

Genesis 37 - Trusting God's Quiet Providence

Big Idea: You can trust in the quiet providence of God to accomplish his plans and advance his purposes even through hardship.

Outline

1. **A Smoldering Fire**
2. **A Roaring Blaze**

A Smoldering Fire

Verse 1, **Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan.**

V. 2 - Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.

V. 3-4 - [3] Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

V. 8 - [8] His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

A Roaring Blaze

K. A. Matthews **says**, "*Since the 'man' intercepted Joseph, overheard the private conversations of the brothers, and correctly directed Joseph to discover his brothers at Dothan, the passage conveys the theological orientation of the narrative as a whole. Whether the 'man' is an angel or a human, the unseen hand of the Lord is apparent here. He is directing Joseph to discover his brothers so that the divine plan for the salvation of Jacob and many peoples (50:20) might be realized, although it meant a troubling time for the house of Jacob.*"

[18] They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. [19] They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. [20] Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams."

[25] Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.

verse 32, **"This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not."**

How Do We Need to Respond?

1. Guard our Words and Our Unity
2. Marvel at God's Meticulous Providence
 - a. *Iain Duguid: "Even though the Lord's name is not mentioned in the passage, that doesn't mean that he is not active. Throughout the Joseph narrative, God is visible primarily through his acts of providence, working all of the details of the story together to bring about his own purposes in the lives of each of the characters."*
3. Trust God With Your Story
 - a. *Iain Duguid: "None of the circumstances of their lives were outside God's sovereign control for a microsecond. He knew what would happen and how he would use every scrap of pain, suffering, and dysfunction to shape the individual lives of the members of this family into something noble and great, and thus accomplish his own redemptive purposes, both for this family and, through them, the entire world... Yet, God's redemptive pathways do not lead us around conflict, abuse, divorce, and broken families, or even away from the expression and outworking of our own sinful natures. Instead, his perfect plan for our lives often takes us right through the eye of the storm, where our dysfunction and sin, along with that of our families and friends, is on full and tragic display, so that the gospel of his powerful grace and sovereign mercy can be equally powerfully on display."*