

The Corona Chronicle.

Being Church in Partial lockdown.

Sunday May 23rd

West Worthing Evangelical Church. Rugby Road

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Genesis 42 v25-43v10

Key verse 42v36 'All these things are against me.'

How often have we felt that everything is going against us. In a soccer match we might feel that the referee is favouring the other side.

In chapter 42 and the beginning of chapter 43. We are reminded that the brothers apart from Simeon set off for home with bags full of grain.



They did not know that Joseph had restored the purchase price of the grain in the sacks. When one of them found the money, they were filled with fear. Because they did not know why or how it got there. The brothers report the whole situation to Jacob and tell him that the Egyptian Prince insists on seeing Benjamin. Despite Ruben's pressure, Jacob refused to let Benjamin go to Egypt. He fears his youngest son will suffer a similar fate to that which he believed had claimed the life of Joseph. But as the famine hits the family. Judah tells Jacob that they must go with Benjamin to Egypt.

They have already delayed. The brothers, spearheaded by Judah, continue to debate with Jacob. They need to go back to Egypt to get the grain, even though it would mean taking Benjamin with them. With great reluctance Jacob agree and made sure that they take gifts and double the money for Egyptian authorities. He commits the matter to God for the release of Simeon and the safe return of Benjamin. He has no alternative. As he sees it.

Then the brothers go back to Egypt.

1. Jacob's Fear.

Jacob was governed by the fear of losing Benjamin who was now 23 years old. Earlier in the chapter when they first went down to Egypt Jacob expressed his fears. 42v4. His fears were not irrational or farfetched. They could have died.

But they were irrational because he was trying to protect his son from things that were outside his control. It was these fears that were governing his behaviour. Now he still refuses to send Benjamin out. He would rather see the family starve than release Benjamin. He would rather see Simeon rot in Prison.

Although Christians are not to be daredevils taking unnecessary risks we need to entrust those we love to the Lord. Irrational fears indicate that we are not trusting God.

Jacob was pessimistic about the past. Verse 36. And about his future. Verse 38. He was convinced he would go to his grave in sorrow If Benjamin went to Egypt with his brothers. When in fact letting him go was the way Jacob would experience the greatest joy of his life. His reunion with Joseph. We need to affirm that God is good and that life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ Is full of great joy.

2. v36 Reveals Jacob's focus. His own selfishness.

Jacob sees the treat to Benjamin as a threat to his own happiness. He is willing to sacrifice another son Simeon. Selfishness is that attitude of being concerned with one's own interests above the interests of others.

However, the Bible commands us to *"do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others Philippians 2v3-4*

Selfishness or empty conceit is often expressed by building up oneself while tearing down someone else.

It is one of the "works of the flesh" according to Galatians 5:20.

It leads to "disorder and every evil practice" (James 3:16).

Selfishness caused the rich young ruler to turn his back on Jesus (Matthew 19:21-22).

Selfishness ruins friendships (Proverbs 18:1), hinders prayer (James 4:3), and is the product of earthly wisdom (James 3:13-14).

3. Jacob reluctantly said go. 43v11

Jacob finally says. If it must be so, then he grudgingly yields to what has to be.

But his hearts not in it. He's saying there's a gun (or a bow and arrow) to my head. What else can I do? That's not faith. Faith should flow from a willing spirit of submission to our loving, Heavenly Father.

4. When Jacob sent off his sons he instructs them to take back the money, explaining perhaps it was a mistake. He does not accept that God was behind it.

There are three different views of adversity. In these chapters about Joseph.

A. Joseph views adversity as coming from a loving hand of His sovereign God. Genesis 45 -9. We must not think that God is cruel and like the Greek gods sends a thunderbolt to mankind for the fun of it. Living in a world where man has fallen into sin He allows these things to happen then turns them for good in the end.

B. Joseph's brothers view it as punishment from an angry God who is getting even with them for their sin. 42 v 21 to 22 and 28.

C. Jacob views adversity as something he wants to control but finds he can't. He yields to the fate that has been handed to him. Only at the last moment does he seek divine help. He is saying 'If I am bereaved, I am bereaved. It's in the stars'.

There is a difference between God's sovereign will and fatalism.

According to God's will He has a purpose and plan. He will always determine the final events, but we have the responsibility in the choices we make. God's foreknowledge of the future does not exclude your free will and being responsible for the decisions you make.

Only Joseph's view is correct.

Jacob needed to see the hand of a loving sovereign God in his adversity.

