

Pastor Brad Howard - February 19th, 2023
Joseph and His Brothers

Psalms 107:1-2 NIV

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story— those he redeemed from the hand of the foe.

ga'al - to redeem, that is, to be the next of kin (and as such to buy back a relative's property, marry his widow, etc.): - avenger, protector, deliverer, family guardian.

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:12 NLT

One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. "Listen to this dream," he said. "We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!" His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them.

Genesis 37:5-8 NLT

So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. ...

Genesis 37:23-24 NLT

Meanwhile, the Midianite traders arrived in Egypt, where they sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Potiphar was captain of the palace guard.

Genesis 37:36 NLT

1. YOU CAN SURVIVE ADVERSITY WITHOUT BECOMING BITTER.

"A faith that cannot be tested is a faith that cannot be trusted." Adrian Rogers

Hebrews 12:14-15 NIV

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

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THREE BLESSINGS OF A TEST

• **A TEST REVEALS OUR CHARACTER.**

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.
James 1:2 NLT

• **A TEST DEVELOPS OUR ENDURANCE.**

For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.
James 1:3-4 NLT

• **A TEST BUILDS OUR FAITH.**

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone.
James 1:5-6a NLT

2. YOU CAN TRUST GOD WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING EVERYTHING.

“The purpose of testing is not because God wants to learn something new about you, but because He wants you to learn something true about Him.”

- Joseph learned that a Dream from God is far more prevailing than the deepest pit, the deadliest lie, the darkest prison, and the worst of friends. He learned that despite so many people trying to destroy him, God was for him.

- You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.
Genesis 50:20 NLT

- Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to Me again, strengthen your brothers.”
Luke 22:31-32 NLT