

SERIES: KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD

#4 “KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCE”

ROMANS 8:28

INTRODUCTION

WHILE WE AS CHRISTIAN’S ARE TO LIVE ABOVE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SHOULD NOT BE UNAWARE OF THEM.

GOD OFTEN WORKS THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES IN REVEALING HIS PERFECT WILL FOR OUR LIVES. PAUL’S WONDERFUL STATEMENT THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD TAKES INTO ACCOUNT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES. A NUMBER OF BIBLICAL EXAMPLES CAN BE GIVEN TO ILLUSTRATE THIS.

I. ABRAHAM – [GENESIS 22:1-13]

“AND IT CAME TO PASS AFTER THESE THINGS, THAT GOD DID TEMPT ABRAHAM, AND SAID UNTO HIM, ABRAHAM: AND HE SAID, BEHOLD, HERE I AM.

[2] AND HE SAID, TAKE NOW THY SON, THINE ONLY SON ISAAC, WHOM THOU LOVEST, AND GET THEE INTO THE LAND OF MORIAH; AND OFFER HIM THERE FOR A BURNT OFFERING UPON ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS WHICH I WILL TELL THEE OF.

[3] AND ABRAHAM ROSE UP EARLY IN THE MORNING, AND SADDLED HIS ASS, AND TOOK TWO OF HIS YOUNG MEN WITH HIM, AND ISAAC HIS SON, AND CLAVE THE WOOD FOR THE BURNT OFFERING, AND ROSE UP, AND WENT UNTO THE PLACE OF WHICH GOD HAD TOLD HIM.

[4] THEN ON THE THIRD DAY ABRAHAM LIFTED UP HIS EYES, AND SAW THE PLACE AFAR OFF.

[5] AND ABRAHAM SAID UNTO HIS YOUNG MEN, ABIDE YE HERE WITH THE ASS; AND I AND THE LAD WILL GO YONDER AND WORSHIP, AND COME AGAIN TO YOU.

[6] AND ABRAHAM TOOK THE WOOD OF THE BURNT OFFERING, AND LAID IT UPON ISAAC HIS SON; AND HE TOOK THE FIRE IN HIS HAND, AND A KNIFE; AND THEY WENT BOTH OF THEM TOGETHER.

[7] AND ISAAC SPAKE UNTO ABRAHAM HIS FATHER, AND SAID, MY FATHER: AND HE SAID, HERE AM I, MY SON. AND HE SAID BEHOLD THE FIRE AND THE WOOD: BUT WHERE IS THE LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING?

[8] AND ABRAHAM SAID, MY SON, GOD WILL PROVIDE HIMSELF A LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING: SO THEY WENT BOTH OF THEM TOGETHER.

[9] AND THEY CAME TO THE PLACE WHICH GOD HAD TOLD HIM OF; AND ABRAHAM BUILT AN ALTAR THERE, AND LAID THE WOOD IN ORDER, AND BOUND ISAAC HIS SON, AND LAID HIM ON THE ALTAR UPON THE WOOD.

**THE WORD TEMPT IS A LITTLE BIT TOO STRONG;
ACTUALLY, THE WORD MEANS “TEST.”**

JAMES MAKES IT VERY CLEAR IN HIS EPISTLE THAT GOD NEVER TEMPTS ANYONE WITH EVIL. GOD TEMPTS FOLKS IN THE SENSE THAT HE TESTS THEIR FAITH.

GOD DID TEST ABRAHAM, AND HE ASKED HIM TO DO SOMETHING VERY STRANGE.

**IN TIMES OF TESTING, IT IS EASY TO THINK ONLY ABOUT OUR NEEDS AND OUR BURDENS;
INSTEAD WE SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON BRINGING GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST.**

WE FIND OURSELVES ASKING, “HOW CAN I GET OUT OF THIS?” INSTEAD OF, “WHAT CAN I GET OUT OF THIS THAT WILL HONOUR THE LORD?”