We are able to submit in faith to God in our trials only when we see His loving hand in the common problems that happen each day.

Bible Word Search Puzzles

Joseph – Son of Jacob

The life of Joseph, found in Genesis Chapters 30 – 50, was fascinating! Find the 42 words listed below in this word search puzzle. They may appear in any direction, both backward and forward. Also, find one phrase that is NOT on the list, the name of his most famous garment.

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| P | A | O | C | O | A | U | V | Z | H | O | A | R | A | H | P | A | |
| Y | G | C | S | R | P | U | E | D | N | L | E | A | R | S | I | S | I |
| D | T | H | H | H | E | N | R | A | H | C | A | S | S | I | R | V | N |
| F | E | I | T | E | Y | V | D | G | E | K | G | R | V | O | E | Z | M |
| N | A | A | R | E | L | H | L | X | A | L | E | S | L | L | T | J | E |
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ASHER
AUTHORITY
BAKER
BENJAMIN
BROTHERS
CANAAN
CISTERN
CUPBEARER
DAN
DREAMS
EGYPT
EPHRAIM
FAMINIE
FATHER

FLOCKS
GAD
GOSHEN
GRAIN
HANDSOME
INTERPRETER
ISRAEL
ISSACHAR
JACOB
JUDAH
LEVI
MANASSEH
MASTER
NAPHTALI

NILE
PHARAOH
POTIPHAR
PRISON
RACHEL
REUBEN
SEVEN YEARS
SHEPHERD
SIGNET RING
SILVER CUP
SIMEON
WARDEN
ZEBULUN

Hymns ,Prayers and Bible Readings

Especially for those unable to get to Church.

Bible Reading Genesis 42v v25-43v10

Lord, in the morning Thou shalt hear
My voice ascending high;
To Thee will I direct my prayer,
To Thee lift up mine eye.

Thou art a God, before whose sight
The wicked shall not stand;
Sinners shall ne'er be Thy delight,
Nor dwell at Thy right hand.

But to Thy house will I resort,
To taste Thy mercies there;
I will frequent Thine holy court,
And worship in Thy fear.

O may Thy Spirit guide my feet
In ways of righteousness!
Make every path of duty straight,
And plain before my face.

My watchful enemies combine
To tempt my feet astray;
They flatter, with a base design
To make my soul their prey.

The men that love and fear Thy name
Shall see their hopes fulfilled;
The mighty God will compass them
With favour as a shield.

Isaac Watts based on Psalm 5

Prayers

APPROACHING GOD IN PRAYER

From Hebrews 4

O God, our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way as we are but did not sin, we approach Your throne with confidence, knowing that He understands:

**In our weakness show us mercy
And, because we need Your grace,
Help us for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

CONFESSING OUR SINS

From Isaiah 59

**Lord God, our offences are many in Your sight,
And our failures testify against us:
We are conscious of our wickedness
And we acknowledge our sin;
We have rebelled against You,
And acted treacherously towards You,
Turning our backs on You.
Lord God, forgive us;
Through Jesus our redeemer. Amen.**

DECLARING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

From Psalm 116

The Lord knows *your* voice, the Lord hears *your* cry for mercy, the Lord turns His ear toward *you*; the Lord is gracious and righteous, He is full of compassion. In *your* need He has saved *you*. Be at peace - God forgives *you*. **Amen.**

GIVING GOD THE GLORY

From Revelation 15

Great and marvellous are Your deeds,
Lord God almighty;
Just and true are Your ways,
King of the ages.
Who will not fear You, O Lord,
And bring glory to Your name?
For You alone are holy;
All nations will come and worship before You,
For Your righteousness has been revealed. **Amen.**

PRAYING FOR GOD'S PROTECTION

From Psalm 119 (113-118)

Lord,
Our defender and protector,
In Your promise we put our trust:
Strengthen us and we shall live,
Hold us and we will be safe;
Through Jesus our redeemer. **Amen.**

PRAYING FOR GUIDANCE

From Psalm 16

O God our protector, we trust in You for safety, we depend on You for all we need; all good things come from You— we commit our future into Your hands:

**Guide us by day and teach us by night,
Be near us so that nothing can shake us,
Make us always aware of Your presence,
Show us the path that leads to life,
Let Your Spirit fill us with joy,
And let Your service be our delight for ever. Amen.**

GOING OUT FROM WORSHIP

From 2 Timothy 2

Be strong through the grace that is ours in union with Christ Jesus; take *your* part in suffering as His loyal soldier; Remember Him who was raised from the dead, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

