

THE PURPOSE OF OUR TRIALS

James 1:2-4 “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. **But let patience have its perfect work**, that you may be perfect and complete, **lacking nothing**.”

Psalm 119:67 “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.”

Psalm 119:71 “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn your statutes.”

Genesis 41:52 “And the name of the second he called Ephraim: ‘For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.’”

MANY BRETHREN JUST LIKE THE SON OF GOD

Romans 8:29 “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among **many brethren**.”

1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation **will also make the way of escape**, that you may be able to bear it.”

EXAMPLE OF JOSEPH

Psalms 105:16-25 “Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread. He sent a man before them— Joseph—who—was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him. The king sent and released him, the ruler of the people let him go free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions, to bind his princes at his pleasure, and teach his elders wisdom. Israel also came into Egypt, and Jacob dwelt in the land of Ham. He increased His people greatly, and made them stronger than their enemies. He turned their heart to hate His people, to deal craftily with His servants.”

Genesis 50:15-21 “When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, ‘perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him.’ So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, ‘Before your father

died he commanded, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph: ‘I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.’ Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father.’ And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, ‘Behold, we are you servants.’ Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. ‘Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.’ And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”

2 Corinthians 1:2-4, 8-11 “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, **that we may be able** to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of **our trouble which came to us in Asia**: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. **Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God** who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us, you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through the many.”