WE SOMETIMES WASTE OUR SUFFERINGS BY NEGLECTING OR IGNORING OPPORTUNITIES TO REVEAL CHRIST TO OTHERS WHO ARE WATCHING US GO THROUGH THE FURNACE.

WHAT MUST HAVE GONE THROUGH ABRAHAM'S MIND WHEN GOD ASKS HIM TO OFFER HIS ONLY SON ISAAC? MAYBE HE SAID, "I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUT I KNOW GOD HAS COMMANDED IT.

I'VE BEEN WALKING WITH HIM NOW FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS. HE HAS NEVER FAILED ME, NOR HAS HE ASKED ME TO DO ANYTHING THAT DID NOT PROVE TO BE THE BEST THING.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS, BUT I BELIEVE THAT IF I GO ALL THE WAY WITH HIM THAT GOD WILL RAISE ISAAC FROM THE DEAD. I BELIEVE THAT HE WILL DO THAT."

[GENESIS 22:10-12];

[10] "AND ABRAHAM STRETCHED FORTH HIS HAND, AND TOOK THE KNIFE TO SLAY HIS SON.

[11] AND THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CALLED UNTO HIM OUT OF HEAVEN, AND SAID, ABRAHAM, ABRAHAM: AND HE SAID, HERE AM I.

[12] AND HE SAID, LAY NOT THINE HAND UPON THE LAD, NEITHER DO THOU ANY THING UNTO HIM: FOR NOW I KNOW THAT THOU FEAREST GOD, SEEING THOU HAST NOT WITHHELD THY SON, THINE ONLY SON FROM ME."

NOW GOD KNOWS THAT ABRAHAM FEARS HIM. HOW DOES HE KNOW? BY HIS ACTIONS, BY HIS WORKS; PREVIOUSLY IT WAS BY HIS FAITH.

GOD SEES YOUR HEART—HE KNOWS WHETHER YOU ARE GENUINE OR NOT—BUT YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND YOUR FRIENDS DON'T KNOW. THEY CAN ONLY KNOW BY YOUR WORKS.

THAT IS THE REASON JAMES COULD SAY THAT “FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD.” FAITH HAS TO PRODUCE SOMETHING.

GOD TESTED ABRAHAM. I BELIEVE THAT ANY PERSON WHO GOD CALLS, ANY PERSON WHO GOD SAVES, ANY PERSON WHO GOD USES IS GOING TO BE TESTED. GOD TESTED ABRAHAM, AND GOD TESTS THOSE WHO ARE HIS OWN TODAY.

HE TESTS YOU AND ME, AND THE TESTS ARE GIVEN TO US TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH, TO ESTABLISH US, AND TO MAKE US SERVICEABLE FOR HIM. TO REVEAL HIS WILL.

TRUE FAITH IS ALWAYS TESTED. OF COURSE, GOD DID NOT WANT ISAAC’S LIFE, HE WANTED ABRAHAM’S HEART.

GOD HAD PROMISED ABRAHAM MANY DESCENDENTS AND THIS PROMISE COULD NOT BE FULFILLED UNLESS ISAAC LIVED OR GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. ABRAHAM KNEW THAT GOD WOULD NOT LIE, SO HE RESTED IN HIS UNCHANGING WORD.

“NEVER DOUBT IN THE DARK WHAT GOD HAS TOLD YOU IN THE LIGHT.”

ABRAHAM OBEYED WITHOUT DELAY. IF WE DO THE ONE THING GOD TELLS US TO DO, HE WILL REVEAL THE NEXT STEP WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES.

GOD’S ANSWER NEVER ARRIVES A MINUTE TOO LATE.

[GENESIS 22:13];

“AND ABRAHAM LIFTED UP HIS EYES, AND LOOKED, AND BEHOLD BEHIND HIM A RAM CAUGHT IN A THICKET BY HIS HORNS: AND ABRAHAM WENT AND TOOK THE RAM, AND OFFERED HIM UP FOR A BURNT OFFERING IN THE STEAD OF HIS SON.”

