

### **Acts 7:9-10**

**And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.**

When the sons of Jacob deliberately sold their young seventeen year old brother Joseph into slavery, his life was rocked and shaken to the very core. Observe what his brothers saw when he was about to be sold and sent away with strangers to a foreign land: ***We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear.*** The scripture says that God ***delivered him out of all his afflictions.*** The Greek word affliction (thlipsis) according to Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, primarily means "a pressing, pressure, anything which burdens the spirit" This same word "thlipsis" is also translated in other scriptures as tribulation, anguish, persecution, troubled, and burdened. Was Joseph burdened down? At the age of thirty, after thirteen years of "thlipsis" he was blessed by God with a wife and two children. His sufferings were reflected by the names he gave his two little sons. ***And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil(worry), and all my father's house(he was homesick).And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction(Gen 41:50-52).*** Yes, Joseph suffered many harsh and stressful events in his life. He was a good boy whose life was suddenly and deliberately turned upside down, inside out and out of control..... ***but God was with him, And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.*** God was in control. My friends, none of us, and I mean none of us are so special that we are immune to the "thlipsis" or afflictions in life. In a moment, we also can have our lives and world knocked out from underneath us but we must always remember that God is in control. As hard and difficult the afflictions were for Joseph (which we simply cannot fathom) he continued to trust in God. God was with him and working in his life in ways that he simply did not understand until quite a while later. God allows the hard and difficult things in our lives for His purpose so that we will be ***conformed to the image of his Son.*** There is no other way. Has your world and life been shaken? Does your life seem out of control? Has God allowed adversity into your comfort zone? The Lord is still on His throne and in control. Simply trust Him as young Joseph did.

### **Isa 40:31**

***But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.***