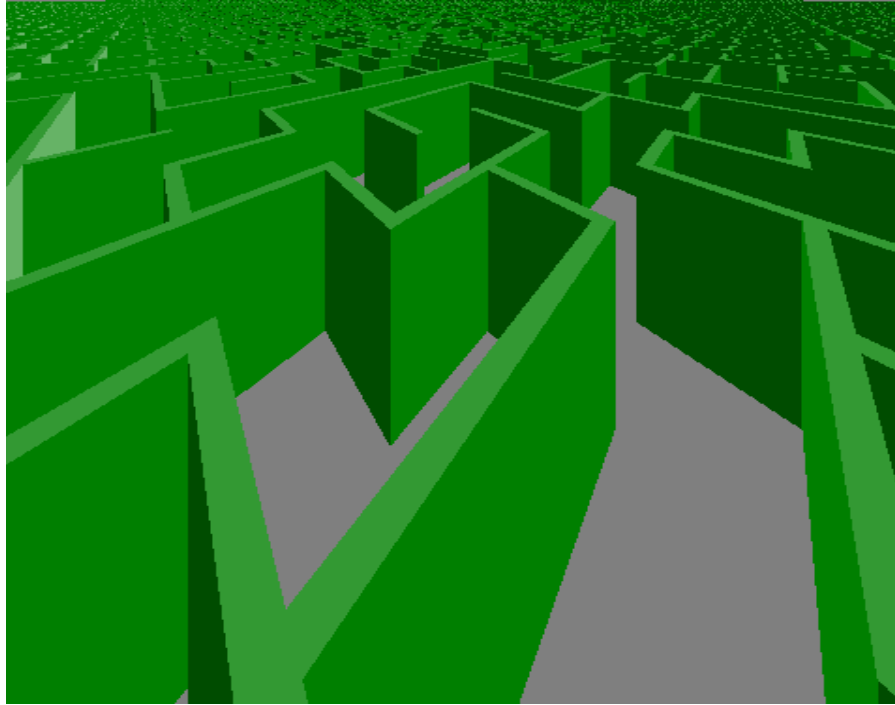
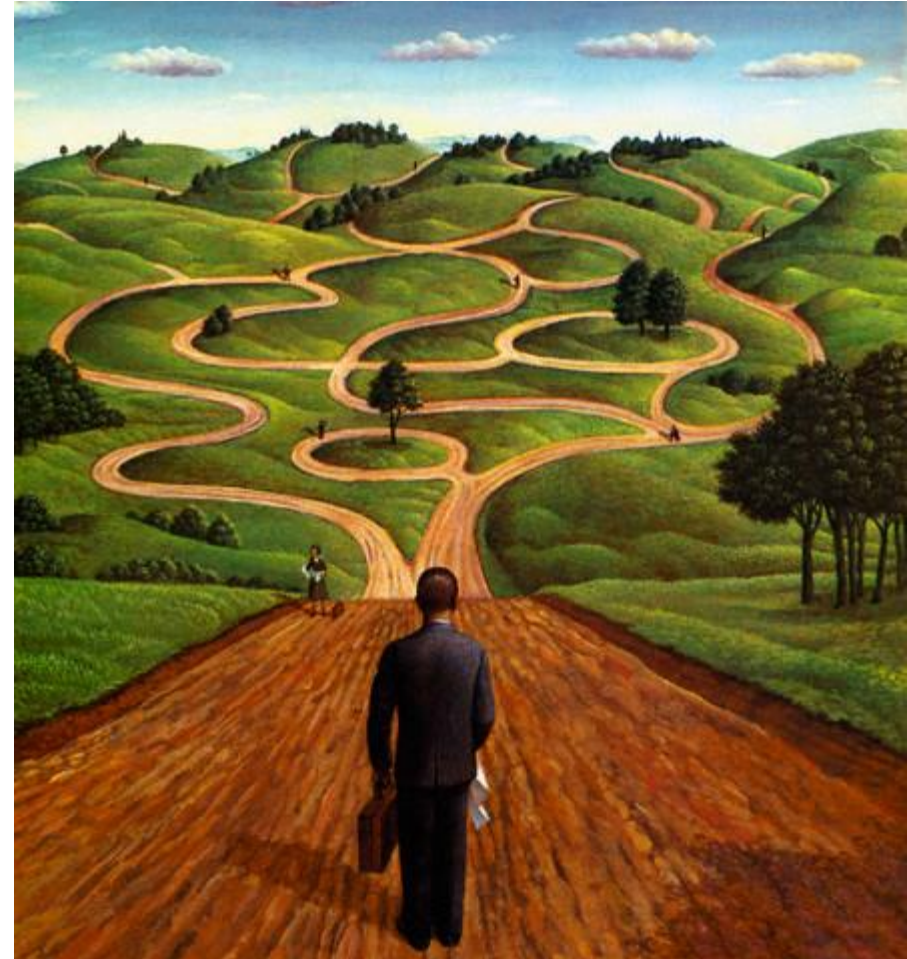




