

# Heavenly Composting



**How God Makes  
the Evil, Bad, Terrible, and Horrible Things  
of Our Lives Work for Good**

# Part 7

**It is a Kingdom Reality**

# Genesis 37:1

So Jacob settled again in the land of Canaan, where his father had lived as a foreigner.



# Genesis 37:2a

This is the account of Jacob and his family. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks. He worked for his half brothers,

# **Genesis 37:2b**

**the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing.**

# Genesis 37:3

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph, a beautiful robe.



# Genesis 37:4

But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him.

# Genesis 37:5

One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever.



# Genesis 37:12

Soon after this, Joseph's brothers  
went to pasture their father's flocks  
at Shechem.

# Genesis 37:13

When they had been gone for some time, Jacob said to Joseph, “Your brothers are pasturing the sheep at Shechem. Get ready, and I will send you to them.” “I’m ready to go,” Joseph replied.

# Genesis 37:14a

**“Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are getting along,” Jacob said. “Then come back and bring me a report.”**



# Genesis 37:14b

So Jacob sent him on his way, and Joseph traveled to Shechem from their home in the valley of Hebron.

# Genesis 37:18

When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him.

# Genesis 37:19

“Here comes the dreamer!” they said.



# Genesis 37:20

**“Come on, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, ‘A wild animal has eaten him.’ Then we’ll see what becomes of his dreams!”**

# Genesis 37:21

But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said.

# Genesis 37:22a

**“Why should we shed any blood?  
Let’s just throw him into this empty  
cistern here in the wilderness.  
Then he’ll die without our laying  
a hand on him.”**



# Genesis 37:22b

Reuben was secretly planning  
to rescue Joseph and return him  
to his father.

# Genesis 37:23

So when Joseph arrived,  
his brothers ripped off the  
beautiful robe he was wearing.

# Genesis 37:24

Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.



# Genesis 37:25a

Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them.

# **Genesis 37:25b**

**It was a group of Ishmaelite traders  
taking a load of gum, balm,  
and aromatic resin from Gilead  
down to Egypt.**

# Genesis 37:26

Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain by killing our brother? We’d have to cover up the crime.



# Genesis 37:27

Instead of hurting him, let's sell him to those Ishmaelite traders.

After all, he is our brother—  
our own flesh and blood!”

And his brothers agreed.

# Genesis 37:28

So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.

# Genesis 37:29

Some time later, Reuben returned to get Joseph out of the cistern. When he discovered that Joseph was missing, he tore his clothes in grief.



# Genesis 37:30

Then he went back to his brothers  
and lamented, “The boy is gone!  
What will I do now?”

# Genesis 37:31

Then the brothers killed a young goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood.

# Genesis 37:32

They sent the beautiful robe to their father with this message:  
“Look at what we found. Doesn’t this robe belong to your son?”



# Genesis 37:33

Their father recognized it immediately. “Yes,” he said, “it is my son’s robe. A wild animal must have eaten him. Joseph has clearly been torn to pieces!”

# Genesis 37:34

Then Jacob tore his clothes and  
dressed himself in burlap.  
He mourned deeply for his son  
for a long time.

# Genesis 37:35

His family all tried to comfort him,  
but he refused to be comforted.  
“I will go to my grave mourning for  
my son,” he would say, and then he  
would weep.



# Genesis 37:36

Meanwhile, the Midianite traders arrived in Egypt, where they sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Potiphar was captain of the palace guard.

# Heavenly Composting



**How God Makes  
the Evil, Bad, Terrible, and Horrible Things  
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# Heavenly Composting

**It is a collaborative process that compiles all of the evil, bad, terrible, and horrible events of your life in order to transform and repurpose them for God's good and your good.**



**Through the process of Heavenly Composting, you get to co-labor with God to intentionally transform all of the events of your life that you thought were a total waste, forever lost, unspeakable, unforgiveable, and un-healable; so that they can go from**

**being a disgusting, smelly, toxic  
wasteland to becoming good,  
nutrient-rich fertilizer that will  
specifically feed and fuel your spiritual  
growth. That same spiritual fertilizer  
will help you produce sweet, healthy,  
beautiful, spiritual fruit in your life.**

# **The Necessary Elements**

- **The Word of God (the water)**
- **The presence of the Holy Spirit  
(the air)**
- **Love, Forgiveness, Mercy, Grace  
(the micro-organisms)**



# **The Necessary Elements**

- **A safe space to take all of the garbage (the compost bin)**
- **A spiritual guide to help you see the events from God's point of view (turning over the pile)**

# **The Necessary Elements**

- **A spiritual family that will love you through the smelly process (greens and browns)**
- **Repeat, repeat, and repeat**
- **Time**

# Part 7

**It is a Kingdom Reality**



# Principle #1a

**God has the power and the desire to spiritually compost all of the evil, bad, terrible, and horrible events of your life so that they will produce good, nutrient-rich fertilizer that will**

# **Principle #1b**

**feed and fuel your transformation  
into Christlikeness and will also  
serve God's Kingdom purposes  
here on earth.**

# Principle #2

**Even as God chooses to work all things together for good the process itself often involves dark days, difficulties, defeats, and disasters we did not expect all of which last much longer than we want.**



# Joseph's Life Story

- **Mother died when he was a child**
- **He was hated by his half-brothers**
- **Sold into slavery by his brothers**
- **Separated from Jacob & Benjamin**

# Joseph's Life Story

- A slave in Potiphar's household
- Wrongfully imprisoned for doing the right thing
- Left in prison by the cupbearer
- Lost 13 years of his life!

