

G R O W T H N O T E S

MESSAGE SERIES:

Lessons On Refinement From The Life Of Joseph – Part 7b

***Scripture:* Jeremiah 29:11 & Genesis 41:28-32**

Today's Message:

“Is God Still Good When Life Is Not?”

***Jeremiah 29:11 NLT:* 11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.**

***Message Bible:* 11 I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out - plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.**

Genesis 41

NLT: ²⁸ “This will happen just as I have described it, for God has revealed to Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do.

²⁹ The next seven years will be a period of great prosperity throughout the land of Egypt.

³⁰ But afterward there will be seven years of famine so great that all the prosperity will be forgotten in Egypt. Famine will destroy the land.

³¹ This famine will be so severe that even the memory of the good years will be erased.

³² As for having two similar dreams, it means that these events have been decreed by God, and he will soon make them happen.

Message Bible: **28** "The meaning is what I said earlier: God is letting Pharaoh in on what he is going to do.

29 Seven years of plenty are on their way throughout Egypt.

30 But on their heels will come seven years of famine, leaving no trace of the Egyptian plenty. As the country is emptied by famine,

31 there won't be even a scrap left of the previous plenty - the famine will be total.

32 The fact that Pharaoh dreamed the same dream twice emphasizes God's determination to do this and do it soon.

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SERIES SUMMARY

In the book of Genesis, from the life of Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel, we see invaluable lessons on how we can grow through and not just go through what life throws at us by understanding that God can use every situation for our good.

The trajectory of Joseph's life led to him being **rejected, abandoned, despised, enslavement, entrapment, and imprisonment.** The amazing thing is that Joseph never gave up! Joseph's life could be summarized in one sentence—"In God's hands intended evil becomes eventual good."

This series of messages focusses on lessons that we learn from the life of Joseph and how he flourished in the midst of everything that he went through and how we can do the same.

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- *The goodness of God is a recurring theme throughout Scripture...*

Psalm 100:5: “...For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations;

- *But—is God still good when life is not?*
- *What happens if something bad takes place?*
- *What if things don’t go our way—Is God still good?*
- *We bargain with God—‘God if you so and so, I promise to do such and such’—but has God ever agreed to abide by that?*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In today’s Scripture from Genesis, Joseph is struggling with the issue of ‘theodicy’—meaning the government of God. |
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- **Because—if God is all good—and if God is all powerful—then why does evil exist?**

Genesis 41 Message Bible: **30** But on their heels will come seven years of famine, leaving no trace of the Egyptian plenty. As the country is emptied by famine, **31** there won't be even a scrap left of the previous plenty - the famine will be total.

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FOUR LESSONS FROM JOSEPH'S LIFE ON TRUSTING GOD WHEN LIFE DOES NOT MAKE SENSE

1.LESSON #1—God can do no wrong.

Job 34, Verse 10, says God can never do wrong...”

Daniel, chapter 5, verse 21, says, “The most high God rules over the kingdom of humankind—and sets over it whosoever He wills...”

Job, Chapter 34, Verse 10—“Says God can never do wrong;”

James 1:13, Says—God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else either. God is impervious to evil and puts evil in no one's way.

Daniel, chapter 5, verse 21, says, “The most high God rules over the kingdom of humankind—and sets over it whosoever He wills;

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2.LESSON #2—Evil exists in the world because God permits it.

In Mark, Chapter 5, Verse 12, when demons begged Jesus to send them into a heard of pigs, the text says He gave them permission;

In Ezekiel, Chapter 20, Verse 26, regarding the rebellious, God said, “I let them become defiled that

I might fill them with horror so they would know that I am the Lord;

In Exodus, chapter 21, verse 13, the Law speaks of the consequence of actually killing a person—and says if the person did not do it intentionally—but God lets it happen—then that person gets to flee to a place that I will designate;

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3. LESSON #3—God promises to render beauty out of ALL things—BUT—but not out of EACH thing—because the isolated events of our lives may be evil—but the ultimate culmination will be good.

Romans 8:28: “For we know in all things God works together for the good of those that love God and are called according to God’s purpose.”

4. So—What Do I Do In The Meantime? How Do I Handle Life?

T R U S T G O D !

BECAUSE:

- ***God PERMITS***
- ***God PROMISES***
- ***And God PURPOSES***

***So—Hold onto to God—and hold onto God's
promises!***