

“All These Things are Against Me”

Genesis 42:36

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Jacob was despondent. Could anything else go wrong? One child was dead, he thought. Another child was in prison in Egypt, and now the “lord of the land” requested that young Benjamin be taken away from home. “All these things are against me,” he exclaimed. One top of family problems there was a famine; the only food was miles away.



Jacob was wrong. The events which he thought to be against him were actually for the benefit of his family. God had not only preserved Joseph but was saving an entire nation, a nation through which the Messiah would later come. Joseph told his brothers, “*But as for you, you thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive*” (Genesis 50:20).

Jacob lacked information, insight, trust. He saw only a small portion of the real picture, and even then he saw things that were not really there. He misinterpreted what he experienced.

As a youth I used to lay on the floor and watch my mother embroider dishtowels. As I looked up to the bottom of the embroidery hoop and the material it contained, the picture looked odd and the thread dangled. But when I stood up and looked down on it, I saw my mother's perspective. With each movement of the needle a beautiful scene was coming into view.



Often we, believers in Christ, wonder why certain things happen to us. We feel like Jacob: “All these things are against me.” Yet, God has a Heavenly, eternal view of our lives. With each movement of His glorious hands upon our lives, a beautiful person is being prepared (Ephesians 4:13; 5:26-27). Romans 8:28, that very precious promise, is true even in the rough times:

*And we know that all things work together for good
to them that love God,
to them that are the called according to His purpose.*