

## **GOD RULES OVER ALL** (Genesis 50:15-21)

...Often it seems like our world is out of control. We have wars and killings of all kinds. Terrible storms hit and take the lives of hundreds. Fear seems to be the order of the day. In all of this, we might wonder, "Who is in charge around here?" "Is there anyone?"

...The Bible gives us the answer. God is King, and He reigns over all, even in our fallen sinful world. He governs with absolute sovereignty. Be encouraged. Don't lose heart.

...Joseph understood God's complete control of all things, of even the wrong that is done to the innocent. He knew that God takes those wrongs done to His own people and brings about good.

## **TWO OBSERVATIONS REGARDING GOD'S SOVEREIGN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS THAT SHOULD ENCOURAGE US.**

...Come to know the Lord God as Joseph did. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. He is Lord over all.

### **I. Joseph's Response To His Brothers Reveals His Conviction Of God's Sovereign Control Over All.**

- A. Now that their father, Jacob, was dead, the brothers were fearful that Joseph would harm them for what they did to him years earlier. (vv15-18)
  - 1. The brothers sense of guilt was still so strong that they could not really believe he had forgiven them. They had hated him, and sold him for sordid personal gain into slavery.
  - 2. This is the first time the Bible tells that they asked to be forgiven of their sins. (v17)
  - 3. Joseph's immediate response was to weep. Wow! (v. 17) This touched him deeply.
  - 4. The brothers went further coming before him with an offer to become his slaves.(v18)  
...they had sent him into slavery, and now they volunteered to be slaves themselves.  
...Sincere confession of sin against someone always includes restitution.
- B. Joseph responded to them by assuring them of his full forgiveness.
  - 1. What they did was evil, and they were still responsible for it, but God had ordained it for good. "You meant to harm me, but God intended it for GOOD." (v. 20)  
...this is one of the clearest statements of God's sovereignty anywhere in Scripture.
  - 2. "Joseph's response serves as an important reminder that while the evil of men may appear to be to the disadvantage of the saints, the purposes and plans of God will ultimately prevail." (Davis)
  - 3. How could Joseph forgive them? He knew two particular things about God:
    - a. He knew God was Sovereign. That nothing ever comes into the life of any of His children that He has not approved first, there are no accidents.
    - b. He knew that God was good. Therefore, the things that come into our lives are for our benefit and for the benefit of others and not for our harm!  
...This sounds like Paul...Romans 8:28...this is a most wonderful verse.
      - (1) God is working for the GOOD of those who love Him.
      - (2) This teaches that "ALL things" are controlled by God...even evil.
      - (3) We can KNOW this and live by its truth. (like Joseph did)
- C. The Crucifixion of Jesus teaches us that the greatest evil ever done in all history produced the greatest good imaginable...the salvation of a vast number of people.

### **II. Joseph's World, As Ours, Is Under The Sovereign Control Of God.**

- A. God controls all the lifeless matter of our universe.  
...seen during the creation week, the flood, the plagues of Egypt, Jesus calming the storm.  
...all of the lifeless creation performs His will and fulfills His sovereign pleasure.
- B. God governs all of the creatures of the animal world. He made them. The curse affected them.  
...He brought them to Adam, and to Noah. Plagues in Egypt, Ravens feed Elijah, Jonah, the disciple's great catch of fish, and Peter caught the fish with the coin to pay the taxes...
- C. God's rulership extends over the world of mankind. (Daniel 4:34-35) Neb's great confession...
  - 1. Man does not rule, God does. Proverbs 16:9 "A man...plans his way, but the Lord..."
  - 2. The actions of men, whether good or bad, are all governed by God. (Joseph) (Jesus)

## **LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:**