

Now Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other sons... and he made an ornate robe for him.

Genesis 37:3 (NIV)

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.”

“I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”

Genesis 41:15-16 (NIV)

Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you.

You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.

Genesis 41:39-40 (NIV)

1. SOMETIMES WE ENCOUNTER ADVERSITY IN OUR LIVES.

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan.

But they saw him from a distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

“Here comes that dreamer,” they said to each other.

“Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him.”

Genesis 37:17-20 (NIV)

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they will help us develop endurance.

And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

And this hope will not lead us to disappointment.

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Jeremiah 2:13 (NIV)

Why has Israel become a slave?

Jeremiah 2:14 (NLT)

2. SOMETIMES WE CREATE ADVERSITY IN OUR LIVES.

Now Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other sons...

Genesis 37:3 (NIV)

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

When his brothers saw that their father loved him (Joseph) more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Genesis 37:4 (NIV)

His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

Genesis 37:8 (NIV)

What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?” His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Genesis 37:10-11 (NIV)

Does this need to be said?

Does this need to be said now?

Does this need to be said by me?

3. GOD ALWAYS USES THE ADVERSITY IN OUR LIVES.

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.”

Genesis 45:1-5 (NIV)

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide food for you and your children.”

And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Genesis 50:20-21 (NIV)