

REMOVING THE DREAMER

INTRO: -While this history of Joseph sold into Egypt is well known, we pay close to several different aspects of this story.

- Where is God in these events? Is God aware? Does he care? You may have some very painful circumstances in your life.
- Though we are tossed about in the waves and storms of life, God is always there and has a purpose he is working for our good.

I. **THE SCHEME:**

- A. All the brothers plot to get Joseph out of the way.
 1. Hatred had grown from disgust to envy and finally to murder: "Let us slay him."
 2. Reuben the oldest, already in trouble with his father, suggests putting the lad into a pit.
 3. Judah does not want to get his hands dirty with blood comes with the idea of selling the lad to the Midianites.
 4. The brethren are content: Joseph the dreamer is gone!
- B. Why this despicable act?
 1. They hate him because he is their righteous brother. He is peculiar.
 2. His righteousness condemns their wicked behavior.
 3. But you will notice that it is especially his dreams: they call him the "Dreamer".
 4. They desire it make it impossible for his dreams to be realized.
- C. The truth in this passage:
 1. The chief purpose of the power of darkness is to make it impossible for God's plan to be realized.
 2. This was God's revelation in the dream. It is Satan who schemes with Joseph's brothers to stop God's work.
 3. Examples abound in Scripture of these wicked schemes: Paradise, Egypt, enemies in Canaan, the cross of Christ.
 4. Did the devil perhaps think that this son of Jacob was the promised Seed?

II. **GOD'S SOVEREIGN CONTROL OF ALL EVENTS:**

- A. God's purposes:
 1. God has an eternal plan and purpose for all things: his glory and the salvation of his people!
 2. That plan is reached NOT IN SPITE OF the efforts and schemes of the wicked: dualism.
 3. Rather God sovereignly reaches his purposes through the schemes of wicked people and the devil.
 4. See the truth that God works all things for good to them that love him, who are the called accord. to his purposes.
 5. The wicked with their schemes accomplish their evil work; but in doing so, they must always serve God's purposes.
 6. In Essentials we call this part of God's providence, government.
- B. God's sovereign control for Joseph's brothers:
 1. God's purpose was that the covenant people must go to Egypt.
 2. The promised land of Canaan must be understood as a gift given and prepared for his people by God's mighty hand.
 3. It must become evident that only by faith can they inherit the promise: going down into Egypt & delivered serves this.
 4. The church could not remain in the midst of the wicked people of Canaan: fellowship. Must be locked up awhile.
- C. God's sovereign ways with Jacob:
 1. Jacob the doting father was not satisfied with godly Leah. He had to have gorgeous Rachel.
 2. After many years, Rachel has given Jacob a son. This one he desires to be the first-born son for wrong reasons
 3. He clothes Joseph with the expensive coat of many colors, declaring this son to be above the rest.
 4. God will elevate and exalt Joseph. But it will be the Lord's work, not Jacob's!
 5. While Joseph will be exalted to a high position, he will not be the first-born. Judah will be that & Christ will come.
- D. God's sovereign purposes with Joseph.
 1. The revelation was given: God will exalt Joseph to a great position.
 2. But patience and trust are needed: exaltation comes only in the way of great suffering.
 3. Think of Moses, David, and Christ. And shall we receive the crown in any other way than by sufferings for Christ?

III. **THE RIGHTEOUS LAD IS SOLD**

- A. The type:
 1. Joseph in love comes to his brethren, but they do not want him.
 2. In cruelty, one of his own sells him for twenty pieces of silver.
 3. Yet in God's providence, this all works for his brethren's salvation.
 4. Out of Egypt God will call his sons.
- B. The great antitype:
 1. Jesus comes to his own, and his own received him not (John 1:11).
 2. Jesus is sold by one of his own for 30 pieces of silver.
 3. Yet Jesus' betrayal, suffering, and death works for us our eternal redemption and happiness.
 4. Out of Egypt God called his Son when young, and calls us his adopted sons out of the Egypt of our sins.
- C. God's providence.
 1. In providence, God sent the dream to Joseph which excited their hatred for him.
 2. In providence, Jacob sends his son Joseph to his evil brothers.
 3. In providence, there is a man who knows that the brothers have moved to Dothan.
 4. In providence, Dothan is near to where the trade routes are located.
 5. In providence, God has a group of Midianites come along at the right time who purchase Joseph.
 6. In providence, Joseph does not die on the way but is taken to Egypt and made a slave in Potipher's house.
 7. God's hand was in this for good (Ps.105:17, Gen. 50:20). The efforts to kill the dream ensure that it will take place!
 8. Do you wonder at times, "Where is God in my life?" Be assured of God's invisible hand in all things for good.