

18. Does God Use Bad for Good Today?

When we look in the Bible, we can find some verses that indicate God uses bad for good. These are a couple of those Bible verses.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD works out everything to its proper end— even the wicked for a day of disaster.

But the story of Joseph gives a detailed example (**Scripture 1 – Story of Joseph – Genesis 47-50**).

Jacob favored Joseph, his son from Rachel. So much that it caused his other sons to hate Joseph. They hated him so much that they wanted to kill him. But ended up selling him as a slave.

Certainly, that looked like a bad thing for Joseph. But God had a plan. God gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams. Joseph ended up interpreting a dream that the Pharaoh had. And was able to warn the Pharaoh of a horrible famine coming in seven years.

The Egyptians were able to prepare for this horrible famine. The Pharaoh was so grateful for Joseph's warning that he put Joseph in charge.

The famine did happen just as Joseph said and Egypt was ready for it. They stored up grain and food for the last 7 good years. People from all over had to go to Egypt for help because of the famine. This included Joseph's brothers. They also went to the Pharaoh for help, not realizing the Pharaoh was their brother who they sold to slavery.

But Joseph eventually ending up revealing himself to his brothers and father. His brothers were very afraid Joseph would seek revenge on them. Joseph was in charge and could have done anything he wanted to them.

They were surprised when Joseph told them it was all part of God's plan. And if they hadn't sold him to slavery, they would have died from the famine. God certainly used their bad for good.

The greatest example of God using bad for good was, of course, Jesus dying on the cross and taking on all sins upon himself. That was BAD, very bad. But God used it for GOOD, very good. We now have a savior and that wonderful Holy Spirit.

But does God use bad for good today? Yes he does. Yes indeed. We all have a story, here's mine:

My Story

I didn't come to know God until my early 40's. Life was hard early on and just surviving each day was my main focus. For the most part, I was the kid that got picked on. It was normal for me. So, when someone said or did something mean, I'd just roll with it. Didn't let it upset me. But I always remembered that little mean girl calling me stupid because I didn't even know who God is. That particular one upset me badly. I ran and found a place to cry my heart out. She probably meant to cause harm. But instead, actually planted a seed in my heart to long to know God. That longing stuck with me for decades until I was finally ready to know and follow Jesus.

Little Mean Girl

**Little mean girl said, "you're so stupid.
You don't even know who God is".
Oh how I cried. Little mean girl was right.
I don't know God or who he is.**

**You even use little mean girls. To plant a seed.
To give a longing. To cause to think.**

**It started then. Young and naïve.
So many years to go, before I would know.
To know who God really is.
And how good it is to know him.**

**You even use little mean girls. To plant a seed.
To give a longing. To cause to think.**

**Now I'm old. Body is failing.
But you are so strong in me.
Since that little mean girl planted the seed.**

jenaministries – Part 1 Knowing God

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Scripture 1. Story of Joseph

Joseph Sold as a Slave Genesis 37:25-28

As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams Genesis 41:25-31

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine. "It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe.

Pharaoh put Joseph in Charge Genesis 41:39-40

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "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."

Joseph Told Brothers God Used for Good Genesis 50:18-20

His (Joseph's) brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? **You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.**