

# “WHEN LIFE’S NOT FAIR”

## Genesis: Creation to Nation

Genesis 37-50

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**When we face injustice and unfairness we must remember...**

**1. God uses injustice and unfairness to bring about transformation in our lives. (Romans 8:28-29)**

To consider the life of Joseph makes it impossible to complain about the “injustices” in our lives. Human injustice is a mere chisel in the hand of God. The instrument may seem sharp and cruel but the Sculptor is the epitome of kindness and love.”

Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*,  
Servant Publications, Ann Arbor, MI, 1990, p. 190.

“It is not by accident, but by design, that all wise people confess with Malcolm Muggeridge who, at the end of his life said, ‘Looking over my 90 years, I realize I have never made any progress in good times. I only progressed in the hard times.’”

John Piper, *The Journal of Biblical Counseling*,  
Winter 2003, p. 27.

**2. God’s purposes and plans are not thwarted by sinful choices. (Genesis 45:5-8, 50:20; Philippians 1:6; Psalm 138:7-8, 139:16)**

“Trust in God’s sovereignty—**Genesis 50:20**. If I am going to trust God for *my future* then I must trust His sovereignty over my *past*. He could have prevented it. He allowed it to happen. He makes no mistakes. He hath done all things well.

Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*,  
Servant Publications, Ann Arbor, MI, 1990, p. 190.

**3. God is a God of redemption. (Genesis 45:7; Acts 3:21)**

## God Meant it for Good

**“But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.”**

**Genesis 45:7-8**

“Whenever I become troubled by crazy things that happen to me, I turn to the story of Joseph in the Bible. *There* was somebody who *really* went through bizarre circumstances! But think about it...

If Joseph had not been sold to those caravan traders by his wicked brothers, he would not have been sold as a slave to Pharaoh. And if Joseph had not become Pharaoh's right-hand man, no one would have thought to build giant grain silos to ward off the seven-year famine. And if the famine hadn't happened, Jacob and his family would never have come to Egypt for food and safety. And if Jacob's family wasn't in Egypt, there would have been no slave laborers. And if no slaves, no Exodus. And no Mt. Sinai and the giving of the law to Moses. And no Promise Land. And, finally, no line of Judah from which the Messiah, Jesus Christ, would come.

It is enthralling to see how the troubles of one young man named Joseph could kick-start a whole chain of earth-shaking events which would ultimately lead to our salvation. Oh, the wisdom and knowledge of God!

Joseph's story could be yours. Only heaven will reveal the incredibly complex intertwining of events in which you have played a pivotal role. Like Joseph, you may not be able to discern it at the time, but God has it all in hand... he has it all in control... and you, dear friend, are needed in his marvelous plan to spread his kingdom in your corner of the world.”

Joni Eareckson Tada, *God Meant it for Good*,  
[www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org), Daily Devotionals, October 5, 2011.