GOD SUPPLIED A RAM (NOT A LAMB = CHRIST) JUST WHEN ONE WAS NEEDED. THIS IS WHY ABRAHAM CALLED THE NAME OF THE PLACE “JEHOVAH-JIREH” – MT MORIAH IS WHERE THE TEMPLE WAS BUILT AND IT IS SAID THAT ON

THE SAME RIDGE 2000 YEARS LATER THE LAMB WAS OFFERED – GOD DOES INDEED PROVIDED.

OFTEN TIMES SITUATIONS IN OUR LIFE DON'T MAKE SENSE – PART OF A GREATER PICTURE... THE GREATEST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN AS WE EXPERIENCE THE TRIALS GOD SENDS OUR WAY IS THAT WE GROW CLOSER TO OUR FATHER AND BECOME MORE LIKE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND UNDERSTAND WHAT GOD'S WILL IS FOR OUR LIVES.

II. MOSES – EXODUS 2:1-10

AM RAM AND JOCHEBED WERE MOSES' PARENTS [GEN.6:20], AND WHILE THE EXODUS TEXT EMPHASISES THE FAITH OF THE MOTHER, [HEBREWS 11:23] SAYS BY FAITH MOSES, WHEN HE WAS BORN, WAS HID THREE MONTHS BY HIS PARENTS, BECAUSE THEY SAW HE WAS A PROPER CHILD; AND THEY WERE NOT AFRAID OF THE KING'S COMMANDMENT. BOTH HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER TRUSTED GOD.

IT TOOK FAITH FOR THEM TO HAVE NORMAL MARITAL RELATIONS AT THIS DANGEROUS TIME WHEN THE JEWISH BABIES WERE BEING KILLED.

AM RAM AND JOCHEBED ALREADY HAD TWO CHILDREN: MIRIAM, WHO WAS THE OLDEST, AND AARON, WHO WAS 3 YEARS OLDER THAN MOSES [GEN. 7:7]

FROM THE BEGINNING MOSES WAS SEEN TO BE NO ORDINARY CHILD. STEPHEN TELLS US IN [ACTS 7:20] THAT HE WAS “*EXCEEDING FAIR*” OR “*FAIR WITH GOD*” AND IT IS EVIDENT THAT GOD HAD A SPECIAL PURPOSE FOR MOSES.

BELIEVING THIS TO BE TRUE, THE PARENTS DEFIED PHARAOH'S EDICT AND KEPT THEIR SON ALIVE. THIS WASN'T AN EASY THING TO DO.

JOCHEBED DID OBEY THE LAW WHEN SHE PUT MOSES IN THE WATERS OF THE NILE, BUT CERTAINLY SHE WAS DEFYING PHARAOH'S ORDERS IN THE WAY SHE DID IT. SHE WAS TRUSTING THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD AND GOD DID NOT FAIL HER.

WHEN THE PRINCESS CAME TO THE NILE TO PERFORM HER RELIGIOUS ABLUTIONS, SHE SAW THE BASKET, DISCOVERED THE BABY, AND HEARD HIM CRY; AND HER MATERNAL INSTINCTS TOLD HER TO RESCUE THE CHILD AND CARE FOR HIM.

GOD USED BABY'S TEARS TO CONTROL THE HEART OF A POWERFUL PRINCESS, AND HE USED MIRIAM'S WORDS TO ARRANGE FOR THE BABY'S MOTHER TO RAISE HIM AND GET PAID FOR IT.

THE PHRASE "AS HELPLESS AS A BABY" DOESN'T APPLY WHEN IT COMES TO GOD'S WILL – OFTEN TIMES, WHEN GOD WANTS TO DO A MIGHTY WORK, HE STARTS BY SENDING A BABY. (JOSEPH, SAMUEL, JOHN THE BAPTIST, JESUS).

