Genesis - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship

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GEN 8:20-21

And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord . . . and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savor.

Gen. 8:20, 21

The burnt offering here speaks of Christ in His sacrificial death on Calvary. As we remember Him in His death today we are bringing to remembrance the burnt offering and what it means to God. What did God think of Noah's sacrifice? He smelled a sweet savor. Why was it sweet? Because it spoke of His Son. When we remember the Lord in His death, God again smells a sweet savor. He is perfectly satisfied with the work of the cross. Keep this in mind today. As you take the loaf and the cup in remembrance of the Lord's death, God smells a sweet savor.

CareLines: Volume 7, Forgiveness

And [Joseph] comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

Genesis 50:21

Joseph's brothers had treated him with much unkindness. In fact, Scripture records that they hated him. But after their father died, the brothers begged Joseph's forgiveness. This he did - totally and sincerely. Joseph demonstrated for us how we should act towards those who wrong us. We must do as Christ did - forgive.

CareLines: Volume 7, God's School

And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Genesis 41:46

Approximately 13 years before, Joseph had stood in front of Potiphar as his slave. Now he stands before Pharaoh as his Prime Minister. During those years, Joseph had been in the school of God, which molded him into a true servant to be used by God for the blessing of the Egyptians and the family of Israel. When Joseph looked back on all the experiences, many of them painful, he could see that God had sent him beforehand to preserve his family from famine and death. God knows the end from the beginning; we don't. In God's school, graduation day sometimes takes a long time to come around. But it does, and there is immense blessing from lessons well learned.

CareLines: Volume 7, Promotion

I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:41

Joseph's God-given ability to interpret dreams, an ability that Joseph gave God the glory for, saved Egypt from dying of starvation in a terrible famine. Joseph is promoted to the highest position in the land, one which he retained for the rest of his life. The Lord Jesus Christ has also been given "a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and . . . every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." What a beautiful picture Joseph is of our Lord Jesus.

CareLines: Volume 7, Time

It came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed.

Genesis 41:1

God's time had finally arrived. It was now God's time for the end to Joseph's trial - the end of his prison term and his rejection. And God used a dream to get him out. Pharaoh dreamed something that made no sense. His butler finally remembered that kind young man in prison who could interpret dreams. Joseph is released from prison in order to serve, not Pharaoh only, but ultimately the whole nation of Egypt, and to be

reconciled and reunited to his family. When it’s God’s time things happen.

CareLines: Volume 2, Affliction

GEN 41:52

God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

Gen. 41:52

These are the words of Joseph when he was in Egypt. At this point he was the second most powerful man in the land; he had wealth and honor; but he still called Egypt the land of his affliction. Eighty years after his ascension to power, Joseph died. After all that time he still showed that he didn’t consider Egypt his home - he asked his family to take his bones back to Canaan. Let’s remember the example of Joseph. Let us not allow the many blessings which we enjoy in this world to cause us to forget that our home is not here. Because this world has cast out our Savior, it is the land of our affliction.

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship: GEN 41:43

GEN 41:43

And they cried before him, Bow the knee: and [Pharaoh] made [Joseph] ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Gen. 41:43

Here we find Joseph in triumph. After years of rejection and a long period in prison he is exalted to the top position in the land. This is just a picture of what God thinks of Jesus. He was taken from the lowest place and is now raised to the highest position in the universe - head over all things. Why? Because He was faithful, and obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. How about bending the knees of our hearts today as we spend a little time meditating on the Lord’s death? Just remember that He willingly gave His life so that we might live. He took the punishment for the sins that we committed. And God has highly exalted Him.

CareLines: Volume 7, Joseph (Continued)

GEN 40:23

Think on me when it shall be well with thee. . . . Yet . . . the chief butler . . . forgat him.

Genesis 40:14, 23

A simple request - think about me when you get out of here; remember that I was kind to you; I cared when you were sad; I shared time with you when you were down. But when freedom came for the butler, his memory seemed to fail and he forgot all about Joseph. We need to be careful that, in the busyness of life, we don’t forget all about the Lord.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service

GEN 40:4

Joseph . . . served them.

