

Dr. Ricky Cummings

**Series: Rescued by God – A Study of Genesis 12-50**

**Sermon: If God is sovereign, why am I going through this difficulty?**

**Genesis 37:1-36**

**Genesis 15:13-16 (ESV)** <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. <sup>14</sup>But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup>As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup>And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

**Since God is sovereign over all, we can trust Him even when things seem to go against us.**

**1. God is sovereign even when parents are insensitive and foolish.**

**2. God is sovereign even when teenagers are naive.**

**3. God is sovereign even when people are hardened in sin.**

**Genesis 42:21-22 (ESV)** <sup>21</sup>Then they said to one another, “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.” <sup>22</sup>And Reuben answered them, “Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood.”

You can see God’s sovereignty in several points:

- Joseph did not find his brothers where they were supposed to be. As he wandered around in a field, a man “happened” to come along who knew where the brothers went, so Joseph was able to find them (37:15-17).
- Joseph arrived just as a caravan came along, sparking Judah’s idea, which got Joseph into Egypt. You can also see a hint of God’s providence in the ironic boast of the brothers, “Then let us see what will become of his dreams!” (37:20).
- God sovereignly put Joseph into Potiphar’s house and orchestrated the events that followed there, in spite of Potiphar’s wife’s sin against Joseph. God was sovereign in the timing of the cupbearer’s remembering Joseph before Pharaoh.

**Genesis 50:20 (ESV)** As for you, 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.