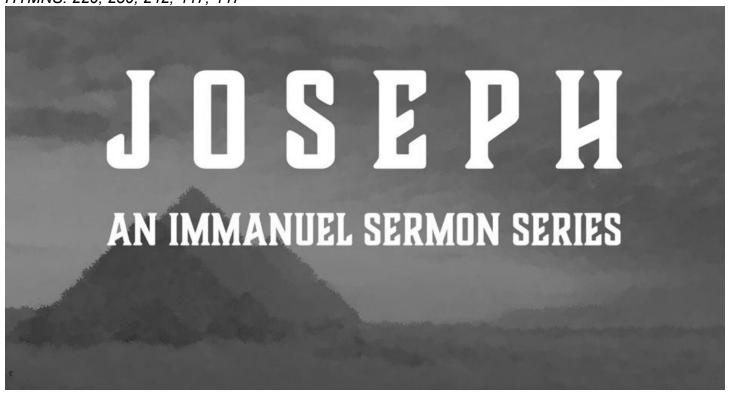
HYMNS: 220, 230, 242, 447, 447



GENESIS 44

The Providence of God

"God's providential government extends very particularly to his people. The entire history of the patriarchs, of Israel, of the church, and of every believer, is proof of this. What other people meant for evil against them, God turned to their good (Gen. 50:20); no weapon fashioned against them will succeed (Isa. 54:17); even the hairs on their head are all numbered (Matt. 10:30); all things work together for their good (Rom 8:28). Thus all created things exist in power and under the government of God; neither chance nor fate is known in Scripture (Exod. 12:13; Prov. 16:33). It is God who works all things according to the counsel of his will (Eph. 1:11) and makes all things serviceable to the revelation of his attributes, to the honor of his name (Prov. 16:14; Rom 11:36). Scripture beautifully sums up all this in repeatedly speaking of God as a king who governs all things (Ps. 10:16; 24:7-8; 29:10; 44:4; 47:6-7; 74:12; 115:3; Isa. 33:22; etc.)." (Herman Bavinck, Reformed Dogmatics)

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (Genesis 50:20)

The Background (Genesis 37-43)

Joseph has experienced betrayal, a pit, slavery, slander, a	and prison. He has also experienced the
blessing of God and an unlikely promotion.	
Joseph's brothers travelled to Egypt to buy grain. Joseph	his brothers by
speaking roughly to them, accusing them of espionage, a	nd holding Simeon as a ransom for
Benjamin's appearance.	
Having returned to Egypt for more grain, Joseph again tes	sted his brothers by giving Benjamin "five
times as much" as what was given to the other brothers.	
The Final Test (Genesis 44:1-13)	
Joseph's final test involved	_ Benjamin to see whether or not the older
brothers would the young	est, most-favored brother.
The Sacrifice of Judah (Genesis 44:14-34)	
Against all expectations,e	emerged as Benjamin's protector (Genesis
44:14 Genesis 37:18-36, 38:1-30, 43:1-10).	
For the first time in this narrative, one of Jacob's sons (Jud	dah) showed
for someone other than himself (Jacob, Benjamin), and wa	as even willing to selflessly
himself for the good of his	s family.
The Gospel	
Jesus the Christ (Messiah) was born from the line of	(Matthew 1:1-17).
Jesus the Christ (Messiah) was	with an "easy-out" (Matthew 4:1-11).
Jesus the Christ (Messiah) was crucified to	his people (Matthew 26:26-29).