



JOSEPH

AN IMMANUEL SERMON SERIES

GENESIS 44

The Providence of God

“God’s providential government extends very particularly to his people. The entire history of the patriarchs, of Israel, of the church, and of every believer, is proof of this. What other people meant for evil against them, God turned to their good (Gen. 50:20); no weapon fashioned against them will succeed (Isa. 54:17); even the hairs on their head are all numbered (Matt. 10:30); all things work together for their good (Rom 8:28). Thus all created things exist in power and under the government of God; neither chance nor fate is known in Scripture (Exod. 12:13; Prov. 16:33). It is God who works all things according to the counsel of his will (Eph. 1:11) and makes all things serviceable to the revelation of his attributes, to the honor of his name (Prov. 16:14; Rom 11:36). Scripture beautifully sums up all this in repeatedly speaking of God as a king who governs all things (Ps. 10:16; 24:7-8; 29:10; 44:4; 47:6-7; 74:12; 115:3; Isa. 33:22; etc.).” (*Herman Bavinck, Reformed Dogmatics*)

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (Genesis 50:20)

The Background (Genesis 37-43)

Joseph has experienced betrayal, a pit, slavery, slander, and prison. He has also experienced the blessing of God and an unlikely promotion.

Joseph's brothers travelled to Egypt to buy grain. Joseph _____ his brothers by speaking roughly to them, accusing them of espionage, and holding Simeon as a ransom for Benjamin's appearance.

Having returned to Egypt for more grain, Joseph again tested his brothers by giving Benjamin "five times as much" as what was given to the other brothers.

The Final Test (Genesis 44:1-13)

Joseph's final test involved _____ Benjamin to see whether or not the older brothers would _____ the youngest, most-favored brother.

The Sacrifice of Judah (Genesis 44:14-34)

Against all expectations, _____ emerged as Benjamin's protector (Genesis 44:14 ... Genesis 37:18-36, 38:1-30, 43:1-10).

For the first time in this narrative, one of Jacob's sons (Judah) showed _____ for someone other than himself (Jacob, Benjamin), and was even willing to selflessly _____ himself for the good of his family.

The Gospel

Jesus the Christ (Messiah) was born from the line of _____ (Matthew 1:1-17).

Jesus the Christ (Messiah) was _____ with an "easy-out" (Matthew 4:1-11).

Jesus the Christ (Messiah) was crucified to _____ his people (Matthew 26:26-29).