



# God's Mysterious Ways

Unpacking the Providence of Joseph (Genesis 39)

Based on teaching by Peter Foxwell | Foundations 280 | The Cornerstone Church

# The Covenant Heir

Joseph wasn't just a man; he was a carrier of the Covenant. The promise to bless the nations—and eventually bring the Messiah—rested on this line. But status as an heir does not guarantee a life of ease.



## Abraham

Received the Covenant.  
Promised a Great Nation.

## Jacob

Inherited the Promises.  
Father of the Patriarchs.

## Joseph

The 11th Son.  
The Favorite.

# Hero to Zero



# The Prison Paradox

## The Circumstance

- Falsely accused
- Imprisoned
- Forgotten by men

## The Reality

- “But the LORD was with Joseph.”  
(Gen 39:21)
- God extended Kindness (*hesed*)
  - Granted favor with the warden
  - Success in the dungeon

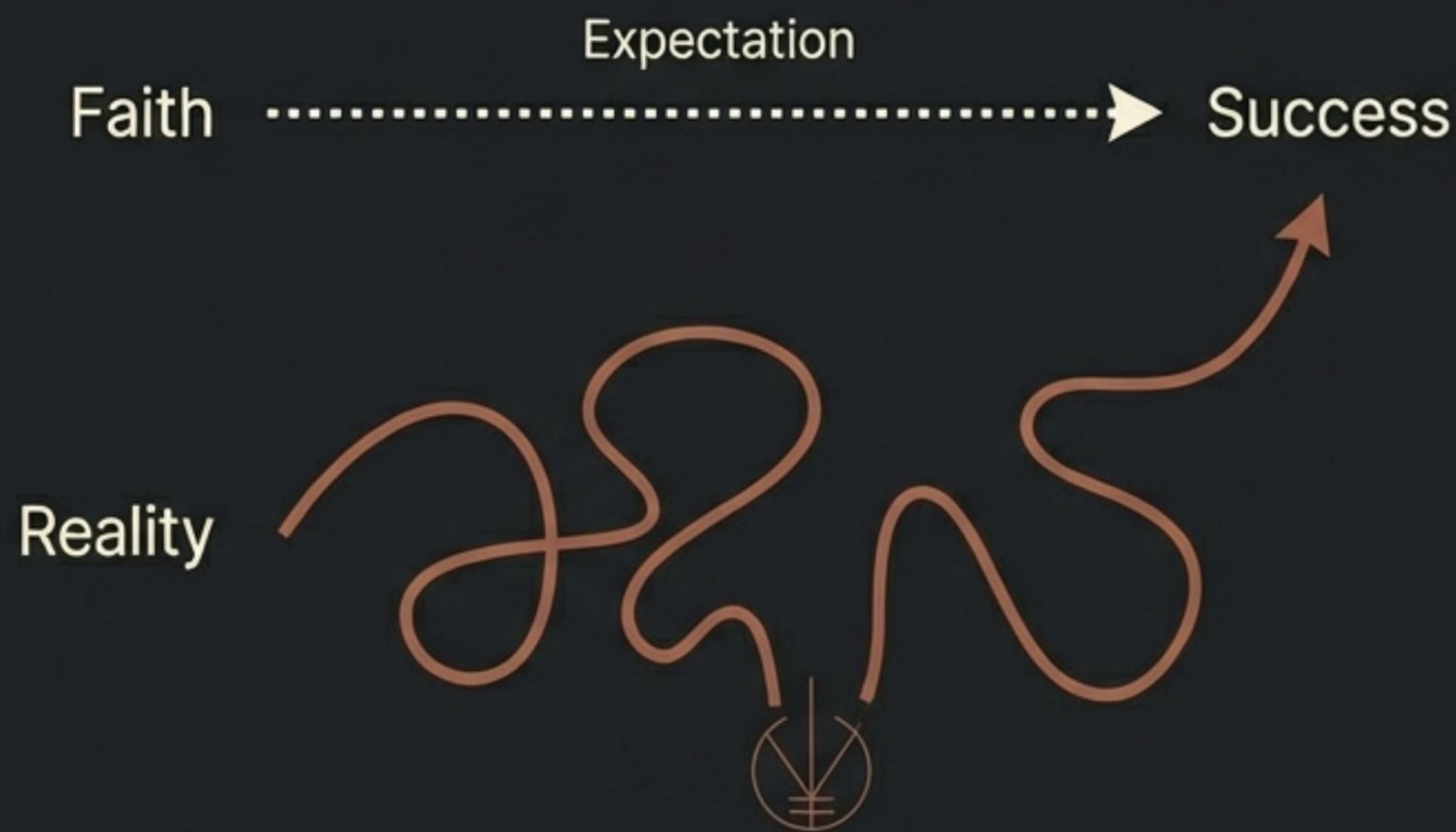
KEY DEFINITION

# Providence

God's sovereign oversight of everything to accomplish His plans.

It is the bridge over the gap between our current pain and God's future purpose. We call it 'mysterious' because we often cannot see the architecture while we are standing inside the building.

# The Myth of the Straight Line



Core Truth: Joseph ended up in a dungeon *because* he was a good man. His imprisonment was the reward for his integrity.

*“Life is never a straight line to success. No one has a charmed life.”*

# The Fellowship of Suffering

The Apostle Paul's Resume (2 Cor 11:23-27)

**5x**

Received 40 lashes  
minus one

**3x**

Beaten with rods

**1x**

Stoned

**3x**

Shipwrecked

**Countless**

Nights cold, hungry, sleepless

Paul's reward for faithful service was rejection and pain.  
Detours do not mean abandonment.

