

# Personal Devotion

Hope-Making Sense out of Nonsense • Week of April 19

God makes sense out of nonsense. Sometimes we are unable to see how the Lord is working all things together for His glory. But God always has a plan. “The LORD has made the heavens His throne; from there He rules over everything” (Psalm 103:19). Never imagine God in heaven fretting—wringing His hands, wondering what to do next in response to humanity’s plight. God is in control (sovereign) and lives in the ‘eternal present’ able to view the landscape of time at a mere glance. “And now in these final days, He has spoken to us through His Son” (Hebrews 1:2a). The writer of Hebrews goes on to say, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So do not be attracted to strange, new ideas” (Hebrews 13:8, 9a).

When Jacob’s descendants (about a million-strong in Joshua’s day – a nation feared and known as the Israelites) entered the Promised Land, Joshua was following God’s orders: ‘Drive out the inhabitants! Don’t be afraid, for I will go before you.’ God had given inhabitants of Canaan 400+ years to repent (Genesis 15:16) but now, judgment time. God is both just and merciful. Though it is difficult to understand God’s ways, it is vital that we seek Him and trust Him, as Joshua did. The people of Israel begin to take the land and allocate parcels as directed in Deuteronomy 31:7-8, but the descendants of Joseph (now two tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh) encounter trouble. They encounter an enemy with iron chariots, and so consult Joshua.

## Read Joshua 17:12-18

As a youngster, Joseph had witnessed his father and uncle (Jacob and Esau) embrace and forgive (Genesis 33:3-11). Many years later, Joseph would spare the world (and his own family) from starvation and Joseph’s two sons born in Egypt eventually became two tribes. Jacob blessed both Ephraim and Manasseh and considered them his own (Genesis 48:3-22). Jacob ‘adopting’ Ephraim and Manasseh would allow them to eventually receive grants of land in the Promised Land. (Jacob’s third son, Levi, would receive no grant of land since the LORD God Himself would be their inheritance – see Numbers 3:11-13, 18:20-21).

1. God made sense out of nonsense when Joseph was sold into slavery at

age 17. Before becoming ruler in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh, Joseph spent thirteen years in prison. Think of a time God made sense out of something, that at the time, made absolutely no sense in your own life. Share with a friend or your Life Group how the Lord strengthened your faith (Scriptural faith in His Word/His promises).

“Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see” (Hebrews 11:1). In what specific way does *God making sense out of nonsense* bring you hope today?

It made no sense that Jacob had two wives who were sisters (Genesis 29:16-30), since that would be against God’s Law later given through Moses. It made no sense that Leah, though unloved by Jacob, would bear a son named Judah through whom Messiah would come. We simply cannot understand God’s ways. God spared the world from starvation through Rachel’s son, Joseph; but God would eventually spare the world from sin through Leah’s son, Judah.

2. What in your life is making no sense at all? Do you have the courage to give it to God? Why not ask Him to show up and make sense (reveal living hope) to you right now?

Part of the reason that the descendants of Manasseh were unable to occupy their land was because the Canaanites had iron chariots (Joshua 17:16). But rather than rebuke the descendants of Joseph, Joshua repeated the command: ‘Clear the land and take possession, and *you will drive out* the Canaanites, even though they are strong and have iron chariots’ (v18). Even though fears are real and often warranted, our God is bigger than the fiercest of foes. Jesus says, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.”

Close by reading 2 Corinthians 12:8-10. Instead of begging the Lord to take away \_\_\_\_\_, begin asking the Lord to show His strength through your \_\_\_\_\_. Give Him Praise because *God Makes Sense out of Nonsense!*

# Hope

God Makes Sense out of Nonsense

Text: Joshua 17:12-15

**PLAIN TRUTH:**

We are more like God when we  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## **One Year Bible Reading**

Apr. 19: Joshua 19:1-20:9, Luke 19:28-48, Psalm 88:1-18, Proverbs 13:12-14  
Apr. 20: Joshua 21:1-22:20, Luke 20:1-26, Psalm 89:1-13, Proverbs 13:15-16  
Apr. 21: Joshua 22:21-23:16, Luke 20:27-47, Psalm 89:14-37, Proverbs 13:17-19  
Apr. 22: Joshua 24:1-33, Luke 21:1-28, Psalm 89:38-52, Proverbs 13:20-23  
Apr. 23: Judges 1:1-2:9, Luke 21:29-22:13, Psalm 90:1-91:16, Proverbs 13:24-25  
Apr. 24: Judges 2:10-3:31, Luke 22:14-34, Psalm 92:1-93:5, Proverbs 14:1-2  
Apr. 25: Judges 4:1-5:31, Luke 22:35-53, Psalm 94:1-23, Proverbs 14:3-4

**April 18 & 19, 2020**