

Detours to Your Destiny: “The Detours of Providence” Gen 50 lesson 5

God know how to hook things up – unhook them and re-hook them to guide your life to fulfill the destiny and accomplish His Glory for your good.

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and serving an Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent God, we need to change our vocabulary from believing in a thing called “luck – chance – fate” to a Biblical term called “Providence.”

Providence- Providence is the subset of another word:

- **Sovereignty** of God- ITim. 6:15- “...which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate- **Sovereign**, the King of kings and Lord of lords.”
- God is the absolute Ruler – Controller – Sustainer of His Creation.
- He is the ultimate Ruler – the Person who will have the last word.
- Nothing sits outside of God’s Sovereignty; there are no events – happenings over which HE does not rule.
- If it is created – He runs it.

The word **Providence** couples with **Sovereignty**:

- It’s the way God arranges things – events to achieve His Sovereign purposes.
- Sovereignty is His ruler ship; Providence is how He hooks things together to achieve His purposes. He integrates – detaches – attaches – connects things, people together to accomplish His purposes.
- Providence is the arrangement that facilitates Sovereignty.

The Bible makes it clear that God is Sovereign:

Eph. 1: 11- “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”

- So that His purposes can never be thwarted.

This leads us to the point that:

- You cannot simultaneously have Sovereignty and luck!
- The two can never co-exist; because luck is random events that occur that shape things.
- But if you have a Sovereign God that orders everything; you can’t have random events that shape anything!

We need to move away from thinking its luck, happenstance – coincidence – to believing in Providence.

We have seen Joseph’s life which was filled with up’s and down’s.

- He’s wearing a favored coat one day – he’s in a pit the next day.

- He's got a good job one day – he's accused of rape the next day.
- He's in prison, forgotten – then remembered another day.
- He is going through STUFF!
- It looks like one day he has good luck – the next day bad luck!

But look at how Joseph looked at his life:

Gen. 50:19, 20- “Joseph said to them [brothers], Do not be afraid, for I am in God's place. But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

Joseph just said: “**God did this on purpose!**”

What looked like an unlucky day and a lucky day was God fulfilling His purpose to bring me to my destiny.

- His response reflects maturity and insight to be able to perceive the hand of God in a prolonged period of unfair suffering requiring un-numerable choices to deny bitterness and to pray.
- The result was that God's will was accomplished in spite of other human's behavior.

If you ever get Providence, the subset of Sovereignty; as your view of God orchestrating the events of your life – you will look at life differently.

- It is God moving through the events and happenings of your life moving you towards the destiny God has for you.
- Because God is Sovereign – He is never caught by surprise and has to say OOPPS – that one got by Me!
- Because He is controlling the big and the little; He is not surprised by anything!
- What shocks you – is long known by HIM!

v. 20- “As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good.”

- “**Meant**”- “You messed up my life on purpose, you planned to sell me as a slave, you planned to tell my daddy I was killed by an animal; you planned to ruin my life”

Is there anybody here today that you have had someone plan to mess your life up?

- Joseph used the word “**Meant**” again- “But God **MEANT** it for good!”
- What's the **IT**?
- “You meant **IT** for evil” – The **IT** was what they did to mess up his life.
- You meant that mess you put in my life to do bad by me; but God meant **IT** –
- What's the **IT**; it's the same **IT**: the same mess they meant for evil, God was using for Joseph's good.

- The mess they meant was the mess God meant!
- “What you meant to do – God meant!”

**Providence includes: Good and Bad Evil and Righteous
 Negative and Positive**

God’s Sovereignty does not only include good – it includes bad!

In God’s Sovereignty He has created Boundaries; but He also creates Freedom.

- That freedom allows you to do bad or good; right or wrong.
- But He limits how free He lets free go.
- When you step on God’s line of limitation there are consequences.
- So God keeps His Sovereignty while allowing freedom.

Because God is Sovereign in His Providential connecting of things, He either causes all things that happen or allows them to happen if He didn’t cause them.

- God cannot sin, nor will HE endure sin.
- But He will use sin/evil to accomplish His purposes.

Genesis says: “God made Pharaoh’s heart hard, so that Pharaoh would chase the Israelites out of Egypt.

- God took the evil in Pharaoh’s heart and used it or cooperated with it for His purposes to set Israel free.

So even as bad as you want to be; you are cooperating with God to bring about His purposes for your life and His will.

- It may be negative cooperation.
- Joseph says: “You meant it for evil, but God meant your evil for good.”
- “God used your mess in my life to bring me to this location!”
 - It’s because you messed over me that I am fulfilling my destiny.
 - It’s because you tried to do me in that I am in God’s place.

When you have a Sovereign God like that:

- He can take folks who mess over you to bring you to where He wants you to be.
- You don’t want to hang out with luck; you want to hang out with Providence.
- Providence is how God arranges it to happen.

God is so good at His Providential work of arranging things in people’s lives; He will even use the devil.

- The devil had to go to God to get permission to mess up Job’s life.
- God allowed the devil to touch him, but limited him with a boundary of not taking his life.

- Luke 22:31-32 “The devil asked permission to sift Peter, to mess him up. “The Lord said, Simon, Simon, indeed, satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail;...”
- So, the devil is not just the devil – he is God’s devil – a created being of God under God’s Sovereignty.

When you are dealing with the Providence of God – you never get to see all the details that are going on behind the scenes.

You see parts that don’t connect or seem to relate to one another!

That’s because God is always doing more than one thing at a time. He’s working on millions of details in everybody’s life at once to bring His will to pass.

- Sometimes it looks like:
 - God is asleep – the phone line is busy – He’s on vacation –

That’s because all you see is what you see – and if all you see is what you see – you do not see all that is to be seen!

“You meant it for evil – but God meant it for good!”

- Joseph has finally reached his destiny after 22 years of detour.
- 22 years to arrive at this spot: because we don’t arrive at our destiny in a straight line.
- It depends of God’s purpose and whether we are cooperating with or contradicting those purposes.
- This affects the delay of our destiny –
- The goal God has for each of us is to end our lives reaching God’s destiny.

The Goal of God’s Providence:

Rom. 8:28- “**All things work together** for the good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His **purpose**.”

- **Purpose** = *proth-es-is* = Pro- before, thesis – a place, a setting forth; a **deliberate/advance plan.**
- God’s goal in our destiny is always His glory and our good!

God is The Master Weaver –

- Jacob thought Joseph was dead.
- Benjamin was being held hostage by Joseph in Egypt.

- They were about to lose Simeon.
- They were starving from the famine.
- Jacob did what we have done: Threw up his hands and cried “**All these things are against me.**” Have you ever felt like that?
- Nothing’s right - Everything is wrong.
- Everything that is broken – gets broken!

Little did Jacob know:

- Joseph was fine and alive as Prince in Egypt!
- Benjamin was fine & Simeon was fine and they were all getting ready to go to Egypt to eat and be taken care of the rest of their lives.

You never see all that God is doing on your behalf; you only see that piece that He wants you to see right now –

You cry out: “Why won’t you show me the whole thing – what’s really happening and how this thing is going to end?”

Because He wants you to walk by faith in Him and not by sight!

When you understand Providence – you will TRUST Him and walk with Him in this adventure called Faith.

Heb. 12:2- “Looking to Jesus, the **author**- chief leader/captain/Prince and **finisher** - **completer/consummator** of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”