**Bible examples of
how God is
sometimes willing to
adapt His plans to
accommodate us**

God's Amazing Flexibility



GOAL of this class

- **To discover how flexible God can be sometimes when we ask Him**
 - Sometimes He has multiple pathways that will still accomplish His will
 - Other times He knows a specific pathway will be best for Him & us and will not alter His plan
- **To appreciate the power of prayer**
- **To talk to God more often:** ask Him to bless us, our families, our ecclesias and our friends

Don't be afraid to ask God!

Luke 18:1-8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then He spoke a parable to them, **that men always ought to pray and not lose heart**, 2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"

6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And **shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?** 8 **I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.** Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

**God listens & responds to our prayers
- in His own timeframe - Be patient!**

Is it God or Jesus or Angels altering the pathway?



It doesn't really matter! What matters is that the pathway can be modified!

Be Patient: It's God's Timeline

Gen 18: Abraham & Sarah had to wait over 30 years to have a child

Gen 25: Isaac & Rebekah had to wait 20 years to have a child

Gen 47: Jacob waited almost 40 years after wrestling with an angel to see his family united.

Josh 1: Joshua and Caleb waited almost 40 years to finally enter the promised land

2 Sam 2: David was anointed King and then waited over 15 years to finally be king of Judah

Pray & don't give up!

