

## Discussion Questions & Quotes For July 28 thru August 3, 2024

—*“If there is one single reason why good people turn evil, it is because they fail to recognize God's ownership over their kingdom, their vocation, their resources, their abilities, and above all their lives.”*

—**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—“While God is not the author of evil and He never prompts or condones sin, nothing occurs without His sovereign oversight. Others may choose to do evil deeds and God's people may suffer in the short term, but He will transform the evil intentions of evil people into opportunities for the enrichment of those in His care.” —**Chuck Swindoll**

—*“The providence of God is that act of his grace and kindness by which, in his wisdom and power, he preserves and governs all the events of the lives of his creatures.”* —**Alistair Begg**

—“After you have won a great victory of faith, expect the enemy to attack you or the Lord to test you, or both. This is the only way you can grow in your faith. God uses the tough circumstances of life to build the muscles of your faith and keep you from trusting some thing other than His Word. Don't try to run away from the problem. It won't work”

—**Warren W. Wiersbe**

—*“Often people seem to believe that there's a conflict between human responsibility and God's sovereign control. In reality, there's a strong connection between them. God created us for His glory and we are given the responsibility to worship Him!”* —**GAD**

—“God's sovereignty is fundamental to His very nature as God. If there is a single molecule in the universe running around loose, totally free of God's sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled. That one maverick molecule could perhaps lay waste all of God's plans and promises toward us. A non-sovereign God isn't God at all.” —**R. C. Sproul**

—*“The unbelief and failures of man can never thwart the intended plan of God.”* —**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—“God is sovereign, and he is worthy of our reverence and our respect. We have tried in our culture to bring God down to where we are because we feel so distant from Him. But I say to you, ‘Leave God where he is and get on your knees and reverence him. He is worthy of your respect.’”

—**David Jeremiah**

## Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—This week's study is an introduction to an exciting & encouraging series of sermons that will focus our attention on the life of Joseph, recorded in Genesis 37–50. One of the underlying themes that will be repeated thru–out this series involves the **close connection** between God's sovereign **control** over His entire creation & our **conduct** (actions & reactions to His authority). Please keep in mind what Joseph said to his brothers following being reunited with them years after they had sold him as a slave to some Midianite traders. “But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.’” To prepare for these questions, please observe Acts 7:1–22 & Hebrews 11:1–22.

—**1}** *The first section of our lesson points out that Joseph's “personal history” begins with his great–grandfather, Abraham, who was **CHOSEN** by God to be the **FATHER** of Israel, the nation from which the **SAVIOR** would come! Abraham was noted thru–out the Bible as a great man of faith. However, his background was heathen and it took some time for him to “shake off” some of the heathen habits he had before God called him. He told some lies & didn't follow God's instructions in an exact way. But Genesis 15:1–6 explains that he believed/trusted God's promise of a son & his faith was credited to him as righteousness. Why is it essential for us to understand the importance of being saved by grace through the practice of trusting God? On the other end of the spectrum, why is it essential for us to avoid the idea that grace is a free ticket to do whatever we want to do? How does God's choice of Abraham help us understand God's absolute authority in fulfilling His perfect plans and precise purposes?*

—**2—** Since God chose Abraham to be the father of Israel, we can see that God was planning for the eventual birth of Christ. Isaac & Jacob are next in line after Abraham. Both of their families were riddled with deception & difficult times due to sin. There are always consequences that result from sin. Isaac & Jacob both faced the crisis of living in the midst of sinful temptations. Are you more prone to pull back from the world or to join in with it? How does a follower of Christ find the right balance? God uses the consequences of sin to teach (discipline) us. To what extent should we protect ourselves from the sinful society in which we live? In what way does God protect us from falling into sin?