Gen. 40:4

This is a remarkable statement. Joseph was a prisoner, put in prison as a result of false accusation. And instead of being bitter and hateful he spent his time serving other prisoners. This is just great. It is a lesson to us that God can use us ANYWHERE if we are willing to be used. Let’s be like Joseph and serve others.

CareLines: Volume 7, Care

But the Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Genesis 39:21

“I will never leave you nor forsake you” is a promise that was good for Joseph and Joshua and Moses, and us too. The Lord was in complete control of the situation and was protecting Joseph in a special way. Joseph had remained true to the Lord. Now the Lord was beginning to reward Joseph for his faithfulness. Take heart, young believer, your personal faithfulness to Christ will never go unrewarded by Him.

CareLines: Volume 7, Prison

And Joseph’s master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king’s prisoners were bound.

Genesis 39:20

We feel desperately sorry for Joseph. But there’s a great lesson here for us to learn. No matter what the cost, we must be faithful to the Lord, true to Him, and never waver from the path of purity that He expects His people to walk in. He will take care of us, even though we may suffer loss in the eyes of the world. Already we can see God at work behind the scenes by Joseph being placed in the same prison where Pharaoh’s prisoners were kept. Sooner or later, Joseph would come into personal contact with the king. But in the meantime he is content to allow God to be in charge.

CareLines: Volume 7, Lies

She called unto the men of her house . . . saying . . . He came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice.

Genesis 39:14

It just makes you want to smack this woman, doesn’t it? She couldn’t get her own way. So instead of holding someone in high regard for his honorable stand, she decides to pretend that Joseph had tried to rape her - after all, she had his coat as evidence, didn’t she? The evils of Satan’s ways. He couldn’t break Joseph through temptation, so now he is going to try to ruin his reputation through the lies of a wicked woman. But God is the justifier of all who seek to live for Him. No one can bring a charge of condemnation against God’s elect, as we shall see.

CareLines: Volume 7, Ultimate Test, The

Joseph went into the house to do his business. . . and she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment . . . and fled.

Genesis 39:11-12

Frustrated that her continual pleading was falling on deaf ears, Potiphar’s wife finally physically grabs hold of Joseph to try to force him to have sex with her. But Joseph, not willing to even submit to force, does the only honorable thing to do - he gets out of the house as fast as he can. If you read the verses in their entirety, you will see that there was no one else in the house. Joseph could have had a relationship with his master’s wife and no one would have known. But God was watching and Joseph knew that. Therefore to honor God, he flees.

CareLines: Volume 7, Temptation

And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

Genesis 39:10

Once Satan starts a temptation, he continues until the one who is tempted either gives in or crushes the temptation and the tempter through the Lord’s power. So Joseph is constantly harassed by his master’s wife, but he keeps the Lord as his constant standard and refuses all advances. He does not give the slightest little crack of an entrance for Satan to get an advantage. We must also guard ourselves with the same carefulness. It is easier to keep Satan out than it is to push him back out after he has once come into our lives. Keep the guard up!

CareLines: Volume 7, Standing Firm

But he REFUSED.

Genesis 39:8

The response of a heart in tune with God will reject the temptress. Joseph didn’t say, “Well, thanks, I feel really flattered that you would be interested in me. I don’t think it’s the right thing to do, but let’s talk about it later and we’ll work something out.” No, Joseph makes an initial firm stand that we all must do in a similar situation. He absolutely refused to even entertain the idea. Total rejection is a must if we are to keep clear of adultery or fornication.

CareLines: Volume 7, Temptation

And it came to pass . . . that his master’s wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

Genesis 39:7

Joseph’s good looks and ability had not gone unnoticed by other members of the household. Some time after being established in Potiphar’s house Joseph faces the greatest temptation that a man can face - a woman who desperately wants to have relations with him. Now Joseph has a choice to make. And in every situation like this, even today, each of us has a choice to make. These things don’t just happen. What would your response have been?

CareLines: Volume 7, Warning

Joseph was a goodly person, and well-favored.

Genesis 39:6

In addition to Joseph’s keen business sense and his honesty, he was also good-looking and kind. This is a tremendous advantage in some things, but Satan can use these blessings of God to our downfall if we are not very careful. And Joseph is about to be put to a test that only the strongest and those who are absolutely dependent on God can survive.

CareLines: Volume 7, Blessing

The Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake.