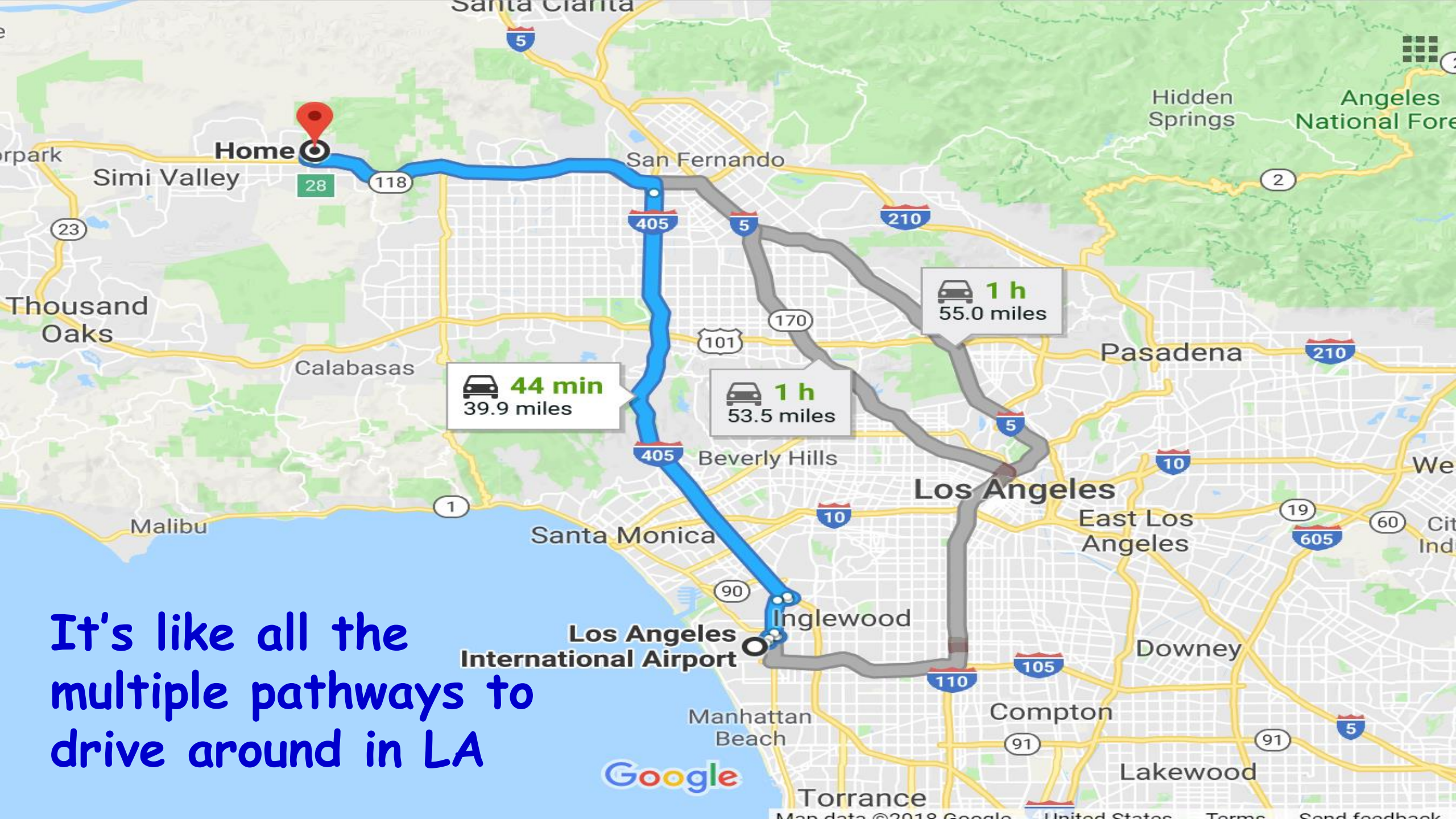




How God can work

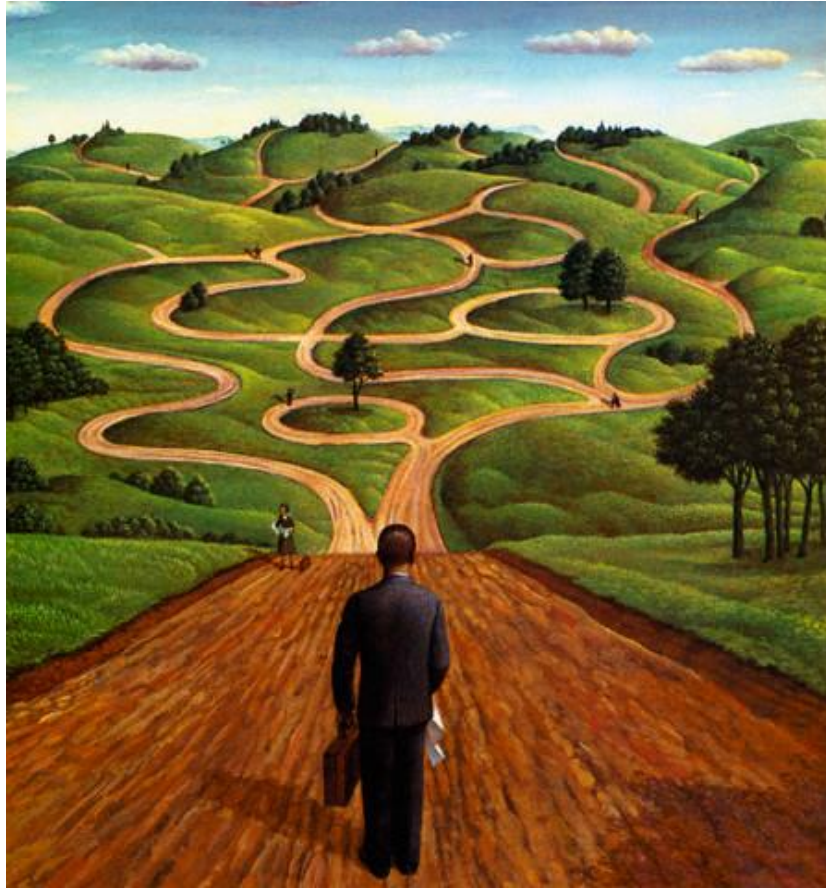


- Sometimes God can accommodate our requests (8)
- Sometimes God will change His mind to accommodate us (18)
- Sometimes God will work with the pathway we choose (26)
- Some outcomes are fixed, but the specific pathway is still flexible (33)
- God can even use our mistakes to bring about good! (38)
- Some outcomes are fixed with only one pathway (44)



