



Meeting God in the Old Testament

In Genesis 22:14, God has just saved Isaac the son of Abraham from being sacrificed by his father. He has commanded Abraham to stop and has provided a ram in Isaac's place. In gratitude, Abraham names the place of sacrifice "The Lord will provide." Abraham's descendants could easily have taken that statement for their motto for the next 150 years, as God continually provides for them. Let's study what God does so that we can better understand Him as Provider.

1. Drawing on what you know of the story of Joseph, how many things happened to Joseph that we would consider Really Really Bad if they happened to us?
2. Did God know about the Bad Things that were going to happen? Could He have prevented them? Why didn't He?
3. What did God know that Joseph didn't know?
4. Why did God set up such a complicated series of events?

Genesis 45:1-15

Genesis 30:25-43; Genesis 32:1-12; Genesis 33:1-19; Genesis 50:22-26

Questions: Genesis 45:1-15

What does God's constant provision for His people tell us about Him?

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5. Does the fact that God used the evil done by Joseph's brothers and Potiphar's wife to accomplish His purpose mean that God wanted the evil to take place? What's the difference?

6. How was Joseph's attitude important to the success of God's plan?

7. Do you think that Joseph was pleased with the result of God's plan? Why or why not?

1. What happened in Genesis 30:25-43? What did God have to do with it?

2. Why did God do such a thing? What does this tell us about God?

3. What was Jacob's concern in Genesis 32:1-12? Why was Jacob's concern valid?

4. In Genesis 33:1-19, what happened despite Jacob's concern? Do you think God was responsible? Why or why not?

5. Why is Joseph's request in Genesis 50:22-26 significant? Hebrews 11:22 may help. What does this request tell us about Joseph's perspective on God?

1. What relevance does God's nature as Provider have for us?

2. How should an understanding of this change the way we behave?

Questions: Other Scriptures

Questions: Application