GOD CAN USE THE WEAKEST OF THINGS TO DEFEAT THE MIGHTIEST ENEMIES [1 CORINTHIANS 1:25] "*BECAUSE THE FOOLISHNESS OF GOD IS WISER THAN MEN: AND THE WEAKNESS OF GOD IS STRONGER THAN MAN*" [27]"... AND GOD HATH CHOSEN THE WEAK THINGS OF THE WORLD TO CONFOUND THE THINGS WHICH ARE MIGHTY"; A BABY'S TEARS WERE GOD'S FIRST WEAPONS IN HIS WAR AGAINST EGYPT.

GOD ARRANGED FOR PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER TO BE BATHING IN THE RIVER NILE AT THE EXACT TIME THAT MOSES FLOATED BY IN A LITTLE ARK OF BULRUSHES. ISN'T IT AMAZING HOW THIS ONE EVENT WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD – DO WE PAY ANY ATTENTION TO WHAT GOES ON AROUND US?

IS GOD TRYING TO GET OUR ATTENTION BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ARE IN OUR LIVES?

IS GOD TRYING TO TELL US HIS WILL FOR OUR LIVES BY WHAT COMES OUR WAY?

GOD'S WILL FOR MOSES WAS NOT FOR HIM TO DROWN IN THE NILE.

IT IS NOT A COINCIDENCE THAT THE PRINCESS WAS THERE AT THAT TIME. GOD USED THAT CIRCUMSTANCE TO FULFIL HIS WILL IN MOSES' LIFE.

THE PRINCESS ADOPTED MOSES AS HER OWN SON, WHICH MEANS THAT MOSES HAD A FAVOURED POSITION IN THE LAND AND WAS GIVEN A SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR SERVICE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

[ACTS 7:22] "AND MOSES WAS LEARNED IN ALL THE WISDOM OF THE EGYPTIANS, AND WAS MIGHTY IN WORDS AND IN DEEDS."

IN THE EGYPTIAN LANGUAGE, MOSES MEANS "BORN" OR "SON" AND SOUNDS LIKE A HEBREW WORD THAT MEANS "TO DRAW OUT" (OF THE WATER).

YEARS LATER HIS NAME WOULD REMIND MOSES OF THE GOD WHO RESCUED HIM AND DID GREAT THINGS FOR HIM IN EGYPT.

ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, MOSES WOULD RESCUE HIS PEOPLE BECAUSE HE TRUSTED THE LORD.

III. PAUL – ACTS 23:11-24

[ACTS 23:11]

"AND THE NIGHT FOLLOWING THE LORD STOOD BY HIM, AND SAID, BE OF GOOD CHEER, PAUL: FOR AS THOU HAST TESTIFIED OF ME IN JERUSALEM, SO MUST THOU BEAR WITNESS ALSO AT ROME."

WHEN YOU READ THE ACCOUNT OF PAUL'S DAYS IN JERUSALEM, YOU GET THE IMPRESSION THAT NOT EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN.

HIS ATTEMPT TO WIN OVER THE LEGALISTIC JEWS ONLY HELPED TO CAUSE A RIOT IN THE TEMPLE, AND HIS WITNESS BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN LEFT THE COUNCIL IN CONFUSION.

IT WOULD BE NATURAL FOR PAUL TO BE DEPRESSED AT THIS TIME. PERHAPS HE WAS FEARFUL AND DISCOURAGED BY THE PRECEDING EVENTS.

MAYBE HE WAS BLAMING HIMSELF FOR THE COMMOTION THAT HAD BEEN CAUSED BY HIS PREACHING. PERHAPS HE THOUGHT OF HIMSELF AS A FAILURE AND WHAT ABOUT THE PLANS TO GO TO ROME.

THAT NIGHT THE LORD HIMSELF DREW NEAR TO PAUL, HE HAD NOT FAILED. THE LORD COMMENDED PAUL FOR HIS WITNESS, HE WAS PLEASED WITH PAUL'S TESTIMONY, AND AS FOR ROME, HE WOULD GET THERE YET AND BEAR ADEQUATE WITNESS IN THAT CITY TO THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL.

