

GOD IN THIS MOMENT

TOO MUCH FORTUITOUS SERENDIPITY to just be COINCIDENTAL
HAPPENSTANCE

7 Evidences

1) Trickery/Deception/Concealed Identity/Using Garments

Jacob and Isaac (27) Laban and Jacob (29)

Tamar and Judah (38) Joseph and brothers (42)

2) Younger Receives Preference/Rules Over Older

Jacob over Esau (27) Rachel over Leah (29)

Joseph over Brothers (37) Perez over Zerah (38, 46, Ruth 4)

Ephraim over Manasseh (48)

3) Coats/Royal Garments

Jacob's Coat of Colors (37) Potiphar's Wife's Coat (39)

Pharaoh's Royal Robes (41)

4) Signet Ring/Seal

Tamar's proof of Judah's Guilt (37)

Pharaoh's sign of Joseph's Authority (41)

5) Two Sons

Judah loses Er and Onan (38) Judah gains Perez and Zerah (38)

Joseph gains Ephraim and Manasseh (41)

6) Women's Names

POTIPHAR's Wife (39) POTIPHERA's Daughter (41)

7) Sevens

7 YEARS for LEAH (29) 7 YEARS for RACHEL (29)

7 Years of FEAST (41) 7 YEARS of FAMINE (41)

Takeaways:

1) Joseph's life and Judah's life are presented in stark contrast: **Judah** marries a CANAANITE, gives his son to a Canaanite and is obviously affected by the pagan culture. He is a lying, self-righteous, egotistical adulterer who wanted to kill his little brother and his daughter-in-law.

Joseph is proud of his favored son status and brash in telling his family about his dreams.

2) Although **Judah** was a wicked man, he eventually confesses his personal unrighteousness with Tamar (38:26), his and his brothers' guilt with **Joseph** (42:21), and he offers his own life in exchange for his father's new favorite son, little brother Benjamin (44:16-32).

Although Joseph may have started out as a "spoiled brat," his responsibility before God (39:9) and God's faithfulness are what motivate his behavior (49:4-8, 50:15-26).

3) Even though **Joseph** is an example of faithfulness, his life is not always "prosperous." God needed to remove ALL of the pride from his heart in order to put him in the 2nd highest position of authority in the world. He is able to marry into the elite level of pagan Egypt's high society and remain faithful to YHWH.

What might **Joseph** have been thinking while he was in the bottom of the well or in chains on his way to Egypt or unjustly in prison because of Potiphar's wife?

Joseph appears to be the "principal actor" but is not the main character. This story is about **God's** plan to use faithful, as well as unfaithful people. He will complete His purpose and His promise, whether or not we cooperate. We have the privilege of voluntarily cooperating with Him. If we do, we will be rewarded. But it probably will not be easy. We may not even see the reward in our lifetime. If we do not cooperate, **God** will still accomplish His plan and fulfill His promise.

Life Application Questions – May 3, 2026

Genesis 50:20-21 *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

DISCOVER

1. What might Joseph have been thinking while he was at the bottom of the well? How do you see growth in Joseph as the result of his times in the well and prison? How have hard times molded you? Knowing that God uses trials to build our character and life stories, how would you respond to someone who said “that’s not fair”?
2. Does man’s disobedience negate God’s promises? Give examples from scripture where God accomplished His purposes despite the resistance of man or the devil.

EXPLORE

1. Read Genesis 50:20-21 again. In what specific ways did God use Joseph’s trials and suffering for Joseph’s own personal good? For his family? For the Jews?
2. Read Genesis 38:12-19 and 39:6-18. Compare and contrast the behavior of Judah and Joseph. For what reasons would many have righteously judged Judah for his sins? Why would many have given up on Judah at this point? Read Genesis 44:33. What changed in Judah? What parallels do you see in Judah’s redemptive story and Jesus?
3. Compile a list of the stark contrasts between the lives of Judah and Joseph. Discuss why faithfulness does not always produce God’s favor.
4. What convinces you that God was orchestrating a big picture story and not making do with random events? What is the big picture story that permeates the life of Joseph? How do you see God’s sovereign providence working through human suffering, betrayal, and brokenness in the world today? What greater deliverance does God have for His children beyond surviving chaos in the here and now?
5. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-7. What was the big picture that David had in mind when his men were convinced they should kill Saul? Describe the human tendency to focus on the immediate as opposed to staying on mission. What practices can we put in place to stay on a God ordained mission?

EXPERIENCE

1. Who was the main character in the story of Joseph, God or Joseph? Give evidence for your response. Describe someone that makes their life story about God and not themselves.
2. What holds you back from making your life story a better reflection of God’s love?
3. How would you tell the story of God’s love despite evil and suffering?

PRAY

Abba Father, we make life so much about our immediate circumstances and personal needs. With trembling and fear, we ask You to hold us accountable for living out the story of the redemptive love of Jesus by serving our families, church, and neighbors. We want Your love story to overflow in a manner that draws in those You love, because You love all of Your created ones. We know this can’t be done by our strength, but only by Your will and good pleasure. Amen.