

JOSEPH

THE HIDDEN HAND OF GOD

Part 7: In Preserving His People

June 16th, 2024

Genesis 45:16-47:31 (p.41-43)

Author: Moses with some later editors

Date: 1406BC

Melodic Line of Genesis: Despite the failure of God's covenant people, God's purposes and plans will come to fulfilment, not through the faithfulness of others but through the faithfulness of God.

BIG IDEA:

Five faith-fueled responses to the preserving grace of God - the kind of responses we should seek in our own lives:

1. _____
(45:16-46:7)

2. _____
(46:8-27)

3. _____
(46:28-47:12)

4. _____
(47:13-27)

5. _____
(47:28-31)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

God provided tangible signs like the wagons to strengthen Jacob's wavering faith (Genesis 46:27). When has God provided tangible reminders to reassure you? How can we become more attuned to these faith-strengthening provisions (Exodus 16)?

In the message, we were encouraged to refocus our minds on Christ for persevering through difficulties (Colossians 3:1-4, Philippians 4:8). Why is this discipline so vital? What are practical ways to implement it daily?

Jacob insisted on burial in Canaan, focused on God's eternal promised rest (Genesis 47:29-31). How can we cultivate an eternal perspective like his (Hebrews 11:13-16, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)? Where might we be too settled in this temporary world?

God's wisdom through Joseph was the difference between life and death (Genesis 41:16, 28, 37-39). When have you needed God's wisdom in a difficult situation? How can we cultivate asking for and receiving God's wisdom (James 1:5)?

DIGGING DEEPER

Resources to help you think deeper about this week's Bible message.

Recommended resources are not an endorsement of all the authors have said or written.

Something to Read:

All Things for Good - Thomas Watson

It Is Well: Submitting to God's Providences - John Hill (free from chapellibrary.org)

Trusting God When Life Hurts - Jerry Bridges

Something to Listen to:

Israel Enters Egypt (Genesis 45:16-46:27) - Chris Fishlock (available from st-helens.org.uk)

Jacob Buys Egypt (Genesis 46:28-47:31) - Chris Fishlock (available from st-helens.org.uk)

The Significance of Divine Promises (Genesis 46:1-47:31) - Dick Lucas (available from st-helens.org.uk)

NEXT WEEK

Joseph: The Hidden Hand of God #8 - Genesis 48:1-49:28

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”

2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don't let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share.

[Above from book Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member by 9Marks]