# **Psalm 105:17**

**God sent a man before them,  
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.**



# Psalm 105:18

They bruised his feet with shackles;  
and placed his neck in an iron collar

# **Psalm 105:19**

**Until what he foretold came to pass,  
until the word of the Lord  
was fulfilled.**

**God's promise to work all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose does not mean that every situation will be good or that it will have a good result. It also does not mean that we will feel good all the time.**



# Principle #2

**Even as God chooses to work all things together for good the process itself often involves dark days, difficulties, defeats, and disasters we did not expect all of which last much longer than we want.**

# **Principle #3**

**Partnering with God in Heavenly  
Composting requires that you come  
to see all things as being allowed  
by God for His Kingdom purposes  
and for your good.**

# Genesis 45:1a

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!”



# Genesis 45:1b

So there was no one with Joseph  
when he made himself known  
to his brothers.

# Genesis 45:2

And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

# Genesis 45:3

Joseph said to his brothers,  
“I am Joseph! Is my father still  
living?” But his brothers were not  
able to answer him, because they  
were terrified at his presence.



# Genesis 45:4

Then Joseph said to his brothers,  
“Come close to me.” When they had  
done so, he said, “I am your brother  
Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!

# Genesis 45:5

And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, *because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.*

# Genesis 45:6

For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping.



# Genesis 45:7

***But God sent me ahead of you***

**to preserve for you a remnant on  
earth and to save your lives by a  
great deliverance.**

# Genesis 45:8

*So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.* He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

# **Principle #3**

**Partnering with God in Heavenly  
Composting requires that you come  
to see all things as being allowed  
by God for His Kingdom purposes  
and for your good.**



# Principle #4

**Partnering with God in Heavenly  
Composting requires that you trust  
the Lord with all your heart, mind,  
soul, and strength.**

# Proverbs 3:1

My child, never forget the things  
I have taught you. Store my  
commands in your heart.

# Proverbs 3:2

If you do this, you will live many  
years, and your life will be  
satisfying.



# Proverbs 3:3

Never let faithfulness and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart.

# Proverbs 3:4

Then you will find favor with both  
God and people, and you will earn a  
good reputation.

# Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own  
understanding.



# Proverbs 3:6

Seek his will in all you do, and he  
will show you which path to take.

# **Principle #4**

**Partnering with God in Heavenly  
Composting requires that you trust  
the Lord with all your heart, mind,  
soul, and strength.**

# Principle #5

**We can always believe in the fact that the Lord will spiritually compost any and every situation we find ourselves in because as followers of Christ He is always around us, in us, and with us!**



# **Trust in God's Presence**

- **The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered (Gen 39:2)**
- **Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did (v.3)**

# **Trust in God's Presence**

- **The Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph (v.5)**
- **But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; (v.20)**
- **(v.21) the Lord showed him kindness and granted him favor in**

# **Trust in God's Presence**

- in the eyes of the prison warden.
- The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's command, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did. (v.23)



# Principle #5

**We can always believe in the fact that the Lord will spiritually compost any and every situation we find ourselves in because as followers of Christ He is always around us, in us, and with us!**

# Principle #6

**God can work all things together for good because He is all-powerful, because He is all-knowing, because He is all-seeing, and because He is all-loving.**

# Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God *intended* it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.





חֲשַׁבָּה

hă-šā-bāh

**to: calculate, compose, devise, design,  
determine, execute, impute, intend,  
make, plan, plot, purpose, account for,  
scheme, weave.**

# Principle #6

**God can work all things together for good because He is all-powerful, because He is all-knowing, because He is all-seeing, and because He is all-loving.**

# **Some of the Names of God**

**El Shaddai – Lord God Almighty**

**El Elyon – The Most High God**

**Adonai – Lord, Master**

**Yahweh – Lord God**

**Yahweh Nissi – The Lord My Banner**

**Yahweh Roi – The Lord My Shepherd**



# **Some of the Names of God**

**Yahweh Rophe – The Lord Who Heals**

**El Roi – The God Who Sees Me**

**Yahweh Yireh – The Lord Will Provide**

**Yahweh Tsebaoth – The Lord of  
Heaven's armies**

**Abba – Daddy God**

# Principle #6

**God can work all things together for good because He is all-powerful, because He is all-knowing, because He is all-seeing, and because He is all-loving.**

# Principle #7

**Yahweh is worthy to be praised  
because His promise to work all things  
together for good is solely dependent  
on His Faithfulness, His Love,  
His Character, His Goodness,  
and His Word.**

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