

**Series:** Joseph: God's Prevailing Goodness

**Sermon:** Is God Sovereign?

**Scripture:** Genesis 45-50

**Teacher:** Randy Pope

**Date:** March 12, 2023

- 1) The Greater Redemptive Story  
(God's Redemptive Plan For Man's Eternal Salvation)
  
- 2) The Lesser Redemptive Story  
(God's Redemptive Plan For Man's Personal Relationships)

**Genesis 45:4-8a (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> *Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come closer to me." And they came closer. And he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.*

<sup>5</sup> *"And 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> *"And 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> *"Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God"*

**Genesis 50:18-21 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> *Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."*

<sup>19</sup> *But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place?"*

<sup>20</sup> *"And 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.*

<sup>21</sup> *"So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

The Greater Redemptive Story

Genesis 45-50

The Lesser Redemptive Story

Genesis 45:4-8a; Genesis 50:18-21

1. God is sovereign therefore no relationship is the result of chance.  
They are all God-authored.

### **Westminster Confession of Faith**

“God from all eternity, did by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass.”

### **R.C. Sproul, *Chosen By God***

“To say that God foreordains all that comes to pass is simply to say that God is sovereign over his entire creation. If something could come to pass apart from his sovereign permission, then that which came to pass would frustrate his sovereignty. If God refused to permit something to happen and it happened anyway, then whatever caused it to happen would have more authority and power than God himself. If there is any part of creation outside of God’s sovereignty, then God is simply not sovereign. If God is not sovereign, then God is not God. If we reject divine sovereignty then we must embrace atheism.”

2. God-authored relationships can be undesirable and painful ones which may or may not be the result of one’s own bad choices and sinful behavior.

### **Romans 8:28**

*<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

3. Undesirable and painful relationships can produce good results and always provide opportunities to honor God.