Genesis 39:5

“The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich.” Solomon penned those words. Potiphar sure found out the truth of them. Potiphar was probably an idol worshipper who thought of the “luck” of finding such a great slave. But God was, in the background, caring for a young person who had been rejected by his siblings and was alone in a foreign land. The Lord will never forsake us either.

CareLines: Volume 7, Trust

And all that [Potiphar] had he put into his hand.

Genesis 39:4

Finally Potiphar is able to trust Joseph, not just with regular tasks, but apparently with his financial affairs too. A Christian must be trustworthy. Stealing should never be a problem for us. We must be absolutely honest in everything that we do. A great witness to the unsaved is that, in a world where many people are only looking out for themselves, there are those who actually can be trusted.

CareLines: Volume 7, Responsibility

And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house.

Genesis 39:4

For Potiphar, Joseph was a blessing. He had purchased a slave at the market but soon found out that he was no ordinary slave. Here was the son of a rich landowner. He was also a child of God, and so his master gave Joseph more responsibility. And all the time Joseph served him. In other words, he still respected Potiphar, did what he asked, and didn’t take advantage of his position.

CareLines: Volume 7, Witness

And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper.

Genesis 39:3

The world reads us by our actions, reactions, words and things we do. So they should be able to see very quickly, as Potiphar did with Joseph, that the Lord is with us. It is a sad reflection on our Christianity if, when the people of the world look at us, they do not see Jesus. How is the witness of our life? Make sure that others can see the Lord Jesus in us.

CareLines: Volume 7, Prosperity

And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Genesis 39:2

Joseph was in a foreign land, a slave to a high official, with no friends and no family. But he had one friend that was right there beside him in his new situation - the Lord Himself. And even though Joseph was a slave, yet we read that he was prosperous. The Lord was encouraging Joseph even though everything that Joseph had ever known had been taken away from him. You see, Joseph's faith never failed! He trusted God for everything and took his circumstances from the Lord. What a great lesson for us!

CareLines: Volume 7, Resold!

And the Midianites sold [Joseph] into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

Genesis 37:36

Joseph meant nothing to the Midianites. He was just another business transaction. So Joseph was resold (probably for a profit) to the chief of the executioners. How'd you like an executioner as your boss? Just hope he doesn't say, "Off with his head!" Again we see God carefully controlling everything for a purpose that was still a long way off. We are thankful that the God of the universe, who knows the end from the beginning, cares for His own with a special interest.

CareLines: Volume 7, Deception

And they took Joseph's coat. . . and dipped the coat in the blood . . . and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found.

Genesis 37:31-32

Hatred turned into revenge. Revenge brought consequences. So the brothers had to cover up their crime through deception. Deception was perpetrated through lies. How hard can a person's conscience get? The ruse worked. Jacob believed from the "evidence" that Joseph was dead and "mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted." Jacob was a deceiver as a young man and had deceived his old, blind father. Now his own sons were deceiving him. What goes around comes around.

CareLines: Volume 7, Sold!

They drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph. . . for twenty pieces of silver.

Genesis 37:28

Joseph's brothers sold him to some merchantmen who were travelling to Egypt. "Out of sight, out of mind" might sum up their attitude. The only memory they would have of Joseph was of him walking behind a camel caravan across the desert sand. But God wanted Joseph in Egypt. There was a very important job for him to do in about 13 years or so. Sometimes God's school is long, but there's a great blessing at the end of it.

CareLines: Volume 7, Money-Making

And Judah said . . . What profit is it if we slay our brother? . . . Come, and let us sell him.

Genesis 37:26-27

Judah finally comes up with a plan that gets rid of Joseph, satisfies the other eight brothers (Reuben was not there at the time) and avoids a murder that would no doubt have bothered their consciences forever. Instead of killing Joseph, Judah figured on making some money by selling him instead. The New Testament tells us that the love of money is the root of all evil. Joseph was sold to make a profit. The Lord Jesus was sold to make a profit. Be careful, young believer, if you have a love for money. It may lead you into tremendous trouble.

CareLines: Volume 7, Joseph (Continued)

And they sat down to eat bread.

