

hath the famine been in the land : and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God, and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt."

You perceive then that God's design in sending Joseph to Egypt was as different from the design which his brethren had in view as good is from evil, as love is from hatred, as starvation is from plenty, as meanness is from greatness, as God is from man. The Allwise God no more decreed their wicked actions, than they by selling Joseph into slavery designed thereby to fulfil God's benevolent purposes. That God brought good out of their evil, or overruled their evil for good, is beyond all question. But this gives no countenance to the monstrous idea that God decreed the wicked actions of Joseph's brethren. To decree evil is one thing and to arrange his adorable providence so as to bring good out of evil is quite another thing,—these two ideas are as far removed from one another as vice is from virtue, as hell is from heaven. The former God never did, never can do, the latter he often has done; and the pre-ervation of old Jacob and his family from famine through the instrumentality of Joseph, who was wickedly sold and separated from his parent- and home is a fine illustration of this important truth. We firmly believe that all the sin and wickedness that have existed in our world, or in the wide universe, including the fall of angels, and the fall of Adam, and all the wicked actions which the most wicked of our race shall ever dare to do, down to the close of time, shall be overruled by the infinitely wise Governor of this and all other worlds, for the ultimate good of all the loyal subjects of his Kingdom and the honor and glory of his thrice holy name. He who is wise in heart and mighty in strength, can and will cause even the wrath of men to praise him; but we cannot conceive that he would purpose or decree that sin, and then lay his plans so as to bring that wickedness to pass. O how dishonoring to the Holy one of Israel to represent him in human creeds and confessions of faith, as desiring the wicked actions of men, nay more, as actually decreeing that Joseph's brethren should hate him, and sell him, and act the part of polished hypocrites when they went home to their aged father! We are bold to say that God no more purposed their wicked thoughts and feelings