was a joke meant to teach him a lesson. Surely they would come back for him. Then, after he overheard them bartering with the caravan and agreeing to sell him, Joseph went from spoiled boy to adulthood in a nanosecond.

As the story unfolds, we find Joseph auctioned off twice and ending up in a strange country with a different language

and culture. He had no one to turn to except his God. It wasn't as though he could text or e-mail Jacob to come and get him. Even in this desperate state, we don't find Joseph complaining about his plight. Instead the text describes him demonstrating his faith so openly that even the Egyptians took notice. Joseph was confident that God had a plan for his life, and he became keenly aware that God was with him at all times.

Did Joseph know that his circumstances would lead him to the fulfillment of his youthful dreams? Probably not. It was about 20 years from the time he was in the pit to the time he was reunited with his brothers. It was another two years before he saw his father, but Joseph refused to be angry, stayed true to his convictions, and remained faithful to his God.

There are many lessons we can learn from this story, but two stand out:

First, no matter what happens and how long it may take, God will always triumph over evil.

Second, if God could use this dysfunctional bunch to fulfill his purposes, he surely has a plan for each of us.

Whether things are going great, your life is in the pit, or you are experiencing your own particular version of Egypt, rest assured that everything that happens to you shows that God is not only with you, but little by little, he is at work transforming you into the person he meant you to be.

~ ***Beverly Tuitman***

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### **January 14th Readings**

GENESIS 37:1-38:30

1 CHRONICLES 2:3-6

1 CHRONICLES 2:8

GENESIS 39:1-23

### **January 15th Readings**

GENESIS 40:1-23  
GENESIS 35:28-29  
GENESIS 41:1-57

**January 16th Readings**

GENESIS 42:1-45:15

**January 17th Readings**

GENESIS 45:16-47:27

**January 18th Readings**

GENESIS 47:28-50:26

**January 19th Readings**

JOB 1:1-4:21

**January 20th Readings**

JOB 5:1-7:21