Genesis 37:25

There seems to be a streak in man's heart that is cold and callous. Just as Joseph's brothers sat down to eat while Joseph, a captive in the pit beside them, was waiting, so those who nailed Jesus to the cross sat down and watched Him as He suffered. May it be our prayer that we never grow cold and heartless. There are so many who have hurts and need love and care. A Christian must show the love and compassion of

Christ in every way, every day. Let Christ's love shine through you to a troubled world.

CareLines: Volume 7, Death

The pit was empty, there was no water in it.

Genesis 37:24

When the Lord suffered for us, the pit He found Himself in was quite different from the dry pit that Joseph was in. "The waters are come in unto My soul. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing. . . . The floods overflow Me." And there are many other verses. Joseph was a beautiful type of Christ. But, as in all types, it falls short in some areas. Nevertheless, Joseph experienced a little of what Jesus experienced when He went into death for us.

CareLines: Volume 7, Rejected

When Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat . . . and they took him, and cast him into a pit.

Genesis 37:23-24

Some reception! We can perhaps put ourselves in Joseph's position: a long journey by foot and nervous about being alone with nine older brothers who didn't like him. He enters their camp and rather than, "Hello! How's it going, Joseph? Good to see you!" they rip off his coat of many pieces and drop him into a hole in the ground. Notice something here? This is what makes Joseph such a wonderful picture of the Lord. He never complains or fights back. Meekness and gentleness are such wonderful characteristics to have.

CareLines: Volume 7, Conscience

Reuben . . . said, Let us not kill him. . . . Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit . . . and lay no hand upon him.

Genesis 37:21-22

At least one of the brothers had a conscience about what they were planning. It would seem that Reu-ben must not have been in on the original plot but found out about it later. Reuben was making up a plan to save Joseph. But it didn't work out, as we shall see, at least not the way Reuben wanted. One lesson here that we need to learn is that if you find yourself against a group plan that you can see will lead to sinful behavior - stand against it - be verbal. Don't be ashamed to stand up for what is right against what is wrong. We need more people with the courage of Reuben.

CareLines: Volume 7, Hatred

And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

Genesis 37:18

Hatred is hard to hide, so Joseph probably had known for some time of his brothers' feelings towards him. Now, unknown to him, their hatred had become so intense that they wanted to kill him. Young person, hatred should never be a part of your life. If it is, make it a special matter of prayer and ask the Lord to help you forgive whoever has wronged you. Hatred is from Satan and it will cause you to sin even worse. "The thought of foolishness is sin." To wish someone dead is sin. Get control over hatred.

CareLines: Volume 7, Joseph

What seekest thou?. . . I seek my brethren.

Genesis 37:15-16

When Jesus came, His purpose was to present Himself as the long-sought-for Messiah. If anyone had asked Him the question that was asked of Joseph, the Lord would have responded in the same way. In fact, on one occasion the Lord said of Himself, "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Joseph's first problem was that his brothers weren't in the place where he expected to find them and he had to go looking for them.

CareLines: Volume 7, Obedience

Israel said unto Joseph,. . . Come, and I will send thee unto them [Joseph's older brothers]. And he said to him, Here am I.

Genesis 37:13

One characteristic that marked Joseph, which was very beautiful, was his obedience. Knowing full well that his brothers hated him (they may have hidden their feelings from Jacob), Joseph was willing to go and find his brothers, who were off feeding the sheep somewhere far from home. Israel wanted to know how they were doing. Absolute obedience should be the mark of every Christian - to be willing and ready to do our heavenly Father's bidding without making any excuse.

CareLines: Volume 7, Hated

When his brethren saw that their father loved [Joseph] more. . . they hated him.

Genesis 37:4

A warning to all fathers and mothers - don't love one of your children more than the others. Soon there will be jealousy and resentment, and finally hatred. All children are different. All have different traits and personalities and abilities. All have to be treated at their level. Sometimes things we do for one of our children may appear to the others that they are being favored more. We need to be very careful that we don't cause any hatred among our children. We must make sure they know that we love them all completely.

CareLines: Volume 7, Privilege

Israel. . . made [Joseph] a coat of many colors.

Genesis 37:3

This coat of many colors, or pieces, was given to Joseph to mark the father's appreciation of his son. As we study the Lord Jesus, we see so many different aspects of His character that show us what the Father is like. Everywhere that the Lord went and everything that He did showed us a little piece of the Father so that we could get to know Him on a personal level.

