**ALL THESE THINGS**

**Greeting**

Praise God we are now in that great **in-between season** in between Thanksgiving and Christmas. I pray that despite the COVID restrictions you took time to be reminded of some of the things we are to be thankful and grateful for.

**Psalm 107:1 (NKJV)** 1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever.

**Announcements**

**Bible Declaration**

This is my Bible. It is God speaking to me. I am who it says I am. I can do what it says I can do. I can have what it says I can have. So, I open my heart today to hear God speak a word that will change may life forever.

**Text**

**Genesis 42:36 (NKJV)** 36 And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no *more,* Simeon is no *more,* and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."

**Title**

All these things …

**Introduction**

* We are still live in uncertain and sometimes intimidating times – **Pandemic**, **Election uncertainties** involving who won and was it fair, **Racial/Social unrest** and **division**, **economy**, and not to mention other things like global warming
* In this situation, it is easy to **fall into despair** and with little or no prodding from the devil to say what Jacob said “All these things are against me.” We have the benefit of hindsight as we look at Jacob’s story but we to glean or learn from him.
* **Romans 15:4 (NKJV)** 4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
* **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)** 16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Background**

* Book of Genesis can be divided into 2 parts. In the first part the major emphasis is **events** (Creation, fall, flood, Tower of Babel) and the second half focusing more on **people** (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph)
* Jacob whose name was changed by God to Israel had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes and later nation of Israel.
* Unfortunately, we might say Jacob and his 12 sons and 4 wives can best be described as a **dysfunctional family**. That suggests there is hope for all families today
* **Favoritism was a major issue** in Jacob’s family and Jacob helped contribute to it. It was clear that his favorite wife was Rachel, the one who for most of their marriage could not bear a child nonetheless a son. But in the end, she bore her first child Joseph and sometime later in her death she bore Jacob’s last son Benjamin.
  + **Genesis 37:3-4 (NKJV)** 3 Now **Israel loved Joseph more than all his children**, because he *was* the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of *many* colors. 4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers**, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him**.
* **Joseph had two prophetic dreams in both he was exalted about his brothers and in one dream even above his father.**
  + **Genesis 37:8 (NKJV)** 8 And his brothers said to him, "**Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us**?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.
* His brothers get Joseph alone one day far away from their father as Joseph volunteered to go find his brothers who were tending the sheep for his father**. When his brothers saw him coming** they began plotting to kill him but the oldest, **Ruben, suggests casting him into a pit**. While Rueben was away, Judah persuaded his brothers to make some profit off Joseph by selling him as a slave to some Ishmaelite and Midianite caravanners and finally to Potiphar captain of the guard in Egypt. (Gen 37:20-27, 42:21-22)
  + **Note Reuben’s intentions - Genesis 37:22 (NKJV)** 22  And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit which *is* in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"--that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.
* To make a long story short after what most scholars says was **13 years** as a slave in Potiphar’s house and then, as a result of a lie, as a prisoner in Pharaoh’s prison, **Joseph is miraculously not only released from prison but made second only unto Pharaoh**. He leads Egypt through 7 years of plenty but as he prophesied this was followed by famine. Our scripture text is 2 years into the 7 years of famine.
  + 17 – gen 37:2, 30 – gen 41:46, captain of the guard, 2 year famine – gen 45:6
* As the famine intensifies, Joseph’s brothers minus Benjamin are sent to get food from Egypt. **Being at least 22 years later** they do not recognize Joseph in his Egyptian dress and talk but Joseph recognizes them. **He is both sharp with them and tender** (Rom 11:22) giving them back the money they used to buy food and lavishly entertaining them. But he **demands to see the younger brother Benjamin** they talked about. **As surety he keeps Simeon** and sends them on their way unbeknownst to them with their money.

**Exegesis of Text** – when **his sons minus Simeon return and tell the story from their point of view** (a view from a point – Pastor Jerry), their father said

* **Genesis 42:36 (NKJV)** 36 And Jacob their father said to them, "**You have bereaved me**: **Joseph** is no *more,* **Simeon** is no *more,* and you want to take **Benjamin**. **All these things are against me."**
  + **Jacob said “all these things are against me” the bible says** 
    - **Romans 8:28 (NKJV)** 28 And we know that **all things** work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.
  + **Jacob only considered what he saw but the bible says** 
    - **2 Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV)** 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.
  + **Jacob believed he had the whole story but the bible says**
    - **1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV)** 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.
    - **1 Corinthians 4:5 (NKJV)** 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.
  + **Jacob leaned to his understanding but the bible says**
    - **Proverbs 3:5-7 (NKJV)** 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6  In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.
  + **Jacob in his despair felt overwhelmed but the bible says**
    - **1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)** 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it.*

**Conclusion**

* Life is full of things that we can allow to drive us to despair and hopelessness but when we allow ourselves to get heaven’s perspective we find more things are for me than I think or realize.
* How would you complete the phrase “All these things … “ (e.g. **are against me** or **work together for my good)**

**Ministry Plan**