

Race of Their Lives - Joseph **August 22, 2021**

It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. So it was God who sent me here, not you!

(Genesis 45:4-8, New Living Translation 2nd Ed.)

You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. (Genesis 50:20, NLT 2nd Ed.)

FOUR TIMELESS TRUTHS

1. If you are faithful in little things, God will put you in charge of bigger things.

You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.

(Matthew 25:21, Holman Christian Standard Bible)

The master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. (Matthew 24:47, NLT 2nd Ed.)

2. All of us will suffer.

*In this world you will have trouble.
(John 16:33, New International Version)*

3. Suffering always changes you.

When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master.

(Genesis 39:1-2, NLT2, emphasis added)

Potiphar . . . realized that the LORD was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did.

(Genesis 39:3, NLT2, emphasis added)

[Potiphar] took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love.

(Genesis 39:20-21 (NLT2))

The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The LORD was with him and caused everything he did to succeed. (Genesis 39:23, NLT2)

4. Joseph knew God was unstoppably in control, causing everything to work for good.