It's like all the multiple pathways to drive around in LA

God's Flexibility



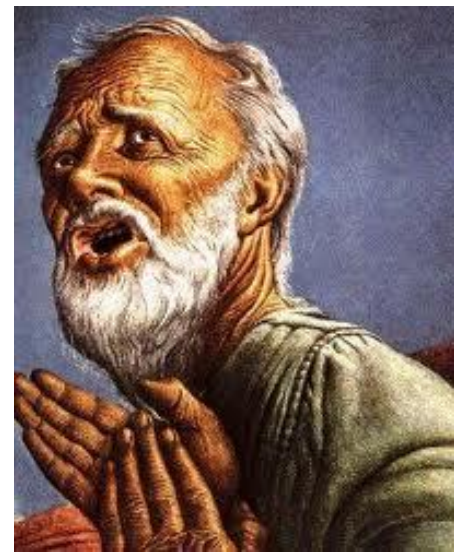
**Sometimes God
can accommodate
our requests**

Abraham (Gen 18:23-32)

23 And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24 **Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?** 25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

26 **So the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sake."**

Note how the angel was willing to accommodate Abraham's request



Moses can't speak (Ex 4:10-15)

10 Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

11 So the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord?
12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

13 But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."

14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do."

God accommodated Moses even though He was angry at Moses



Syro-Phoenician Woman's request to Jesus (Mat 15:21-28)



21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, **"Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."**

23 But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, **"Lord, help me!"**

26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

27 And she said, **"Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."**

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, **"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.**

Jesus didn't want to heal a Gentile woman's daughter at this time, but responded to her faith!

Gideon & Fleece (Jud 6:36-40)

36 So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said — 37 look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said." 38 And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. 39 *Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece;* let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew." 40 *And God did so that night.* It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.



God again accommodated
Gideon's fears and reluctance

Hannah asks for a child

1 Samuel 1:9-11

9 So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the Lord. 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish. 11 Then she made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but **will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.**"

God chose to work through Hannah & Samuel because of Hannah's prayers



Israel asks for King (1Sam 8:6-9)

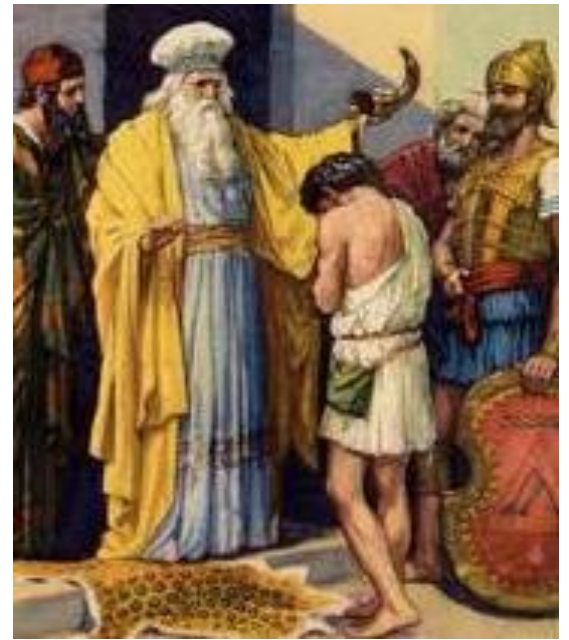
6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "**Give us a king to judge us.**" So Samuel prayed to the Lord. 7 And the Lord said to Samuel, *"Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.* 8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day — with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods — so they are doing to you also. 9 Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."



Even though this request was a failure to see God as their King, God still gave them what they wanted

Samuel anoints David (1Sam 16:1-3)

Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."



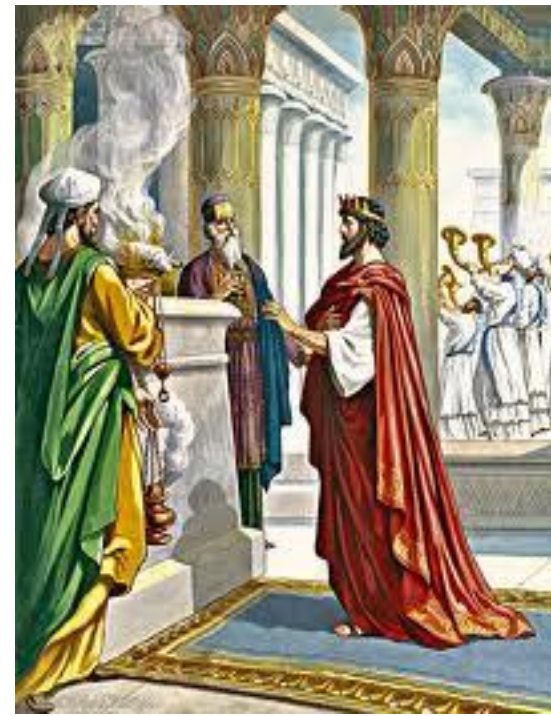
2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me."