CareLines: Volume 7, Loved

Now Israel loved Joseph.

Genesis 37:3

Joseph had a very special relationship with his father. Israel (or Jacob) had had a troublesome life, but one thing in his life brought him great joy. That was his son Joseph. This reminds us of the love of God the Father for His Son, Jesus, of whom He could say, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

CareLines: Volume 7, Lessons From Joseph's Life

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren.

Genesis 37:2

Joseph began his life as a shepherd. We see many in the Scriptures who cared for sheep -Abel, Abraham and David, to mention three. A shepherd is one who cares for animals that, if left alone, cannot really take care of themselves. In the spiritual world we need shepherding care too, not only from those in the body of Christ who act as our shepherds, but most of all from the Lord, that great Shepherd who, as the good Shepherd, laid down His life for the sheep.

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship: GEN 35:3

GEN 35:3

Let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God.

Gen. 35:3

Bethel - the house of God. Jacob had a desire to respond to God's request in the first verse of this chapter to go to Bethel to worship. The Lord Jesus has asked us to go to the house of the Lord today to worship Him. What a privilege it is to respond to His request and remember Him in His death. There's something really simple about salvation - BELIEVE. There's something really simple about what to do as a Christian -REMEMBER. Are you going up to Bethel today?

CareLines: Volume 2, Distress: 2

GEN 35:3

God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

Gen. 35:3

Jacob's life had been full of difficulty, a lot of which he had brought on himself. But he had experienced a wonderful thing. That was that God answered his call for help when he had been in trouble. And in addition, the Lord had stayed with him as he travelled through life. Jacob knew it and appreciated it. What a lesson for us: that in distress, or persecution, or trouble, or loneliness, or sorrow, Jesus is there waiting for your cry for help, and He too will stay with you as you go through life. When the couple on the road to Emmaus (see Luke 24:13-31) were feeling really downcast, who was it that walked along beside them? Jesus! Trust Him. He's there.

CareLines: Volume 3, Hold on

DECEMBER 4

And he said, Let me go. . . . And [Jacob] said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Genesis 32:26

Jacob had hold of someone who was the only source for blessing. And so Jacob refused to let him go. Are we that determined to hold on to the Lord - the source of all our blessing? Worldly temptations would cause us to loosen our grip. Hold on! Don't let go of the Lord. The end is in sight. Eternal blessing is just around the corner.

CareLines: Volume 2, Fear: 2

GEN 32:7

Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed.

Gen. 32:7

And well he might be! He was about to meet his older brother, Esau. About 21 years earlier Jacob had cheated Esau out of two very important items (for an Old Testament Jew) - his birthright, and the eldest son's blessing from his father. Jacob had got them both and run away. Now, as he approaches his brother, he is afraid. You too, young person, will have to face your past and account for it. Are you afraid, or are you resting on the finished work of Jesus on the cross? If you are a real Christian, you need not be afraid.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

MAY 18

And ye know that with all my power I have served your father.

Genesis 31:6

Jacob served his father-in-law with everything that he had. He did everything in his power to be a good servant. But his service wasn't appreciated. When we serve the Lord, however, He appreciates everything we do for Him - no matter how insignificant it may seem to us. Even a cup of cold water given in His name will be rewarded. We have a Master who is really worth serving.

CareLines: Volume 3, Marriage

SEPTEMBER 12

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife.

Genesis 2:24

Today is my daughter Jenny's wedding day. There is only one person she's interested in today, and she's been spending a lot of time getting ready for the moment when her groom, Ken, will see her walk down the aisle to meet him. Then, after saying their vows before the Lord, they will become one. Happy day! Happy day, too, when Jesus, the heavenly bridegroom, will be united with his perfect bride, the Church. Christian marriage is such a beautiful picture of the coming marriage of the Lamb.

CareLines: Volume 3, Temporary

MARCH 3

And Isaac dwelt in Gerar.

Genesis 26:6

The name Gerar means “sojourning”, or temporary. Isaac’s home here was only temporary. He, along with many Old Testament saints, were looking for a permanent home away from this world. How about us? Do we dwell in tents (figuratively-speaking) or have we dug our roots so deep in this world that it’ll hurt to leave it? May we each live by faith, young people, and look for our home in heaven where all the troubles of this life will be shut out.

