

PASTOR FRIDAY

Jeremiah 32.27

Genesis 18.14

Jeremiah had delivered God's message to King Zedekiah and Israel, and the result was? Jeremiah 32.2-3.

Zedekiah didn't like the message from God, especially the bit where he would be given into the hands of the king of Babylon.

Jeremiah had done what was right, and his reward was imprisonment.

But that wasn't the end – God told him that his cousin was going to come and ask him to buy a field in Anathoth. Jeremiah could have said – 'What use is a field to me when I am in prison?' But instead, when his cousin came, he bought the field and the deeds were put into an earthenware jar where they would last for a long time

Jeremiah knew that God would somehow set him free – but he had to wait. Jeremiah 32.16-25 is his summing up of the horrible situation he and Israel were in. 32.26- 44 is God's answer. Yes, the city would fall because of Israel's disobedience, but in the end, because nothing is too hard for God, once again fields would be bought and deeds signed in the land.

God has made all things, nothing is too hard for him. So even when we don't know why something has happened, and all seems hard, we need to remember that God can bring good from it

Abraham and Sarah also had to learn this. They waited to have a child, and when it seemed impossible, they tried to help God – but in the end, God did the impossible. Is anything too hard for God?

Because God created everything, there is nothing he can't change – he recreates Hebrews 11.3. What did God need in order to create this world?

Matthew 8.23-27. In Mark 4.39, what did Jesus say to the wind and the sea?

When we are in a storm, Jesus is in control, just as he was then. Our storm may be in finance, marriage, work, education, health..... Everyone has storms in their life but Jesus can bring peace within the storm. Have you experienced this?

Elijah was in trouble when he predicted a drought that lasted a long time – but God told him when the drought would end. James 5.17-18.

Acts 5.40-42. The apostles were flogged for speaking the truth – what was their reaction? They were God's creation, and so were those who arrested them. So, today, those who praise God are his creation, but so are those who say there is no God.

Three things you can be sure about -

1. God has never made a promise he cannot keep

What is a promise? A legally binding declaration that gives the person it is made to, the right to expect it to happen. Humans don't always keep their promises, but God will always fulfill his. All we have to do is trust him – as we know Israel didn't receive all his promises, not because God wasn't trustworthy, but because they refused to trust him. (Trust and obedience are what is necessary to receive – why? Because lack of trust and obedience blocks the fulfillment of the promise. See Isaiah 65.2 – God's hands full of blessings are there, but we need to receive what he offers.)

What has God promised us? Hebrews 13.5. John 14.19,27, Isaiah 51.12, James 1.5. 1 John 1.9.... What else can you think of?

2. God has never encountered a problem he can't solve

When God does a miracle, he begins with the impossible. In trials, God blesses us as we let him do so. What problems did God solve for the Israelites as they left Egypt?

The Bible is full of miracles, Jesus continually performed them. Has God run out of miracles in our day?

When in a difficult situation, be encouraged, God is there. When you are tackled by Satan, it means that you are carrying something of value, and he wants to take it from you. What are the valuable things you carry that he wants?

Is any difficulty too hard for God? Commit your difficulties to God, cast your care on him, for he cares for you. Let him carry your burden – don't pick it up again.

Does he always do a miracle?

He will always give peace and comfort if we trust him.

3. God has never made a person he can't save.

1 Timothy 1.15. Paul thought he was the worst of sinners. Why?

We might not agree, who would you give that title to?

No one is beyond God's salvation – but to receive it they must come to him in repentance and faith in Jesus' sacrifice for them.

Isaiah 55.11. God's word is incredibly powerful – with one word he could destroy this earth, just as he created it by his word. So when he gives his word, we can count on it being fulfilled.

God can turn our times of trouble into times of joy. Do you believe this? Have you experienced it?