**Proverbs 11:3 (ESV)** - "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them".

**Proverbs 28:6 (ESV)** - "Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways".

**Genesis 37:23-25a (NIV)** - "So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe – the ornate robe he was wearing – and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it. As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead".

**Genesis 42:21 (NIV)** – They said to one another, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us".

**Genesis 37:28 (NIV)** – "So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt".

Genesis 39:6-10 (NIV) – "So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, 'Come to bed with me!' But he refused. 'With me in charge', he told her, 'my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?' And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her".

**Psalm 105:17-19 (NIV)** – "And He sent a man before them – Joseph, sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true".

"Why do bad things happen to good people? That only happened once, and He volunteered" – *R.C. Sproul* 

**Genesis 39:20b-23 (NIV)** – "But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; He showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did".

**Genesis 41:15-16 (NIV)** – Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it". "I cannot do it", Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires".

**Genesis 50:19-21 (NIV)** – But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children". And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

#### "Enduring Word Commentary"

- If Joseph's brothers never sold him to the Midianites, then Joseph would never have gone to Egypt.
- · If Joseph never went to Egypt, he would never have been sold to Potiphar.
- · If Joseph was never sold to Potiphar, Potiphar's wife would never have falsely accused him of rape.
- If Potiphar's wife never falsely accused Joseph of rape, then Joseph would never have been put in prison.
- If Joseph was never put in prison, he would have never met the baker and butler of Pharaoh.
- · If Joseph never met the baker and butler of Pharaoh, he would have never interpreted their dreams.
- · If Joseph never interpreted their dreams, he would have never interpreted Pharaoh's dream.
- · If Joseph never interpreted Pharaoh's dream, he never would have become prime minister, second in Egypt only to Pharaoh.
- If Joseph never became prime minister, he never would have wisely prepared for the terrible famine to come.
- If Joseph never wisely prepared for the terrible famine, then his family back in Canaan would have died in the famine.
- · If Joseph's family back in Canaan died in the famine, then the Messiah could not have come from a dead family.
- · If the Messiah did not come forth, then Jesus never came.
- · If Jesus never came, then we are all dead in our sins and without hope in this world.

**Hebrews 11:22 (NIV)** – "By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones".

"The Holy Spirit in this chapter selects out of good men's lives the most brilliant instances of their faith. I should hardly have expected that He would have mentioned the dying scene of Joseph's life as the most illustrious proof of his faith in God. Does not this tell us, dear brethren and sisters, that we are very poor judges of what God will most delight in?" – *Charles Spurgeon* 

**Genesis 50:24-25 (NIV)** – Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land He promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob". And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place".

Acts 1:8-11 (NIV) — "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."