



Genesis 37-50 Reflection

Starting Questions:

- What do you think the original author was trying to get across?
- What does the passage say about God/man?
- How does the passage inform my response to God?

These are some of our starting questions, but when we approach Scripture we are often left with additional questions of our own. This is a good thing! Here are a few questions we had while reading. Feel free to answer them, or come up with a few of your own:

 (Cpt. 46:3; 50:24-26) Why would God's promise to Jacob and Joseph's request be important for the original audience?

 (Cpt. 49:10-12) What does the blessing over Judah mean or imply?


Literary Elements (Themes and Repetition):

The LORD was with Joseph

(39:2,3, 21, 23) This motif in the story supports the theme revealing God as sovereign as he works all things for his ultimate glory and mankind's ultimate good (45:7; 50:20). In fact, Joseph's statement in 5:20 serves as a summary of all Genesis. "This principle that God ultimately overrules human sin for his glory and the ultimate good of mankind is important in Scripture. The crucifixion is the prime example of it (Acts 3:13-26 ; Romans 8:28)" (ESV Study Bible 50:18-21).

Sojourn

(37:1; 47: 4, 9) This motif repeats beginning with Abraham and continues through the New Testament. It harkens to the hope the patriarchs and Christians today hold to as explained in Hebrews 11:14 -16, "and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland... But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city."

 **Prayer:** Father, thank You for reminding us of the destructive temptation to focus on human failure rather than recognizing, remembering, and praising You for Your sovereignty as You work through our human failure and broken systems. This is, after all, the Story of redemption. Help us not to forget the Story we find in Scripture where You work all things for Your glory and our good in spite of our failures and the messes we make, and help us to remember the way You saved us and redeemed us amidst such brokenness. Truly, You alone are worthy of all glory and worship. Help us to fix our eyes on You, and forgive. Amen.