IT PUT NEW HEART INTO THE APOSTLE, AND HE TOOK COURAGE AS THE LORD COMMANDED HIM. HE COULD TAKE THE BUFFETING OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES NOW AS PART OF THAT GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD. ALL THINGS WOULD INDEED WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD. HE WAS THE CALLED ACCORDING TO GOD'S PURPOSE. HE WAS STILL IN THE CENTRE OF GOD'S WILL.

[ACTS 23:12-15

[12] AND WHEN IT WAS DAY, CERTAIN OF THE JEWS BANDED TOGETHER, AND BOUND THEMSELVES, UNDER A CURSE, SAYING THAT THEY WOULD NEITHER EAT NOR DRINK TILL THEY HAD KILLED PAUL.

[13] AND THEY WERE MORE THAN FORTY WHICH HAD MADE THIS CONSPIRACY.

[14] AND THEY CAME TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND ELDERS, AND SAID, WE HAVE BOUND OURSELVES UNDER A GREAT CURSE, THAT WE WILL EAT NOTHING UNTIL WE HAVE SLAIN PAUL.

[15] NOW THEREFORE YE WITH THE COUNCIL SIGNIFY TO THE CHIEF CAPTAIN THAT HE BRING HIM DOWN

UNTO YOU TO MORROW, AS THOUGH YE WOULD ENQUIRE SOMETHING MORE PERFECTLY CONCERNING HIM: AND WE, OR EVER HE COME NEAR, ARE READY TO KILL HIM.

THE RADICALS OF BOTH PARTIES NOW FORMED A COALITION TO KILL PAUL. THEY SWORE TO IT UNDER OATH. THAT WAS THE PLOT.

CARELESS OF THEIR OWN LIVES, THINKING TO DO GOD A SERVICE, THESE FANATICS WOULD RID JUDAISM OF PAUL ONCE AND FOR ALL.

JERUSALEM WAS CERTAINLY FAR FROM GOD, EVEN THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND ELDERS WERE PART OF THIS CRIME. GOD WAS STILL IN CONTROL! THIS, HOWEVER WAS NOT GOD'S WILL FOR PAUL'S LIFE AT ALL.

PAUL STILL HAD A JOB TO DO, HE STILL HAD PEOPLE TO LEAD TO THE LORD, HE STILL HAD EPISTLES TO WRITE, BUT HOW ON EARTH WOULD HE BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THIS MURDEROUS PLOT?

ISN'T GOD AMAZING!!! WHAT DID HE USE TO THWART THIS PLOT? A MIGHTY WIND, ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE – PAUL'S NEPHEW...

[ACTS 23:16-22]

[16] AND WHEN PAUL'S SISTER'S SON HEARD OF THEIR LYING IN WAIT, HE WENT AND ENTERED INTO THE CASTLE, AND TOLD PAUL.

[17] THEN PAUL CALLED ONE OF THE CENTURIONS UNTO HIM, AND SAID, BRING THIS YOUNG MAN UNTO THE CHIEF CAPTAIN: FOR HE HATH A CERTAIN THING TO TELL HIM.

[18] SO HE TOOK HIM, AND BROUGHT HIM TO THE CHIEF CAPTAIN, AND SAID, PAUL THE PRISONER CALLED ME UNTO HIM, AND PRAYED ME TO BRING THIS YOUNG MAN UNTO THEE, WHO HATH SOMETHING TO SAY UNTO THEE.

[19] THEN THE CHIEF CAPTAIN TOOK HIM BY THE HAND, AND WENT WITH HIM ASIDE PRIVATELY, AND ASKED HIM, WHAT IS THAT THOU HAST TO TELL ME?

[20] AND HE SAID, THE JEWS HAVE AGREED TO DESIRE THEE THAT THOU WOULDST BRING DOWN PAUL TO MORROW INTO THE COUNCIL, AS THOUGH THEY WOULD ENQUIRE SOMEWHAT OF HIM MORE PERFECTLY.

[21] BUT DO NOT THOU YIELD UNTO THEM: FOR THERE LIE IN WAIT FOR HIM OF THEM MORE THAN FORTY MEN, WHICH HAVE BOUND THEMSELVES WITH AN OATH, THAT THEY WILL NEITHER EAT NOR DRINK TILL THEY HAVE KILLED HIM: AND NOW ARE THEY READY, LOOKING FOR A PROMISE FROM THEE.

