

THE TRAGEDIES, TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS OF JOSEPH

- A. Although they are very unpleasant, tragedies and trials are a part of life.
- B. If we live long enough, we all will face difficulties.
- C. Trials are a part of the human and Christian experience (2 Tim.3:12; 1 Pet.4:12ff).
- D. Trials are varied in nature-health, financial, family, occupational, etc.
- E. The worst type of trials are self-inflicted (Samson, Cain, etc.); these are the hardest types of trials to endure.
- F. Job, a man well acquainted with trials, stated these words: “Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble” (Job 14:1).
- G. The Scriptures command the young, “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” (Ecc.12:1).
- H. The young as well as the old are subject to trials.
- I. The story of Joseph reminds us that we all can triumph over our trials of life.

BODY:

I. THE TRAGEDIES JOSEPH EXPERIENCED

- A. He lost his mother at an early age (Gen.35:16-19); as we all know, mothers are an invaluable resource to their children (Prov.31).
- B. He was mistreated by his father (Gen.37:3-4); favoritism is a form of abuse.
- C. He was hated by some of his family members (Gen.37:4-8, 18-28).
- D. He was betrayed by family members and sold into slavery (Gen.37).

II. THE TRIALS JOSEPH ENDURED

- A. He was propositioned to compromise his morals (39:7-12).
- B. He was unjustly accused and punished (Gen.39:13-20).
- C. He suffered emotionally from the effects of his difficult ordeal (Gen.40:13-15).
- D. His living conditions were very unpleasant and unhealthy; a dungeon is surely not equivalent to present day prisons in which our inmates live (Gen.40:15).
- E. His plea for freedom was forgotten by the one he helped (Gen.40:23).

III. THE TRIUMPHS JOSEPH EXPERIENCED

- A. He was blessed in spite of his circumstances, **because of** his great faith (Gen.39:1-5, 20-23).
- B. He became a blessing to others (Gen.39:5); God’s providence prevailed in spite of the obstacles set forth by Satan.
- C. He informed the king about the Almighty (Gen.41:8-16, 24, 28, 32, 37-39); he overlooked his potential personal gain. Notably, Joseph did tell Pharaoh, “Scratch my back and I will scratch yours.”
- D. His God-given wisdom superiorly outshined the devil’s agents (Gen.41:8).
- E. He was granted his physical freedom in a grand fashion (Gen.41:40-45); because of humility and steadfastness, God elevated him to his lofty position.
- F. He recognized that God was working in his life (Gen.45:4-8).
- G. He overcame the evil done to him through faith (Gen.50:14-21).

CONCLUSION

- A. Joseph's tragedies, trials, and triumphs were similar to Christ in many ways; consider the similarities.
- B. He was hated and rejected by his own (Gen.37:4-8; John 1:12).
- C. He was despised as a messenger from his father (Gen.37:13-28; Luke 20:9-18).
- D. He overcame temptation by using God's Word (Gen.39:1-5; Matt.4:1-11).
- E. He suffered because of the evil deeds of others (Gen.39:1-20; Rom.4:25).
- F. He was stripped of his clothing by his tormentors and betrayed for a few pieces of silver (Gen.37:23-28; Matt.26:15; 27:3-5).
- G. His enemies thought that they had gotten rid of him (Gen.37:28; Mark 15:13-14; 29-31).
- H. His enemies lied in an attempt to cover up their sins and his whereabouts (Gen.37:31-34; Matt.11-15).
- I. He was separated from his father, because of the sins of others (Gen.37:31-35; Matt.27:46; Heb,10:12); when Jesus became the perfect sin offering or sacrifice, He felt separated from the Father for that period of time.
- J. He became the ruler and savior of those who despised him (Gen.45:1-8; 50:15-11; Acts 2).
- K. He forgave and gave them the best of the land of Egypt as home (Gen.45:9-11; Matt.11:28-30).

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS

- A. We should expect Satan to use any one, even family members, to attack us.
- B. We, with help from the Lord, can overcome the loss of some one near and dear to us.
- C. We will sometimes suffer because of the wrong doing of others.
- D. We will sometimes be despised by those close to us simply because we follow the Lord.
- E. We will sometimes lose things that are precious to us because of the ungodly actions of others.
- F. We will never lose the support of the Father, if we remain faithful.
- G. We all must endure the hardships of life, if we hope to grow closer to God (Jms.1:1ff).
- H. We can have the victory if we respond to Satan's assaults as per Romans 12:17-21.
- I. We must always realize how God through His providence change that which was intended to harm us into a blessing!! Great is the God we serve!!!