

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Providence and Grace

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 25:1-34

Theme: Marvel at the providence of God and you will delight in his unsurpassable grace.

Introduction: Sovereignty and Providence are terms we use to describe the Bible's teaching about God's relation to the world. He rules as King over his creation (Sovereignty) and he governs everything that happens according to his will (Providence). We may struggle with these doctrines instinctually, but as we come to see them as true, we find great comfort and hope, and we marvel at the goodness of our God.

Genesis 25 shows us God's good Providence in 2 respects:

1. Nations and The Nation (1-18)

Genesis 25 marks the end of the story of Abraham. As his life ends, we see the Lord fulfilling his promises in remarkable ways.

Abraham receives land (in his burial), offspring (in 6 new sons), old age (175 years), and nations and kings (in his descendants).

When we look at all of the 'moving parts' involved in this fulfillment, we get a glimpse at the wonder of God's providential ordering of all things in his creation for his intended purposes. Such skill is far beyond us.

We also see the promised fulfillment of a great nation in Isaac. The other sons are sent away. Isaac is the child of promise and the Lord is establishing him.

2. Children and The Child (19-34)

Men scheme and plan, and may be particularly skilled and conniving, but they can never out-scheme God. We see this in Rebekah's and the birth of the twins.

Jacob and Esau are chosen by God to make clear that salvation belongs to him alone. No one is deserving, and no one can control his purposes or ways.

Even when Abram sinned by receiving Hagar from Sarai and having a child to attempt to fulfil God's promises on their own, he could not thwart or divert God.

Jacob and Esau wrestle and scheme against one another, and through it all the Lord is working to establish Jacob, the second born, as his chosen heir.

Esau also despises his birthright, selling it to Jacob cheaply and showing his disdain for what the Lord had provided for him.

Yet the Lord is always good and is always accomplishing his plans.

Questions:

1. Does the doctrine of Providence function in your life? Or do you lose sight of God?
2. Are you struggling with what God has ordained for you? For your loved one(s)?
3. Is God working everything for your good (Rom 8:28). Consider the challenges you face and how that truth applies to each one.