[22] SO THE CHIEF CAPTAIN THEN LET THE YOUNG MAN DEPART, AND CHARGED HIM, SEE THOU TELL NO MAN THAT THOU HAST SHEWED THESE THINGS TO ME.

WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT PAUL'S SISTER OR HIS NEPHEW. WE ARE NOT SURE IF THEY ARE BELIEVERS [ROMANS 16:7] " SALUTE ANDRONICUS AND JUNIA, MY KINSMEN, AND MY FELLOW PRISONERS, WHO ARE OF NOTE AMONG THE APOSTLES, WHO ALSO WERE IN CHRIST BEFORE ME." (SOME THINK THAT JUNIA COULD HAVE BEEN PAUL'S SISTER)

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY WERE CHRISTIANS OR NOT, GOD USED THEM TO FOIL THE CONSPIRACY AND GET PAUL AWAY FROM DANGEROUS JERUSALEM. WE MUST ADMIRE THE HONESTY AND THE INTEGRITY OF THAT ROMAN CAPTAIN. HE COULD HAVE SCORNE THE BOY'S MESSAGE OR LISTENED TO THE LIES OF THE JEWS, BUT HE DID HIS JOB FAITHFULLY.

CONCLUSION

- 1. GOD DIRECTED ABRAHAM TO SUBSTITUTE A RAM, WHOSE HORNS HAD SOMEHOW BECOME ENTANGLED IN A THICKET, FOR THE LIFE OF ISAAC.**

- 2. GOD ARRANGED FOR PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER TO BE BATHING IN THE RIVER NILE AT THE EXACT SAME TIME THAT BABY MOSES FLOATED BY IN A LITTLE ARK OF BULRUSHES.**
- 3. PAUL'S YOUNG NEPHEW HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR A PLOT TO KILL HIS UNCLE; HE THEN REPORTED IT TO THE AUTHORITIES, THUS SAVING THE APOSTLES LIFE.**

SURELY THE ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE PROVIDENTIALY ARRANGED. SO WE AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD ASK, WHEN ATTEMPTING TO DISCOVER GOD'S WILL, "IS THE LORD SHOWING ME SOMETHING THROUGH MY CIRCUMSTANCES?"

THE TEXT

THE GLORIOUS MESSAGE OF ROMANS IS THAT GOD ASSURES DELIVERANCE (FREEDOM) FROM STRUGGLING AND SUFFERING THROUGH CHRIST. THIS IS THE WHOLE POINT OF ALL THAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN BEFORE.

MAN DESPERATELY STRUGGLES AGAINST THE PRESSURES AND FORCES BOTH WITHIN HIMSELF AND ALIEN TO HIMSELF.

THE STRUGGLES AGAINST THE WEIGHT AND DISCOURAGEMENT OF TRAILS, THE POLLUTION AND CORRUPTION OF LIFE;

AGAINST THE RELENTLESS ACCUSATIONS AND BOMBARDMENTS OF CONSCIENCE AND LAW;

AGAINST THE PAIN AND DECAY OF THE BODY, AND AGAINST THE ETERNAL JUDGEMENT IN THE HEREAFTER.

THEREFORE, MAN VIEWS HIS MANY PROBLEMS AS REALLY BEING ONE SUPREME PROBLEM: HOW TO GET RIGHT WITH GOD.

IF HE CAN ESTABLISH THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, HE FEELS SURE GOD WILL HELP HIM THROUGH HIS TRIALS AND TAKE CARE OF HIS FUTURE HEREAFTER.

THIS IS THE VERY MESSAGE OF ROMANS. MAN NEEDS TO GET RIGHT WITH GOD, FOR HE IS UNDER THE CONDEMNATION AND WRATH OF GOD.

MAN NEEDS A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD; HE NEEDS TO BE JUSTIFIED, DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BY GOD.

