

Genesis: Back to Authenticity
When Trouble Comes
Genesis 39-41

Everything in life seems to exist in cycles. In economics, there is a time of prosperity followed by a time of recession or economic depression followed by recovery. Genesis 5 reminds us that there is a time to live and then a time to die. Solomon recognized that even in life, there is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance (Eccl. 3:4). We know from experience that we will experience time on mountaintops as well as time in the valleys.

1. We learn to make the best of our circumstances.
2. We learn courage to stand against immorality.
3. We learn to endure injustice.
4. We learn to trust in the sovereignty of God.

We do not forget the pain and suffering that comes from living in a broken and sinful world, but we are able to shift our perspective of it when we realize that God can use it for His purposes and for His glory. When we look at the past from a God's providential perspective, we are able to attain victory over bad memories and bitterness. The gospel lets us be used by God, even when trouble comes.