

# The Over-Ruling Power of God

Gen. 50:15-21 (20)

## Introduction:

- A. A marvelous attribute of God is his power to make man's wickedness serve His purposes.
  - 1. No encouragement or justification for the evil doer.
    - a. Cannot do evil that good may come (cf. Rom. 3:8).
    - b. Will reap what he sows regardless to God's use of it (Gal. 6:8; Rom. 6:23).
  - 2. No reason to soften our stand against sin.
  - 3. An encouragement to the righteous struggling against the effects of wickedness in the world.
- B. Some Bible examples should help us understand and appreciate the over-ruling power of God.

## Discussion:

### I. The Story of Joseph (Text)

- A. The evil intentions and deeds of his brothers.
  - 1. They were without excuse for their actions and thoughts.
  - 2. They rightly needed to seek God and Joseph forgiveness (v. 17)
- B. God used their wickedness to save His people alive (vv. 20-21)

### II. The Assyrian Empire (Isa. 10:5-10)

- A. The evil intentions and deeds of the Assyrian ruler (vv. 7-11).
- B. God used his wickedness to punish and discipline His rebellious nation (vv. 5, 6).

### III. The Crucifixion of Christ.

- A. Judas role.
  - 1. Did the devil's work (John 13:2)
  - 2. Held responsible for transgression (Acts 1:25)
- B. Jewish and Roman authorities' role.
- C. God used their wickedness to save the world.

### IV. The Persecution of Christians.

- A. God uses "hostility of sinners" (v. 3) as discipline for His children (Heb. 12:3-11).
- B. God used persecution of Jerusalem church to spread the gospel. (Acts 8:1-4).
- C. God used Paul's imprisonment to further the gospel. (Phil. 1:12).

### V. The Temptation of Christians.

- A. One must seek to avoid temptation because it leads to sin (Matt. 6:13; 26:41; Jas 3:15).
- B. God can use temptation to our benefit (Jas. 3:2-4; 12)

### VI. The Factions Among Christians (1 Cor. 11:19).

- A. Factions and divisions are wrong (1 Cor. 1:10)
  - 1. Hinder the cause of Christ (John 17:21).
  - 2. Those who cause them should be disciplined (Rom. 16:17; Tit. 3:10).
- B. God can even overrule them for good — to purify the church.
  - 1. Brings the cream to the top — Shows who are really dedicated to the Lord.
  - 2. Prunes the church of those without real conviction and dedication.

## Conclusion:

- A. One should never practice, condone or encourage any evil - will reap consequences.
- B. One can take heart in knowing that God can overrule sin for good.