



Drawing Near to God

James 4:8

Only Providence Sees the Script

by Chuck Durham

Jonathan Horn's book, *Washington's End: The Final Years and Forgotten Struggle*, uses Washington's own words: "There was so much he could not control: the feuding 'interests' and 'jealousies' forcing the federal city 'to pass through a fiery trial'; the hundreds of newspapers, including those belonging to 'infamous scribblers' smearing pages with libels and lies intended to 'destroy all confidence' in the government; the political parties fueling 'ill-founded jealousies and false alarms' pitting 'one part' of the people 'against another'; the countries of Europe unleashing upon the world 'a more destructive sword' than ever recorded in modern times.' In all this, a man could see but 'mere chaos.' Only Providence could see the script to which the confusion conformed" (191).

One life stands out as in the Bible of Providence working behind the scenes: Joseph in Egypt.

While never (in the recorded text) receiving any direct words from God, Joseph began to put "two-and-two together." At what point this dawned on him, we are not told. His adverse conditions were many and overwhelming – sold by his brothers into slavery; unjustly accused of attempted rape; being left in prison for two more years after the cupbearer forgot him – all looked like chaos ruled the day. But Joseph saw that the "confusion conformed to the script that only Providence could see"!

It took years for this to develop. At thirty, he is in suddenly catapulted from lowly slave to being prime minister of Egypt! Nine more years transpired when, by seeming happenstance, his brothers appear before him to buy grain during the famine. Joseph puts his brothers through several tests to see if they had repented and transformed their character. When fully satisfied they

were truly changed men, he made himself known to them in Genesis Ch. 45. He said to them, "You sold me here – God sent me to preserve life!" "It was not you who sent me here, but God." Joseph summed up the whole of his life with these words: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Gen.50:20). The confusion conformed to the script that only Providence could see!

I wish I would remain unruffled in the midst of the raging storm. I worry far too much. I look about me at the chaos that seems to rule our present age, and I become despondent. Then I read the calm assurance of Joseph's carefully measured words, and the peace which surpasses all understanding rises in my heart again (Phil. 4:7). I finally remember that only Providence can see the script to which the confusion must conform!



AM Sermon: A Plea for Help – Luke 4:25-27

PM Sermon: PM Service Cancelled Until Further Notice

Quotables



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Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

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“Above all, let us pray for a deeper sense of our own sinfulness, guilt, and undeserving. This, after all, is the true secret of a thankful spirit. It is the man who daily feels his debt to grace, and daily remembers that in reality he deserves nothing but hell,—this is the man who will be daily blessing and praising God.” —J. C. Ryle, *Luke, 234, 235*

“If saints could only see their souls as the ten afflicted lepers saw their bodies, they would pray far better than they do.” —J. C. Ryle, *Luke, 232*

Westside Family News... (send news to durhamchuk@aol.com)

Prayer List:

Parker Family (family issues); **Kat Deuster and boys** (continued stability); **Kellye Hardin** (for improvement)

Shut-Ins: **Bill Lundy; Nadine Poteete; Darl and Betty Feagin; Virginia McElhaney**

General Family Info:

Tabitha Hudspeth's neurosurgeon's appointment is July 9. Please pray for her. **Marc Parker's** brother, **Robert Parker**, is still struggling with the Covid19 virus. Pray fervently for **JR Hart**, the nephew of **Ryan Davis**. Surgery on June 17

removed all the tumor and fused his vertebrae. Radiation for six weeks. We give our love to the Davis family. **Nina Russell** had cataract surgery this past week.

Due to Covid19 outbreak: **Sunday AM Worship services** are at **9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.** We Live-stream the 9 a.m. service on our Facebook page. **Chuck** begins a new video study this coming **Wednesday, July 1**, on the **“History of the Church (A.D. 70—A.D. 350)**. Many errors that still persist to the present day began in this time period. Due to the nature of the material, there will be no Questions sent to your email. In order to begin

Vol. 2 of **“Drawing Nearer to God”** on the first Sunday of July, we added a 53rd issue to Vol. 1! The **Wednesday Study of the Book of James (July-Sept.)** was to have begun this coming Wed., July 1, with various speakers from the area. The elders have cancelled this due to our inability to meet together because of Covid.

New Quarter Bible Classes begins today, **Sun., June 28. Q3** is when students promote based on the grade they will enter in the fall. If you are unable to pick up your child's class workbook, please let **Chris A., Chris L., or Jake** know.