MAN NEEDS TO BE FREED FROM THE STRUGGLE OF SIN, BECAUSE SIN CORRUPTS AND LEADS TO DEATH. ALL OF THE DISCUSSION IN CHAPTER EIGHT HAS MOVED TO THE SUMMIT.

THOSE WHO LOVE GOD AND ARE CALLED BY HIM WILL DEFINITELY BE FREED FROM THE BONDAGE AND CORRUPTION OF THIS LIFE AND USHERED INTO GLORY.

NOTHING SHALL PREVENT GOD'S SETTLED PLAN AND PURPOSE FROM COMING ABOUT IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVER.

GOD'S SETTLED PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR THE UNIVERSE SHALL BE CONSUMMATED. HE HAS DETERMINED TWO SUPREME THINGS:

- 1. BELIEVERS SHALL BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS DEAR SON (29).**
- 2. HIS SON SHALL HAVE MANY BROTHERS, AMONG WHOM HE IS TO BE HONORED AS THE FIRST PERSON. (29).**

GOD WORKS ALL THINGS OUT FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

- 1. THIS IS THE FIRST ASSURANCE OF DELIVERANCE.**
- 2. WHAT A COMFORTING DECLARATION, "ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THE BELIEVER."**

3. **THINK ABOUT IT; NOTHING COULD ASSURE THE BELIEVER ANY MORE THAT GOD WORKING ALL THINGS OUT FOR HIS GOOD.**
4. **THE WORDS “ALL THINGS” GO WELL BEYOND THE GREAT EVENTS OF THE WORLD.**
 - a. **GOD DOES CONTROL THE VENTS OF THE WORLD, BUT HE CONTROLS MUCH MORE.**
 - b. **HE RULES OVER ALL THINGS; ALL EVENTS; ALL HAPPENINGS THAT OCCUR IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.**
 - c. **HE WORKS “ALL THINGS” OUT FOR GOOD IN BEHALF OF HIS CHILDREN.**
1. **THE WORDS “WORK TOGETHER” (SUNERGEI) MEANS TO CREATE AND ELIMINATE, PLACE AND REPLACE, CONNECT AND GROUP, INTERRELATE AND INTERMINGLE, SHAPE AND FORGE, PRESS AND STRETCH, MOVE AND OPERATE, CONTROL AND GUIDE, ARRANGE AND INFLUENCE.**
 - a. **THE WORDS “WORK TOGETHER” ARE ALSO PRESENT ACTION WHICH MEANS THAT ALL THINGS ARE CONTINUALLY WORKING TOGETHER FOR GOOD.**
 - b. **GOD IS IN CONTROL OF THE BELIEVER’S LIFE.**
 - c. **MOMENT BY MOMENT, GOD IS ARRANGING AND REARRANGING ALL THINGS FOR THE BELIEVER’S GOOD**

- 6. THE WORD “GOOD”. (AGATHON) MEANS FOR THE ULTIMATE GOOD.**
 - a. WE CANNOT SEE THE FUTURE; WE CANNOT TAKE A SINGLE EVENT AND SEE ALL THE LINES AND RAMIFICATIONS THAT RUN FROM IT.**
 - b. WE CANNOT SEE ALL THE THINGS THAT RESULT FROM ONE SINGLE EVENT, MUCH LESS SEE THE RESULTS OF EVERY EVENT.**
 - c. BUT GOD DOES; THEREFORE, GOD TAKES ALL THE EVENTS OF OUR LIVES AND WORKS THEM OUT FOR OUR ULTIMATE GOOD.**

- 7. THERE IS, HOWEVER A LIMITATION ON THIS GLORIOUS PROMISE THAT DESPERATELY NEEDS TO BE NOTED.**
 - a. GOD WORKS ALL THINGS OUT FOR GOOD ONLY TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD AND ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.**

- 8. THIS FACT IS GRAPHICALLY SEEN IN THE GREEK.**
 - a. THE CLAUSE “TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD” IS PLACE FIRST IN THE SENTENCE:” BUT WE KNOW THAT TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD.”**
 - b. SCRIPTURE MAKES SURE THE POINT IS NOT MISSED. GOD ONLY LOOKS AFTER THE AFFAIRS OF THE PERSONS WHO LOVES HIM.**

