

BIB 100 Lecture Seven

Gen 39: 2,-5; 21-22, 40-45: Fame, Wealth, and Prosperity

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1. Historical Sense

1) Sitz-im-leben

A. The man: One of the most prosperous men in the Bible. Hard to find his defects. He was recognized, trusted, and promoted to leadership position and became a source of blessing to God's chosen people.

B. History of Israel

2) Literary Genre: Narrative

3) Context : Importance of canonical context. Joseph narrative in Genesis. Provides context of Exodus.

2. Theological meaning

1) God's sovereignty

A. Material Blessing and Believers' life

B. Joseph's life: Suffering and exaltation

C. The history of Israel = Salvation history

2) Theology of suffering

A. Believers' suffering: Purpose

B. Response to suffering: Perseverance

3) Theology of material blessing

A. Is it evil?

B. Shall we seek it?

3. Application: Joseph the man and ME

Here our primary focus is on how we shall live a prosperous life.

1) Visionary

A GREAT Vision worthy for God's children (Gen 37:5-10) → Strength that kept Joseph from falling to despair throughout his suffering.

What kind of vision do you have? If not, visualize your vision now? What you dream will come true.

2) A man of faith → Perseverance

Dreams → Jealousy and betrayal of the brothers → Faced the crisis of death and sold to slavery at the age of 17 (until 30): 13 years of despair → Wrongly accused and jailed → Broken promise of Pharaoh's cup-bearer.

Can we still believe in God's providence while going through such disasters?

3) God-conscious man, not man-conscious

A. Faithfulness to everything he was entrusted

B. Devoutness

No compromise with sin (Gen 39:7-10): Joseph knew that God is holy and hates sin.

C. Humility: glorify God for his gifts (Gen 41:16): Joseph knew that God is the source of all his gifts.

D. Mercy

No vengeance: true victory (Gen 45:7-8): Joseph knew that God is the one who works through the believers' lives, whether good or bad. Joseph was a great man who could see God's providence behind the disasters.