But the Lord **"Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'** 3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

**God accommodated Samuel's fears
rather than force him to risk his life**

Hezekiah's Passover (2Chr 30:18-20)

18 For a multitude of the people, many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover contrary to what was written. **But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, "May the good Lord provide atonement for everyone 19 who prepares his heart to seek God, the Lord God of his fathers, though he is not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary."** 20 **And the Lord listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.**



God accommodate Hezekiah's request even though this was technically against the Mosaic Law

Paul's Shipwreck

(Acts 27:9-12;21-25)



9 Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, 10 saying, "Men, **I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.**" 11 Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul.

"Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. 22 And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. 23 **For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, 24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.'** 25 Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.

Paul prayed & God granted him them all

God's Flexibility



**Sometimes
God will change
His mind to
accommodate us**

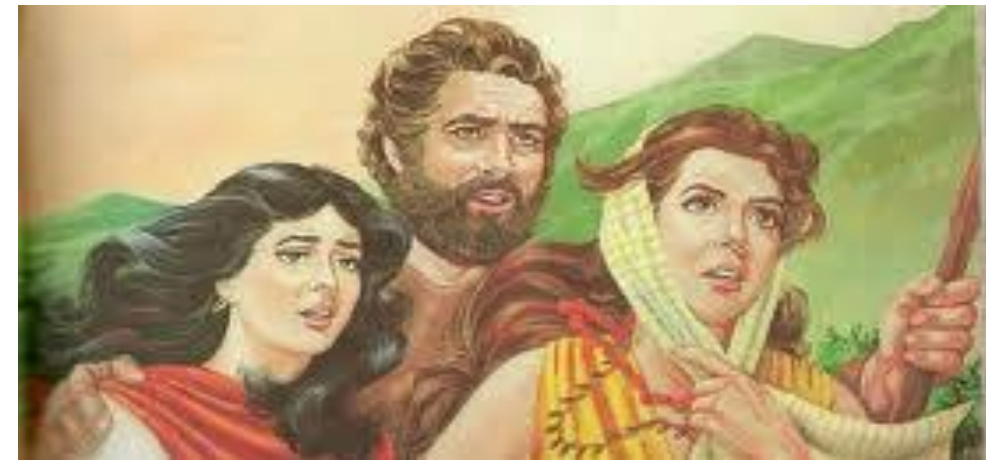
Lot asks for Zoar

(Gen 19:17, 19-20)

17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. **Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.**"

19 Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but **I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. 20 See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there** (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."

21 And he said to him, **"See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken.** 22 Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there."



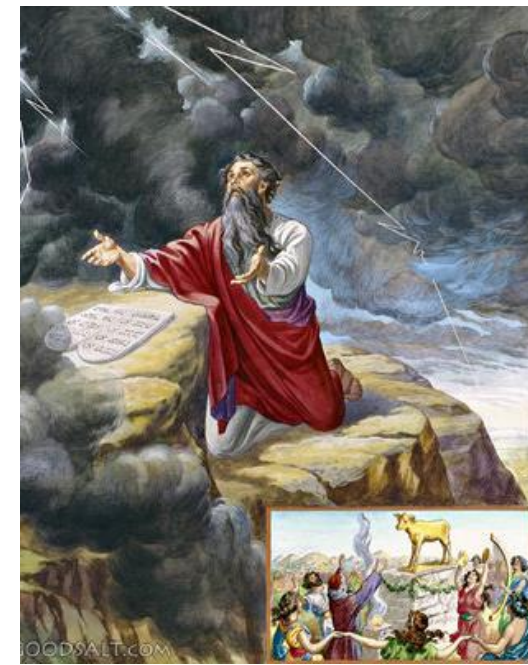
Even after saving Lot from the destruction of Sodom, God was willing to accommodate Lot's request to settle in Zoar.