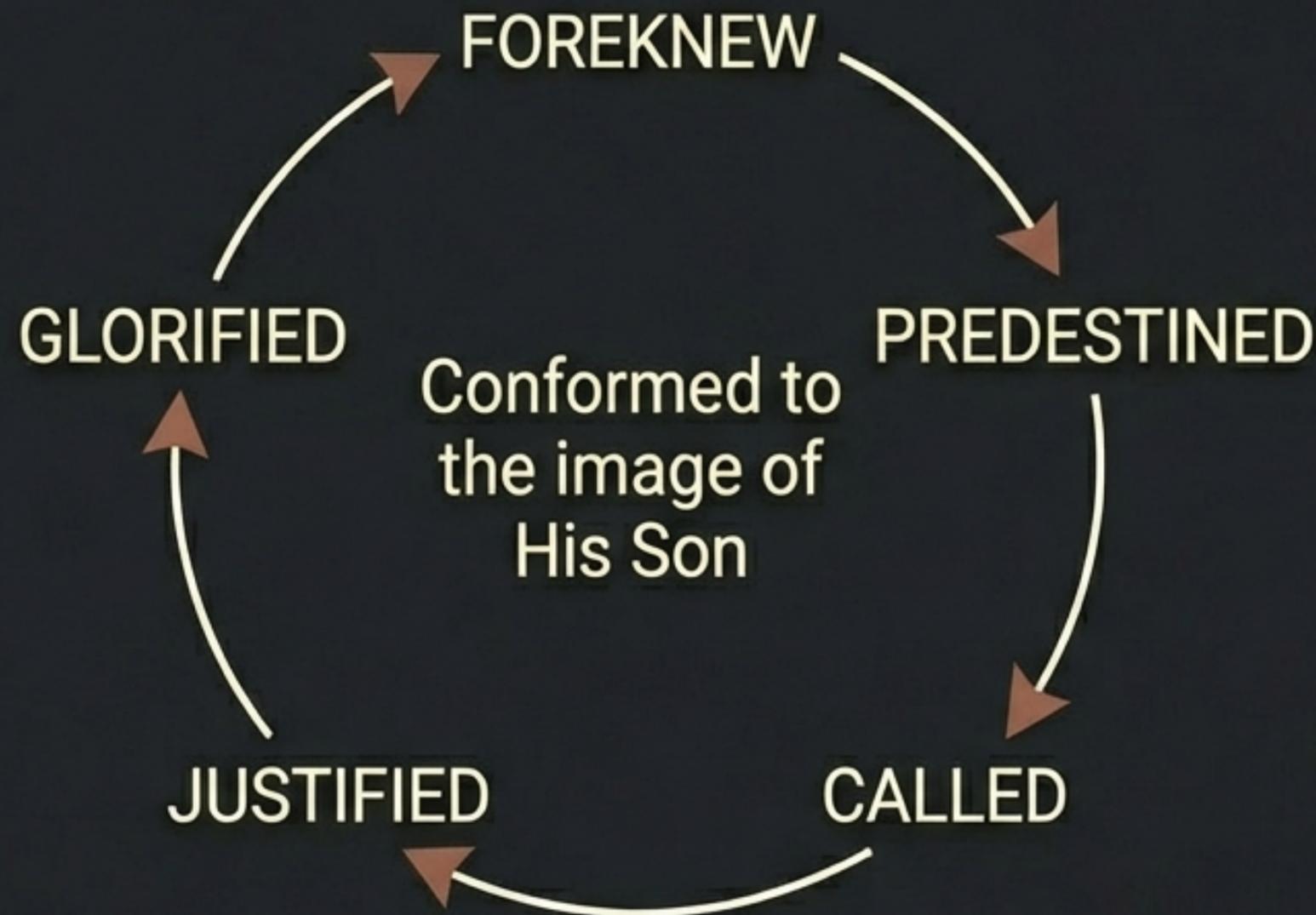
# The Plan Always Succeeds



The Patriarchs were preserved *because* Joseph was preserved.  
The plan works in agreement with the purpose of His will (Eph 1:11).

# The Engine of Transformation

Romans 8:29-30



“It’s all good” isn’t a throwaway phrase. It is a promise that God uses the good, the bad, and the ugly to transform our character.

## PURPOSEFUL SOVEREIGNTY

“God has revealed his purposeful sovereignty... to put ballast in the battered boat of human faith, steel in the spine of human courage, gladness in the groans of affliction, and in the heart that sees no way forward.”

– John Piper, *Providence* (2021)

# Behind a Frowning Providence

Written by William Cowper (1773), a faithful follower who suffered crippling depression.

*“Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust him for his grace;  
Behind a frowning providence,  
He hides a smiling face.”*

# Friday vs. Sunday

## FRIDAY

Crucified. Dead.  
Hope Crushed.  
Total Failure.

God worked His plan  
*by means of* the  
apparent failure.  
It's Friday, but  
Sunday's coming.

## SUNDAY

Risen.  
Conquering Death.  
The Plan Succeeded.

# When Darkness Descends



## Life is Nonlinear

High highs and low lows are normal.



## God is Present

He is with you in the palace and the prison.



## The Plan Holds

Your detours are part of His destination.

## A BENEDICTION

Now to him who is able to *protect* you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy... be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, *now and forever*.

— Jude 1:24-25



# The Cornerstone Church

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