

Top 150 Bible Stories

God Meant It For Good

Week 12 March 24

Genesis 50:1-21

Have you ever heard of a person who has been put into prison but later proved his/her innocence? This week, I read about a man like that. He was almost 60 years old. He had been in prison for nearly half of his life. He was innocent the whole time, but just recently proved it. I wonder how he feels? Is he furious? Bitter? Sad? Hopeless? Surely he did not plan his life to turn out this way! I wonder what he will do with the rest of his life now that he is free? This story tells us how a man like that (Joseph) handled the rest of his life. The story of Joseph has caused us to wonder about the plight of poor Joseph. And we learned how God is good to those who trust in Him! We have seen how God stayed near to him and how God accomplished, through these events, His good purposes (v.20). God's good purpose was *"to bring it about that many people should be kept alive,"* namely, His people (the Hebrew nation). God saved His people then, as a testimony to us now - that He, through Jesus, saves His people. We are to trust in God in all things, even though our plight is poor. So we are not to fear (v.21), for God provides for our families and us.

The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-15

Have you ever read the book [Earthquake in the Early Morning](#)? It is in the Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne. The book is about the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco. The earthquake caused severe damage to the pipelines that carried the city's gas. The pipes erupted in fire and engulfed most of the city. In the book, the kids arrived just in time to observe the fire's damage and to help the people of San Francisco. It is said that fire might have consumed 90% of the city. For all practical purposes, the city was totally destroyed. Fire is destructive. But it is not in this Bible story. The bush was not consumed. God spoke to Moses from the bush and so we learn something about God. God is wholly other. That means that God is not described by anything of this world, but only by Himself (I AM WHO I AM). God has always been and will always be. God is holy (v.5). In this story (the call of Moses) God reveals who He is. Through the leadership of Moses God will lead His people from the land of slavery. It is in the context of salvation that God defines who He is. God will continue to reveal who He is as the story of salvation unfolds in history. We are to remember God (v.15) and His character (holy) and His purpose (salvation) throughout our lives and to pass that remembrance on to future generations (v.15). God does not consume like fire; He saves!



Rich Young Man

Matthew 19:13-30

I can do something you won't believe! I can put a penny into my elbow! "Impossible," you might say. Yet when I do it in front of you, you will be amazed. Before I go too far, I admit, it is just a trick. But it's a good trick. Actually, it is what's called "sight of hand." You won't see me do it, but I switch the penny into my other hand so it just "seems like" I put the coin into my elbow. You are right, it is impossible for a person to put a penny into their elbow. But in this story we learn that with God all things are possible (v.26). Jesus has just revealed something astonishing to His disciples. Jesus says that even rich people (believed to be the most blessed of God) will have difficulty entering the Kingdom of Heaven. So we learn that God is not a God of riches (in this story of the rich young man) but a God of grace. It is by grace that we are saved. God does save; He does the impossible. He turns our hearts from things like the love of possessions (v.22) to a love of the things of God. Only God can do this "miracle." *"If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."* (v.21). We are to be ready to give up all and follow Jesus, because God's grace is all we need.