

## **When God Doesn't Make Sense** **January 15, 2023**

**James 1:2**, *“Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials.”*

**Romans 8:28**, *“God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”*

**Genesis 50:20**, *“You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.”*

**Genesis 45:5-8**, *“Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> It was not you who sent me here, but God.”*

### **1. God is Sovereign Over All, Even Sinful Circumstances**

**1 Kings 22:20-23**, *“The Lord said, ‘Who will entice Ahab to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’*

<sup>21</sup> *Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord and said, ‘I will entice him.’*

<sup>22</sup> *The Lord said to him, ‘How?’ And he said, ‘I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ Then He said, ‘You are to entice him and also prevail. Go and do so.’ <sup>23</sup> Now therefore, behold, the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; and the Lord has proclaimed disaster against you.”*

**Judges 14:4**, *“Samson’s father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines.”*

**1 Kings 12:15**, *“It was a turn of events from the Lord, that He might establish His word.”*

**Jeremiah 25:9**, *“Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,” declares the Lord, ‘and I will send to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these nations round about; and I will utterly destroy them and make them a horror and a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.”*

**Isaiah 45:1**, *“Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed, whom I have taken by the right hand, to subdue nations before him.”*

**Acts 4:27-28**, *“For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,<sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.”*

## **2. God is Good in Everything He Does**

**Psalms 119:67-68; 75**, *“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. <sup>68</sup> You are good and do good; teach me Your statutes. <sup>75</sup> I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are righteous, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.”*

**Genesis 42:36**, *“Jacob said to them, “You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and you would take Benjamin; all these things are against me.”*

*“Father, You are Lord of the light, and Lord over the darkest place of my soul. I laugh at fear, and make anxiety submit to trust. It is wrong to do otherwise; because You, Lord, are with me. Yes, You are within me, You are for me.”*

## **3. We Must Trust the Sovereign Goodness of God in the Midst of Our Trials**