

“God’s Preservation of His People”

Genesis 46

GOD’S PROMISES TO JACOB, JOSEPH...AND EVERY CHRISTIAN BELIEVER

- 1. God made you and knows you completely. v.2** “Jacob, Jacob”
 - He calls you by name: “Jacob, Jacob”.
 - He is the one who formed you in every way. Psalm 139:3: You are acquainted with all my ways.
 - You are under His watchful care. Mt 10:29-31: Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.
 - He knows what you can handle. Ref. 1 Cor. 10:13
- 2. God has revealed Himself to you through His Word. v.3a** “I am God, the God of your father.”
 - Exodus 34:5-7: The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁶ The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”
 - God is powerful, sovereign, good, and wise.
 - God has been faithful in the PAST (‘the God of your father’).
 - God has kept His Word and His covenant with every believer that has gone before you.
- 3. God is working a greater purpose in and through your life. v.3b.** “I will make you into a great nation.”
 - In Scripture, Egypt is very often a picture of the world. It represents the trials and afflictions of the world.
 - Egypt represents the temptations of the world. Ref. 12:10f (Lot); 26:1-2 (Isaac)
 - God told Abraham that his descendants would be afflicted by Egypt for 400 years. Ref. 15:12-14
 - Exod. 12:37; Numbers 1:46 = over 600,000 men of Israel came out of Egypt (likely 2-3 million people)
 - v. 27: Jacob’s family (now 70 people!) → would become a great nation (Israel!) → The Messiah!
 - 1 man → 12 sons → 12 tribes → tribal federation → one kingdom (Saul, David, Solomon) → Jesus!
- 4. God promises to be with you in your suffering. v.4 a** “I will go down with you to Egypt”
 - God does not abandon His people when they are struggling, afflicted, or tempted.
 - Isaiah 43:1-3: But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”
 - Different views of suffering among Christians...
 - “a result of sin” → You must deserve this in some way. = legalistic/judgmental
 - “a result of accident” → Bummer—you got dealt a bad hand! = bad luck
 - “a result of God’s arbitrary will” → just suck it up = hyper-Calvinist
 - “a result of God’s sovereign plan” → trust that God is with you in it and working for your good and His glory
 - God gives us His Spirit to sustain us daily, to lead us, and to equip us in our struggles. John 14:16-18: And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
- 5. God promises to deliver you to heaven—sanctified and glorified. v.4b** “...and I will bring you up again.”
 - John 6:37-40: All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.
 - Philippians 1:6: And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
 - Hebrews 9:12: He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.
 - 1 Cor 1:7-9: You are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.