

Genesis 42 Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - God's Faithful Word.

Genesis 42:6-9

"Now Joseph was the ruler over the land; he was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him with their faces to the ground" (Gen. 42:6, 9). As his brothers prostrated themselves before him, Joseph remembered his dreams from twenty years earlier (Gen. 37:5-11), and realized God's Word had been precisely fulfilled. Christian, "God is watching over His Word to perform it" (Jer. 1:12), and "not one of His promises has ever failed" (Josh. 21:45, 23:14). Read Psa. 119:89

☐ Tuesday - Tough Love.

Genesis 42:7, 21

"When Joseph saw his brothers he recognized them, but he disguised himself to them and spoke to them harshly." (Gen. 42:7). His brothers responded, "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us" (Gen. 42:21). Joseph loved his brothers despite their cruelties to him (Gen. 37:23-28), yet by his harsh words he sought to bring them into a right state of heart. And he succeeded in it, though the process was more painful to him than to them. Likewise, God, through His great love, frequently afflicts us to bring us to repentance and heal us of many evils (Spurgeon). Therefore, "do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord ... for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines" (Heb. 12:5-6). Read Hebrews 12:5-11

☐ Wednesday - Sovereignty, Not Karma.

Genesis 42:9-17

Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers (Gen. 37:2, 12-14), and they threw him into a pit (Gen. 37:24). Twenty years later, Jacob sent Joseph's brothers to Egypt, and Joseph accused them of being spies (Gen. 42:9) and threw them in jail (Gen. 42:17). Today, people say, "What goes around, comes around", or "They got what's comin' to them", or "They had bad karma". But the truth is that God's sovereignty rules over all (Psa. 103:19) and *He causes all things* (even trials) to work together for our good and His glory - which is a promise that only applies to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. Is that a description of you? Read Gen. 50:20, Rom. 8:28

☐ Thursday - Sinners Made Saints.

Genesis 42:21

The character of the sons of Jacob (Israel) was not good. They were murderers (Gen. 34:25-26), liars (Gen. 34:13-16, 37:31-33), thieves (Gen. 34:27-29), fornicators (Gen. 35:22, 38:15-18), and downright evil people (Gen. 37:18-28). How could they be God's chosen people? And yet we read that "God has chosen the *foolish* things of the world to shame the wise, and the *weak* things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the *base* things of the world and the *despised* God has chosen ... so that no man may boast before God" (1 Cor. 1:27-29). God doesn't start with good people. He starts with sinners and makes them saints, by changing them from the inside out. But the one who is not being radically changed, does not belong to Him. Read 1 Cor. 5:17

☐ Friday - The Mysteries of God's Will.

Genesis 42 - Exodus 15

In Scripture, at least three reasons why God sent Israel to Egypt are revealed: [1] To reform the poor character of His people (Gen. 42:21); [2] to greatly multiply Israel before conquering the promised land (Ex. 1:7); and [3] to execute judgement on Egypt's false gods by ten miraculous plagues, (Ex. 12:12), and make His power known as the only true God (Ex. 9:14-16). God does nothing arbitrarily or without purpose. We may not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future. Read Job 42:2