- c. **IF A MAN DOES NOT LOVE GOD, HOW CAN GOD TAKE CARE OF HIM?**
 - d. **IF A MAN TURNS HIS BACK ON GOD AND WALKS AWAY FROM GOD, HOW CAN GOD LOOK AFTER HIM?**
 - e. **GOD IS NOT GOING TO FORCE HIS CARE UPON ANY OF US.**
 - f. **GOD IS NOT GOING TO FORCE US TO LIVE AT HIS BECK AND CALL. THAT IS NOT LOVE. THAT IS JUST MECHANICAL BEHAVIOR.**
 - g. **WHAT GOD WANTS IS LOVE THAT FLOWS FROM A HEART THAT CHOOSES TO LOVE HIM.**
 - h. **THE CHOICE IS OURS; WE EITHER TURN OUR LIVES OVER TO HIM IN LOVE, OR WE CONTINUE TO TAKE OUR LIVES INTO OUR OWN HANDS.**
9. **NOTE THE WORDS, “CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.”**
- a. **THE BELIEVER’S DELIVERANCE IS PURPOSED BY GOD.**
 - b. **GOD CALLS HIM FOR THE GLORIOUS PURPOSE OF BEING SAVED FROM THE STRUGGLES AND SUFFERINGS OF THIS LIFE.**
 - c. **BOTH THE BELIEVER’S POSITION AND BEHAVIOR ARE BOTH INVOLVED IN THE CALL OF GOD.**
 - d. **POSITIONALLY, GOD CHOOSES THE BELIEVER BY SETTING HIM APART THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THROUGH BELIEF OF THE TRUTH.**

- e. **IN BEHAVIOR, GOD CALLS THE BELIEVER TO A LIFE OF PURITY AND HOLINESS.**

10. **THE POINT IS THIS: GOD DELIVERS THE PERSON WHO IS POSITIONED IN CHRIST AND WHO LIVE A PURE AND HOLY LIFE.**

[I CORINTHIANS 10:13]

“THERE HATH NO TEMPTATION TAKEN YOU BUT SUCH AS IS COMMON TO MAN: BUT GOD IS FAITHFUL, WHO WILL NOT SUFFER YOU TO BE TEMPTED ABOVE THAT YE ARE ABLE; BUT WILL WITH THE TEMPTATION ALSO MAKE A WAY TO ESCAPE, THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO BEAR IT.”

[PSALM 34:19]

“MANY ARE THE AFFLICTIONS OF THE RIGHTEOUS: BUT THE LORD DELIVERETH HIM OUT OF THEM ALL.”

[ISAIAH 41:10]

“FEAR THOU NOT; FOR I AM WITH THEE: BE NOT DISMAYED; FOR I AM THY GOD: I WILL STRENGTHEN THEE; YEA, I WILL HELP THEE; YEA, I WILL UPHOLD THEE WITH THE RIGHT HAND OF MY RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

[ISAIAH 43:2]”

“WHEN THOU PASSEST THROUGH THE WATERS, I WILL BE WITH THEE; AND THROUGH THE RIVERS, THEY SHALL NOT OVERFLOW THEE: WHEN THOU WALKEST THROUGH THE FIRE, THOU SHALT NOT BE BURNED; NEITHER SHALL THE FLAME KINDLE UPON THEE.”

THERE IS A CONTRAST BETWEEN JACOB AND PAUL:

1. **JACOB SAID, “ALL THINGS ARE AGAINST ME.”**
[GENESIS 42:36]
2. **PAUL SAID: “ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD.”**
[ROMANS 8:28]

**I'M GLAD THAT I LOVE GOD, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY,
I'M GLAD THAT GOD LOVES US.**

**HE LOVED US SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN SON.**

**HIS SON LOVED US SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE HIS
LIFE.**

TELL THE STORY