

“GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD”

INTRODUCTION

- I. The title of this lesson is, “GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD.”
 - A. These words come from a passage in Gen. 50:20.
 1. Joseph had been sold by his brothers because of Jacob’s favoritism to Joseph, and his many dreams that he had about future events in their lives.
 2. Eventually, Joseph was favored by God, Who brought him to become governor of Egypt.
 3. Joseph eventually revealed himself to his evil brothers, but explained that they should not be afraid, for though they meant it for “evil”, God overruled it and meant it for “good,.” cf Gen. 45:5-9
 - B. There are several events in the O.T. that God foresaw and used them to illustrate great truths according to His divine purpose.
- II. Let’s not a few of these events at this time.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let’s notice the SIN OF ADAM IN EDEN.

- A. God surely foresaw that somewhere down the stream of time that there would be a departure from His will, and need a Savior and salvation. Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; 3:6, 17
 1. Adam and Eve were the first to sin and to cause the fall of the human race. Rom. 5:12-14
 2. Adam was the “figure” of another (the second Adam), who would be the one to bring the gift of salvation to man. Rom. 5:15-19
- B. An interesting contrast is made between the 2 Adams. 1 Cor. 15:45-49

II. 2nd, let’s note the CURSE PRONOUNCED UPON EVE. Gen.3:16

- A. Actually, Eve was the first to sin, and she gave to her husband with her, but Adam was held accountable for both transgressors.
 1. Eve usurped a corrupting influence OVER the man, as she was to be man’s “helper”, not his ruler. Gen. 2:18
 2. The curse placed upon Eve was used in the N. T. to remind us of the subjection the wife is to have to her husband while the husband is to love his wife, ALL this illustrating that Christ is head of the church, that Christ loved.
- B. Paul explained that this had been a “mystery” (or something unrevealed) until the TIME of Paul’s writing, THAT Eve’s subjection to Adam would illustrate the church’s subjection to Christ as a part of God’s purpose. Eph. 5:22-25
 1. Eve was a member of Adam’s body, and we are members of Christ’s spiritual body. Eph. 5:20
 2. Wives are to be subject to their husbands, and husbands are to love their wives. Eph. 5:30
 3. Paul said that the relationship was revealed as picturing “Christ and his church.” Eph. 5:31-32

III. 3rd, the MATTER OF ABRAHAM AND HIS SONS.

- A. Abraham’s wife Sarah, had been barren, but God caused her to conceive and bear a son named Isaac.
 1. Sarah had already encouraged Abraham to have a son by her handmaid Hagar, in their failed attempt to help God fulfill His promise to bless the world through the seed or offspring OF Abraham.

2. Ishmael (Abraham's son by Hagar) was a trouble-maker, and eventually had to be cast out of the home.

B. God used this story to illustrate a truth later, that the Law of Moses, had to be cast out, to allow the Gospel to flourish. Gal. 4:21-31

CONCLUSION

I. There may be many other events from the O.T. that God took advantage of to **OVERRULE** and **WORK** certain activities, in order to fulfill His purpose.

A. Many of the prophecies of the O.T., with their N.T. fulfillments, illustrate this truth.

B. The 3 examples we have discussed however, well illustrate the **wisdom** and **workings** of the God of heaven.

II. Perhaps the circumstances of YOUR life have brought you to this day, that you might hear God's will and obey it.

A. If you are not a Christian or member of Christ's church, you need to confess faith in Jesus as the Son of God, repent of all sins, and be baptized for the remission of sins. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38

B. If you ARE a member of the body of Christ, and need the prayers of the church to help you in your life in the church, you need to make things right with Him by repenting of your sins, confessing them, and asking God in prayer to forgive you.

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