Moses pleads for the Nation after gold calf (Ex 32:9-14)

And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! 10 **Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.**"

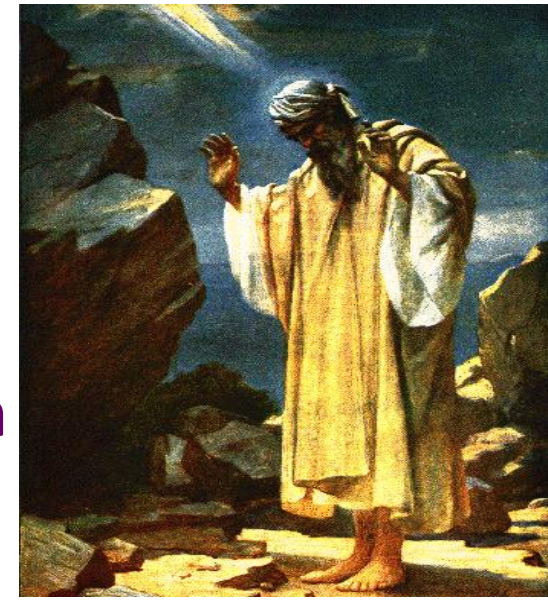
11 Then **Moses pleaded with the Lord his God**, and said: "Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" 14 **So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.**

God changed His pathway for Moses, but still made it clear "whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book" (v.33)



Moses pleads for the Nation when they refuse to enter the land the 1st time (Num 14)

11 Then the Lord said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? 12 **I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.**"



17 And **now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great,** just as You have spoken, saying, 18 'The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.' 19 **Pardon the iniquity of this people,** I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."

20 Then the Lord said: "**I have pardoned, according to your word; 21 but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord**

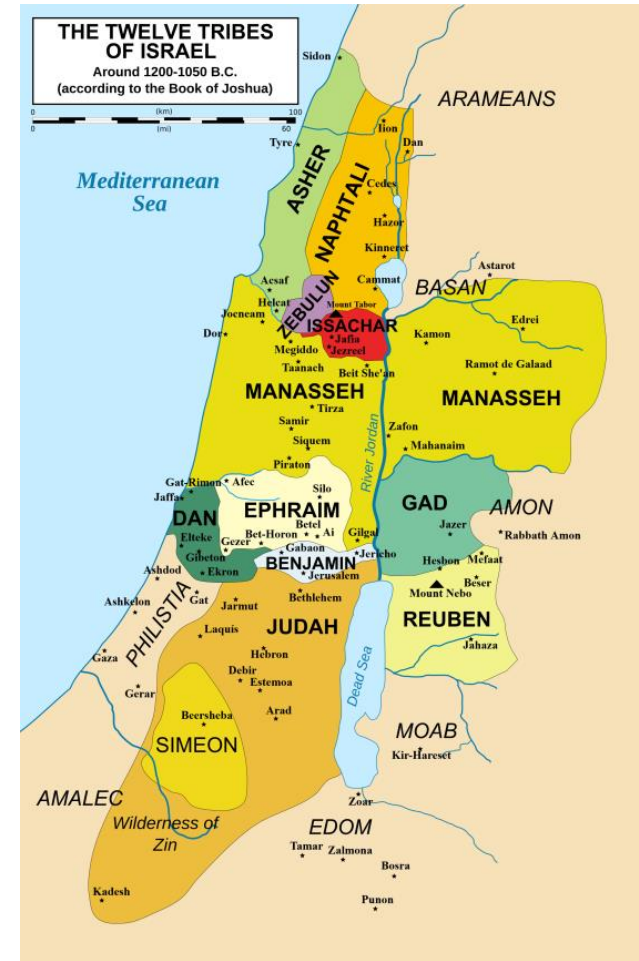
God changed His pathway for Moses, but still made it clear He would fill the earth with His glory

2.5 Tribes (Num 32:2-5)

2 the children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spoke to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the leaders of the congregation, saying, 3 "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Shebam, Nebo, and Beon, 4 the country which the Lord defeated before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock."

5 **Therefore they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not take us over the Jordan."**

God modified the inheritance of Israel because of the request of the 2.5 tribes



Hezekiah's 15 years

2 Kings 20:1-2, 5-6

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, **"Thus says the Lord: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.'"**



2 Then he turned his face toward the wall, and **prayed to the Lord, saying, 3 "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.**

5 "Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: **"I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord. 6 And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city** from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David.'"

