

Scripture: The Law of God (Ex. 20) – Genesis 39 Series Joseph #7
Singing: 222:1, 2, 4, 5 – 324:2, 4 – 233:1, 4-6 – 210:1-5 – 5:1, 2, 5

The Mysterious Comfort of God's Providence

I. The Mystery of His providence II. The Comfort of His Providence

I. The Mystery of God's Providence

- A. For Joseph, life was a giant maze of challenges
1. Though he feared the Lord uprightly, he ended upon a dungeon (40:15)

 2. All his faithfulness to God ended up in 'shackles in prison' (Ps. 105:18)

 3. The history of Joseph is prophetic in nature: 2 Tim. 3:12
- B. This reality forms huge challenge to our faith in God
1. Even more when we still think wrong like Job's counselors: Job 4:7-9

 2. But this is not in agreement with real-life: Ps. 73:3, 12
- C. Are any of you in this 'dungeon' where Joseph was stuck for 2 years?
- D. The mystery of God's Providence will remain a mystery: 1 Cor. 4:5

II. THE COMFORT OF GOD'S MYSTERIOUS PROVIDENCE

- A. The Comfort in Joseph's story is God's four-fold testimony: 39: 2, 3, 21, 23
1. The LORD was with Joseph (2, 3a, 21, 23) – LORD showed mercy/favor (21)
- B. The comfort of God's providence is His care over sparrows (Matt. 10:29)
1. Where is God when Joseph's life went down into the dungeon?
 - a. meditate on Gen. 45:5; Is. 45:7; Amos 3:6; Jer. 29:11; Acts 4:27
 2. God's overruling governing and guiding hand is no excuse for sin: Acts 2:23
- C. The comfort of God's providence is that God makes each event purposeful
1. God is the Potter at work (Is. 64:8; Jer. 18:6)

 2. God is preparing Joseph for the task God has planned for him: Ps. 105:18

Applications

- A. When cast into a fierce storm, don't misread God's providence as His promise
1. His promises are many and clear: *Is. 43:2; Heb. 13:5-6; Jer. 29:10*

 2. His Hand of providence is clear yet mysterious: John 13:7

B. Avoid filling in the details of His promises or prophecies

1. Ponder the lives of His people: *Abraham – Moses – Joseph*

2. Instead follow His directions: Ps. 37:1-8; Mark 5:36