CareLines: Volume 2, Love: 8

GEN 24:67

And Isaac . . . took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her.

Gen. 24:67

Have you ever noticed what one of the first questions is when a young lady becomes engaged? “How big is the rock?” is commonly heard! The amount of money that went into a ring is infinitely less important, however, than how much love went into it. In fact, when it comes to marriage, the expression “money doesn’t bring happiness” is especially true. A deep, lasting love for each other only happens when there is a shared and dedicated love for the Lord.

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship: GEN 22:5

GEN 22:5

I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

Gen. 22:5

Abraham and Isaac went to perform the highest act of worship that a father has been called upon to perform - to offer his own son in sacrifice to God. This was Abraham’s ultimate test. Would he go through with it? You know he did. Abraham, “the friend of God,” one who acted in faith all his life seemed to know that somehow God would give Isaac back. And He did! A substitute was found! But there was no substitute for God’s Son. Doesn’t that make you want to worship?

CareLines: Volume 3, Reflection

MAY 11

And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night.

Genesis 1:16

The sun - the greater light - is a picture of Christ. The lesser light - the moon - is a picture of the Church which is composed of all those who are true believers in the Lord Jesus. The moon reflects the sun’s light into the darkness. The Bible states that “men loved darkness rather than light.” This then is the challenge for us: that we who are Christians would reflect some of the Son’s light into this dark, depraved, degenerate world, so that through us they might see something of the beauty of Jesus and be drawn to Him.

CareLines: Volume 3, Judgment

MARCH 21

Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place.

Genesis 1:9

In the Bible waters speak of judgment. Judgment concentrated in one place would remind us of Calvary. So the twelfth sentence of the Word of God prophetically intimates a coming judgment. We know what that was - the judgment of God against sin poured out on His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. God wastes no time in unfolding His plan to us. Aren’t you glad you belong to Him?

CareLines: Volume 3, Lord, The

GEN 18:14

Is anything too hard for the Lord?

Gen. 18:14

Here’s a good verse to start the year with. If things get tough this year and you get discouraged, repeat this verse to yourself. “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” The answer, of course, is, “No!” Nothing is impossible to Him. Your situation may be difficult, but He has allowed it for a good reason. He will help you in your circumstances. Nothing is too hard for Him.

CareLines: Volume 3, God Sees

NOVEMBER 4

Thou God seest me.

Genesis 16:13

He sees us in our troubles.He sees us when we’re sad.He sees us in the good times;He sees us in the bad.He’s always caring for us,Even if we flee.One thing is never different.It’s: “Thou God seest me.”

CareLines: Volume 2, Reward

GEN 15:1

Fear not, Abram, I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Gen. 15:1

Abram had just turned down a reward for rescuing the captives taken from Sodom during a war. He could have become instantly rich but he wanted all his blessing to come from God. Right after this incident God comes to him in a vision and says what we have in our verse today. First, He was Abram’s Protector. Second, he was Abram’s reward - no, more than that - his exceeding great reward. How do you think Abram felt after that message? I’m sure he felt completely satisfied. Perhaps he sat back and said, “Wow, that’s fantastic!” For sure, his relationship with the Lord was further strengthened. God ALWAYS rewards faithfulness. Stand firm and let the Lord be your exceeding great reward.

CareLines: Volume 7, Name

GEN 12:2

Let us make us a name.

Genesis 11:4

I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.

Genesis 12:2

We may try all our lives to make a name for ourselves, but the only name worth having is the one that God makes for us. The only blessing worth having and the only blessing with any eternal worth is the blessing of God. Self-promotion is futile. “Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased” (Matthew 23:12).

CareLines: Volume 7, Continents

And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother’s name was Joktan.

Genesis 10:25

Peleg lived for about 220 years right after the flood. His name means “division.” Men make fancy and complicated calculations about “continental drift” and how it has taken millions of years. The Bible says the earth was divided in the days of Peleg (about 220 years). “Impossible!” shout the scientists. But with God all things are possible. The word “divided” here means split, perhaps by earthquakes. Peleg’s brother was Joktan, whose name means “made small.” So the one large continent that God originally made was split into several smaller ones that we see now.

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