

The Perseverance Of The Future

The only [perfection](#) we can have in relationships is the perfect wisdom of Scripture. Without it, we are ill-equipped to face the relational struggles of life. With it, we learn to properly order ourselves and our relationships under God's [providence](#).

Genesis 37: 5, 9 (TNIV) “Now Joseph had a dream... then he dreamed another dream.”

The mystery of God's [hidden](#) will exists in the space between the [dream](#) and the [disclosure](#) of “how”. Our role is to persevere through any disturbances or disruptions, by operating according to God's [revealed](#) will.

Genesis 37:24 (TNIV) “And they took him and threw him into a pit.”

While in the pit, the will of God seems [fragile](#) and [precarious](#). It's in these moments that God comforts us with His [strength](#) and [stability](#). (See *Psalm 30*; *Psalm 40*)

Genesis 37:36 “Meanwhile...”

Genesis 39:2-3 “The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.”

We can have confidence that although God sustains a world that temporarily accommodates evil, God's ways will triumph. His secret will is [perfect](#), [sovereign](#), [concrete](#) and [timely](#).

(See *Job 1:21*; *John 16:20*)

Small Group Questions

Please read the first part of the Joseph story from Genesis 37, and then from 39:1-6, so that you can answer the questions for this week on your own or with your group:

1. Have you had any “Joseph-like” moments in your life, where a dream was given to you, and it has been or is being fulfilled, but not in the way you expected it to be?
2. So far in the story there has been evil and good at work. Where do you see both happening so far in Joseph's life?
3. We talked about the difference between God's secret will and revealed will:
 - What is the difference?
 - How would you grade yourself on a scale of 1-10 in knowing God's revealed will? What can you do to have better knowledge of it?
 - How did Joseph go against the revealed will of God in how he carried himself?
 - How would you grade yourself on a scale of 1-10 in knowing God's secret will? What dreams has he revealed thus far? Have you worked to honor them and be faithful to them?