

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Trusting God's Providence

D.J. Stucky

Joseph wept aloud when he finally revealed himself to his brothers. When he asked about his father, his brothers were afraid (Gen. 45:1-3). Joseph assured them that he would do no harm to them. In fact, he declared that it was God who sent him to Egypt so that his brothers and his father might be saved (45:4-8). Joseph commanded them to get Jacob and return to Egypt. Then finally, after many years, he spoke with them not as a ruler of Egypt, but as a brother (45:9-15). Pharaoh provided Joseph's brothers with a generous amount of supplies for their journey, and they returned home safely to Jacob, whose spirit revived upon hearing his favored son yet lived (45:16-28).

The first response from Joseph's brothers was fear. The word translated as "dismayed" in verse three has the sense of being terrified or out of one's senses. Guilt weighed heavily upon them because of what they had done to Joseph (Gen. 42:21-22; 44:16). Now they were afraid for their lives because Joseph had the power and authority to exact vengeance.

If Joseph were a typical ruler of that time, he would have slain his brothers. Thankfully, Joseph did not exact vengeance for himself, for he understood that vengeance belongs to God alone (Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30). Instead of focusing on the terrible acts of his brothers, he focused on the wonderful working of God (Gen. 45:5-8). Despite the immense trials and suffering, Joseph was able to recognize God's providence. His brothers only meant to get rid of Joseph and make some extra cash on the side. God used this terrible act to bring about their salvation, as Joseph explains, "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life" (Gen. 45:5).

Especially in the bad times, our focus needs to be on the Lord (Jas. 5:13; Phil. 4:8-9). Joseph surely experienced great trauma when he first came to Egypt, being separated from his parents, betrayed by his brothers, and in a new pagan land. Because he maintained his godly character, he was blessed, and ascended the ranks. Looking back, Joseph saw the providence of God was at work.

We can never be completely certain when an event is the result of God's providence. However, we can be certain that God may use any event, even a tragic one, to fulfill His purpose (Jas. 1:2-3). Our job is to serve Him in the good times and in the bad times. This faithfulness will not only lead to a crown of life for ourselves (Rev. 2:10), but we will be a blessing to our loved ones, just as Joseph was.

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Jeff Day
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen
Tim Norman

Deacons

Gary Barger
Ryan Cowan
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes
Russ Jones

Minister

Kevin Rhodes

Associate

D.J. Stucky

Sunday

Bible Study
9:00 am
AM Worship
10:00 am
PM Worship
5:00 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Class
10:00 am
Bible Study
7:00 pm

Cleburne,
Texas

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Victory Reign

Kevin W. Rhodes

The Old Testament records numerous victories made possible by the LORD. It records the victory of Abraham in rescuing Lot and his company (Gen. 13). It establishes the amazing power of God to deliver in the record of the crossing of the Red Sea and the Song of Moses sung in exaltation after the fact (Ex. 14-15). It draws attention, time and time again, to the military victories made possible through very unmilitary means throughout Israel's years wandering in the wilderness, in the conquest of Canaan, and in the deliverance under the judges. The LORD's providing victory is an unmistakable theme for Israel and for God. However, the celebration of victory recorded in Psalm 98 has many unique characteristics, and they deserve our attention and reflection.

Psalm 98 appears within a group of psalms emphasizing the reign of the LORD, but Psalm 98 distinguishes itself by its confident declaration of victory achieved (Psa. 98:1). While the LORD provided victories aplenty for Israel throughout their history—and certainly a number throughout the reign of David—this poetic announcement falls within a series of regnal psalms filled with Messianic imagery. Therefore, while the words could apply to David's victories over Israel's political foes, they apply even more to the greatest of victories God made possible through His Son. This indeed proved to be a victory that declared salvation and righteousness revealed (Psa. 98:2; cf. Rom. 1:16-17), a victory that fulfilled His promise to Israel and is made known throughout all the world (Psa. 98:3). Having thus obtained the victory, He provided the greatest reasons for joy—a triumph if ever there was one (Psa. 98:4-6; Col. 2:14-15), a victory so great

that the earth itself, in figure, was moved to acknowledge it (Psa. 98:7-8). However, the final verse removed any doubt regarding the connection intended between the surrounding psalms as well as its forward-looking meaning, restating in variation the closing of Psalm 96 that, by doing these things, the LORD had established His right to judge the earth, authority granted to the risen Lord (Psa. 98:9; Matt. 28:18; cf. Acts 17:30-31).

