

Date: February 24, 2026

Title: No Ordinary Day

Passage: Genesis 37:12-17

Summary:

Evidence of God's providence:

1. God's providence in places (v.12)
2. God's providence in failures (v.13)
3. God's providence in obedience (v.13)
4. God's providence in time (v. 14)
5. God's providence in events. (V.14-15)
6. God's providence in people (v.15-16)
7. God's providence in perseverance. (v.17)

Key Truths :

- Providence = God sees to everything. He sees to it that His will is done everywhere and at all times.
- Every single day is extraordinary. There is no such thing as an ordinary day when faced with God's providence. There are no coincidences. It is all providence.
- The reason providence is ordinary is because it is everything.
- God's sovereignty is like a grandfather clock. Gears of free choice. Gears of God's sovereignty. Moving in different ways. Yet always the clock is right on time.

Application:

- Look back over your life and see God's providence over your life. God will accomplish everything that concerns you.
- Trust in God's providence and sovereignty. Be faithful to Him. At some point, you will see God's providence looking backwards and see how God uses your current season of difficulty.
- See each interaction and circumstance as part of God's providence and sovereignty.
- Go live an ordinary day in God's extraordinary providence. Each day that God bought with His blood. Trust in Him alone.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- Looking back, how have you seen God's providence in your life?
- Looking back, when was there a dead end in your life but later became the start of new life for you?
- Which of your regrets (sins and stupid decisions) have you been blessed to watch God turn sin-side out for His glory and your good?

- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

"Providence is like Hebrew. It can be read only backwards."

- Note: Hebrew language is read from right to left.

Providence

- Words:
 - Pro = towards
 - Vidence = to see
- Meaning = God sees to everything. He sees to it that His will is done everywhere and at all times.

Application:

- Look back over your life and see God's providence over your life.
- God will accomplish everything that concerns you.

2 Chronicles 6:15

who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.

Genesis 50:20

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.

Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

- providence allows us to be at complete peace.

Key Point

Every single day is extraordinary

- there is no such thing as an ordinary day when faced with God's providence.
- There are no coincidences. It is all providence.

Passage:

Genesis 37:12-17

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." And he said to him, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with

your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word.” So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, “What are you seeking?” “I am seeking my brothers,” he said. “Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.” And the man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

EXPOSITION

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

- God's Word is every party profitable for us.

Our most ordinary day is jam-packed with God's providence with his purposeful power for our good.

SEVEN EVIDENCES OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

1. GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN PLACES (v.12)

Genesis 37:12

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem.

Shechem

Genesis 12:6-7

Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

- Special place where God appeared to Abraham.
- Place of great importance in the history of Israel.
 - A place of great beginnings and endings.
 - Question: Where have you felt what seemed like a dead end but became new life?
 - How will you see God's providence in the future backwards and see how God will use your current season of difficulty?
 - What's going on in your life right now that you will soon in the future look backwards and see God's providence?
 - Trust in God's providence.
 - Be faithful in Him.

Shechem had a history of violence and sin:

Genesis 34:1-2

Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her.

Genesis 34:25-26

On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away.

Genesis 34:30

Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household."

- Shechem still a place of violence
- Jacob was worried for his sons.

2. GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN FAILURES (v.13)

Genesis 37:13a

And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them."

Jacob sends Joseph to a place of unrest.

- An obvious mistake
 - Have you ever been so anxious about something, in reaction, made your life worse?

Israel

- Covenant name of Jacob
- points to God's sovereignty and providence that God used his decisions for God's purposes.

Question: Which of your regrets (sins and stupid decisions) have you been blessed to watch God turn sin-side out for His glory and your good?

Quote: "If Satan only knew what good God would work out in his temptations, he would never tempt us again."

- God is always working for our good, even in our failures.

3. GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN OBEDIENCE (v.13)

Genesis 37:13

And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." And he said to him, "Here I am."

And he said to him, "Here I am."

- Joseph still goes to find his brothers though he knows that his brothers hate him.
- Why? Joseph trusts in God.
- What's the compass that allows us to navigate the providence of God? Obedience.
- Do we ignore God's revealed will while trying to seek His secret will?
- Obey God's will.

4. GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN TIME (v. 14)

Genesis 37:14a

So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word."

So he said to him, "Go now,

- Jacob is worried about Shechem.
- Obedience and providence in God's sovereign hand is always on time.
- Let God's providence be our plan.
- Jesus was never in a hurry but always on plan.
- Analogy: God's sovereignty is like a grandfather clock. Gears of free choice. Gears of God's sovereignty. Moving in different ways. Yet always the clock is right on time.
 - God's providence in time is real.

5. God's providence in events. (V.14-15)

Genesis 37:14b

So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

God's providence is clear in the places that we encounter.

Genesis 37:15

And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, "What are you seeking?"

- God providentially provided this man into Joseph's life.
- The reason providence is ordinary is because it is everything.

Proverbs 16:33

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Proverbs 16:9

The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

And a man found him wandering in the fields.

- Joseph likely was frustrated
 - Joseph was "wasting" time and wandering trying to find his brothers that he could not find at the time.
- "Not all who wander are lost"
 - No second we wander is wasted.
 - Nothing is wasted.
- Waiting / Boredom
 - We dislike. Why? Our heart hates God's providence. We don't believe He is doing this for our good.
 - But waiting on the Lord is a frequent command.

Psalms 27:14

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Isaiah 40:31

but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Lamentations 3:25-26

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

Micah 7:7

But as for me, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.

6. God's providence in people (v.15-16)

Genesis 37:15b-16

And the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said. "Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." And the man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'"

And the man asked him, "What are you seeking?"

- Man saw a wandering man and happened to approach Joseph
 - instead of ignoring him.

"God's every thought and every action involves the whole of Him. He simultaneously gives attention to everything and to everyone."

"I am seeking my brothers," he said. "Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock. And the man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'"

- Evidence of divine appointment.
- Truth: every single interaction you have is a divine appointment.

7. God's providence in perseverance. (v. 17)

Genesis 37:17

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

Joseph kept on going to find his brothers.

- Alternative: Joseph could have gone back home and told his father of where his brothers went.
 - But he continued in obedience to his father's command.

Dothan

- Centuries later:

2 Kings 6:13-17

And he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him." It was told him, "Behold, he is in Dothan." So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- As God opened the eyes of the servant to see reality, may God open our eyes to see God's providence.
- Our boredom with the current season is blindness to God's extraordinary providence.

Acts 2:22-24

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Go live an ordinary day in God's extraordinary providence.

- A day that God bought with His blood.
- Trust in Him.

1 Peter 5:10-11

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.