

## **Suffering When You Did Nothing Wrong**

### **Gracious in the Sight of God – Enduring Unjust Suffering**

#### **1st Peter 2:19 - 23**

**19** For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

**20** For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

**21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

**22** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

**23** When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

### **Joseph's Birth**

#### **Genesis 30:22 – 24**

**22** Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

**23** She conceived and bore a son and said, “God has taken away my reproach.”

**24** And she called his name Joseph, saying, “May the LORD add to me another son!”

### **Immediately After he is Born**

#### **Genesis 30:25 – 26**

**25** As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country.

**26** Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the service that I have given you.”

### **“The Son of his Old Age”**

**Genesis 37:3** Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.

### **In his Early Adolescence - His Mother Dies While Birthing His Last Brother**

#### **Genesis 35:16 – 20**

**16** Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor.

**17** And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, “Do not fear, for you have another son.”

**18** And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin.

**19** So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem),

**20** and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day.

- Ben-oni, means “the son of my sorrow”
  - Benjamin, means “the son of my right hand”



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### **At Seventeen - Sold Into Slavery by his own Brothers**

#### **Genesis 37:27 - 28**

**27** Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him.

**28** Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

### **In His Twenties - Falsely Accused of Raping his Master's Wife**

#### **Genesis 39:7 - 9**

**7** And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, “Lie with me.”

**8** But he refused and said to his master's wife, “Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.

**9** He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”

- The Pharaoh referred to (**Gen 37:36**) was probably Ammenemes II (1929-1895 B.C.),
  - and the capital of Egypt during this period (the twelfth dynasty) was Memphis.
- Potiphar, as Pharaoh's bodyguard captain, would have been in charge of the king's executioners who carried out the capital sentences ordered by Pharaoh.
  - “Potiphar” means “he whom Ra [the sun-god] has given.”

### **More Years Pass - Throw into Prison and Forgotten**

#### **Psalm 105:17 - 19**

**17** he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

**18** His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron;

**19** until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.

#### **Genesis 39:22**

**22** And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.

### **At thirty (thirteen years have passed) – And Pharaoh Promotes Him**

#### **Genesis 41:51 - 52**

**51** Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house.”

**52** The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

### **Joseph will live to 110 – Forgetting his Hardships and Fruitful**

**Genesis 50:22** So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years.

- At 39 years old, Joseph will be reunited with his father, Israel, and brother Benjamin
- At 56 years old, Joseph will echo to his brothers what had become his life's refrain:
  - “...you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” (Gen 50:20)
- Joseph will live another 54 years and live long enough to see his great grandchildren.

