

GOD'S HAND IN CONTROL

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

In your life, have you ever planned to do a certain project or execute certain plan, but while you are doing it suddenly strong circumstance come on your way that affects and deviates your direction or even stops the completion of your plan? What do you feel? Surely you are sad, perplexed, struck down and abandoned!

Is there any person around you who opposed your plans and your ways? Or are there groups of people against you who are always bothering you? You are fed up or annoyed by them who continually tease you, hit you and conspire against you. In situations like these you always think negative things – failures and frustrations that hinder you from continuing what you have planned and have been doing. This may be a reality in your life but it is not the real truth. What you pass through and experience right now that is from pain, sorrow, rejection, persecution and humiliation is just the mid of the scene. You are not seeing all aspects and you do not know what is going to happen in the next step of your life's journey. But you have to be assured about the love of God for you. He is seeing everything in your life and he is keeping in control by His hand. As you surrender your life to Him, and take Jesus as your Savior and Lord, God will be your Father and He knows how to take care of you as His son.

The theme for this message is that God knows all things, plans everything, and nothing can stop His plan for you. Nothing can separate you from His plan if you strongly put your trust in Him. ***“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)***

From the Old Testament in the Bible, we narrate briefly the story of Joseph, the son of Jacob. Joseph was a righteous man since his young age. He loved God and followed Him. His father Jacob loved him more than his eleven brothers. ***“When his brothers saw their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.” (Genesis 37:4)*** Joseph was seeing dreams, and he was telling to his brothers. ***“He said to them, ‘Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of corn out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered round mine and bow down to it.’ His brothers said to him, ‘Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us? And hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.” (Genesis 37:6-8, 11)*** Until one day his brothers conspired against him. They stripped his cloths and threw him in a well. When they saw a caravan of merchants passing by, they agreed to sell him to get rid of him. They pulled him up from the well and sold him to become a servant in Egypt in Potiphar house, the captain of the guard and one of the Pharaoh's officials.

Joseph's suffering went on and more: Potiphar's wife took notice of Joseph and said to him, “Come to bed with me”. But he refused her request so she slandered him to his master who put Joseph in the prison. Joseph stayed in the prison two years. He was well known in dream explanation as God was revealing things to him. That made him famous, and one time Pharaoh sent for Joseph from prison to interpret his dream. Joseph, as God revealed to him, explained Pharaoh's dream fully, and warned Pharaoh for the coming 7 years of famine after the 7 years of abundance. Joseph also suggested to Pharaoh a plan of how to manage the coming difficult situation. Then Pharaoh was pleased and in response he said to Joseph: ***“Since God has made all this known to you, there is no-one discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.” (Genesis 41:39-40)***

Truly, abundance came to Egypt, and followed by famine all over the land. Even Joseph's father and brothers were affected by the famine. So they went to Egypt to buy food. There they met Joseph but they didn't recognize him; they bowed down to him with their faces on the ground. After that meeting, sequence of events happened until the brothers finally recognized Joseph – their brother whom they sold away. They were afraid that he might harm them. But instead, he helped them, and he opened the way for them to live and settle with him in Egypt. Joseph told his brothers, ***“And now do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” (Genesis 45:5; 50:20)***

My dear and Beloved: Your life right now might be similar to a certain point with Joseph's life. You might be frustrated because of people who are plotting evil against you; and selling you with cheap price. You could be thrown in a well, or false witness could accuse you. You might suffer from abuse. But remember as God was with Joseph, He is with you today as well. And the time will come when you would be restored, honored and rewarded. You are not seeing the whole picture, the whole scene or what is coming next. But God is in control. ***“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us then who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)*** If God was with Joseph He is also with me and with you. God had given His Son Jesus Christ who died for our sins on the cross to give us eternal life. If this is the situation, the question is this: ***“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35, 37-39)***

My Prayer: “Father God in heaven, I thank You for your great love to me. Thank you for your faithfulness, and for watching over me. Thank you for you restore my joy and assured me that you are always beside me; and nothing will change my destiny living with you throughout eternity. Thank you, Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.