Every victory the LORD provided throughout all of the Old Testament was, in some way, an anticipation of the greatest victory He would provide ultimately. The Ammonites and the Philistines were mere shadows of the lurking enemies of sin and death. Therefore, if the joy over these earthly enemies deserved celebration and exultation, how much more does Jesus' victory over sin, death, and Satan deserve our ongoing appreciation and adoration? But most of all, this victory established that the LORD reigns, just as Paul later described (1 Cor. 15:24-28). How powerful then the imagery for us to note that while the LORD achieved previous victorious by slaying these foes in battle, the greatest victory of all He achieved by being slain Himself so that He could rise victoriously! Conquering sin and conquering death, Jesus conquered Satan and made victory possible for us all. Surely this deserves to be lauded! But just as surely, His victory gives Him every right to judge. But His people can once again rejoice because He will judge with the same quality of character by which He achieved the victory. Jesus reigns! Jesus is on His throne! Jesus is victorious! Therefore, "thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Debbie Boroughs is in ICU #7 at Walls Hospital since Monday. No Visitors please.
- Georgia Haynes' liver counts are elevated. We pray in three months that it will be back down.
- The Haynes son-in-law, Austin, found out that his mother, Ella Dianne Habluetzel-Sexton has colon cancer. She lives in Cotter Arkansas.
- Amy Harris, Steve Baze's niece, had a complete hysterectomy and colon surgery yesterday. She is at UT Southwestern in Arlington.
- Amy Hackler went to the hospital Monday with an infection but was released on Tuesday.
- Kevin and Shelley Hackler have been sick with the flu.
- Darla Baze Mullen, Steve's sister, continues to need our prayers that the chemo will start working.
- Sandy Pennay's neighbor, Linda, was one of the people injured in the mobile home that was destroyed Monday night by the tornado. She was staying with her daughter who was also injured. Linda is on a ventilator and can't move her legs.
- Joe and Melissa Moon's 1-month old son is in the hospital with a bacterial infection. They are friends with several here.
- Don Toth, a good friend of the Rhodes' family, has asked for prayers. He has suffered with cancer for a long time.

Please remember in prayers

Earlene Doty, Helen Henslee, Jerry Homan, Barbara Milstead, Darla Baze Mullen, Steve's sister, Joyce Ogden, Donna York's sister, Ralph Rockett, Joe Warlick.

Congratulations

Justin and Sydney Hewlett are proud to announce the arrival of their new grandson, Owen Cravey, on Tuesday, February 20th. Proud parents are Brian and Tyler Cravey. Proud brother is Max. Elizabeth Hewlett is the proud great-grandmother.

Please note...

Teachers, the spring quarter will begin on Sunday, March 4th. If you have any questions, please see Ryan Cowan.

There are several dishes in the kitchen from funerals that need to be picked up.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

Leviticus 20:7,8

Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 2/25

Front South

Justin Hewlett
Kenneth Helm
Doug Jones

Front North

Mike Hight
Russ Jones
Bill Hughes

Back South

Jim Hudgins
Clark Lehtinen
Dennis Lane

Back North

Doug Kilcrease
Jeff McPherson
Michael Hunt

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Tom Collins

Sunday PM

Ryan Cowan
Bill Cashion

Wednesday PM

Joshua Haynes
Ryan Cowan

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Dale Ash

Wednesday

Andrew Collins

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Rob Stidolph

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Jeff Day
Paul Murphy

Collection Counting

Jeff Day / Paul Murphy

Beacon of Truth, Pat McIntosh's internet radio program will be on Monday thru Friday at 7:00 AM.

Expositions, Kevin's television program, airs on GBN every Monday night at 7:30 pm and then re-airs on Saturdays at 2:30 pm.



Sermons for Sunday

AM

An Encouraging Word
Matthew 11:2-6

PM

The Light of Leadership
Zechariah 4:1-14

Calendar of Events



6/6-8/29 Granbury Street Summer Series

9/7-8 Marriage and Parenting Seminar
with Neal and Kathy Pollard

10/21-24 Gospel Meeting
with Todd Clippard



Our Records

Bible Class.....	139
AM Worship.....	195
PM Worship.....	117
Wednesday Bible Class.....	118
Contribution.....	\$8,547

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