God accommodated Hezekiah's request for more time and agreed to deliver Judah from the Assyrians

Ezekiel's Dung (Ez 4:14-15)

14 So I said, "**Ah, Lord God! Indeed I have never defiled myself from my youth till now; I have never eaten what died of itself or was torn by beasts, nor has abominable flesh ever come into my mouth.**"

15 Then He said to me, "**See, I am giving you cow dung instead of human waste,** and you shall prepare your bread over it."

God accommodated Ezekiel's request even though it was to satisfy his personal feelings



Moses requests the Angel

(Ex 33:12-17)



12 Then Moses said to the Lord, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' **But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.'**" 13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."

14 And He said, "**My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.**"

15 Then he said to Him, "**If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us?**" So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."

17 So the Lord said to Moses, "**I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.**"

God responded to Moses' desire to send the angel Moses already knew

God's Flexibility



**Sometimes God
will work with
the pathway
we choose**

Abraham sends Eliezar to find a wife for Isaac (Gen 24:2-4)

So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, 3 and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; 4 but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."



God worked with Abraham's pathway

Eliezar prays that God will bless his plan (Gen 24:12-14)

12 Then he said, "O Lord God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. 13 Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. 14 Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink' — let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."



God blessed Eliezar's pathway!

Jacob chose to work for Rachel too (Gen 29:21-29)



21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her." 22 And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. 23 **Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.** 24 And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. 25 So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?"

26 And Laban said, "It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. 27 Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years."

28 **Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also.**

God worked with Jacob's choice

Gideon destroys altar at night

(Jud 6:25-27)

25 Now it came to pass the same night that the Lord said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and **tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it;** 26 and build an altar to the Lord your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down." 27 So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the Lord had said to him. **But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night.**



God accommodated Gideon's fears. Later had him take Purah when he was afraid (7:10)

David's plan to get Achish to accept him (1 Sam 21:10-15)

10 Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. 11 And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying:



'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

12 Now **David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish** the king of Gath. 13 **So he changed his behavior before them, pretended madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard.** 14 Then Achish said to his servants, "Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me?"

(Psa 34: this poor man cried out and the Lord heard him, and saved him...)

Mordecai's answer to Esther's concerns (Est 4:10-14)



10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai: 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. **Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.**" 12 So they told Mordecai Esther's words.

13 And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. 14 **For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"**

Mordecai realized that God's plan would be accomplished: either through Esther or through someone else

God's Flexibility



Some outcomes
are fixed, but
the specific
pathway is still
flexible

Moses sees Land (Dt 3:23-27)

23 "Then I pleaded with the Lord at that time, saying:
24 'O Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant
Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is
there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like
Your works and Your mighty deeds? 25 **I pray, let me
cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan,
those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.'**

26 "But the Lord was angry with me on your account, and would
not listen to me. So the Lord said to me: 'Enough of that! Speak no
more to Me of this matter. **27 Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift
your eyes toward the west, the north, the south, and the east;
behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan.**

**God allowed Moses to see the land, but would
not modify His decision to keep him out**



Gad gives David three choices (2 Sam 24:11-13)



11 Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 "Go and tell David, 'Thus says the Lord: **"I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you."**'" 13 So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, "Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."

God had determined consequences, but left the pathway open to David's choice

Amos: "Let it not be!" (7:1-3)

Thus the Lord God showed me: Behold, He formed **locust** swarms at the beginning of the late crop; indeed it was the late crop after the king's mowings. 2 And so it was, when they had finished eating the grass of the land, that I said:



"O Lord God, forgive, I pray! Oh, that Jacob may stand, for he is small!" 3 So the Lord relented concerning this. "It shall not be," said the Lord.

Even though God was just to bring this on Israel, He modified His plan (no locusts or fire, but plumb line) according to Amos' requests

Micaiah's vision (1 Kgs 22:20-23)

20 And the Lord said, '*Who will per-suade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?*' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. 21 Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, and said, 'I will persuade him.' 22 The Lord said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, '**I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.**' And the Lord said, '*You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.*'



**Angels help God determine
the pathway to choose**

God's Flexibility



God can even use
our mistakes to
bring about good!

Joseph's Brothers (Gen 50:15-21)

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." 16 **So they sent**

messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, 17 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you."'"

Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

18 Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."

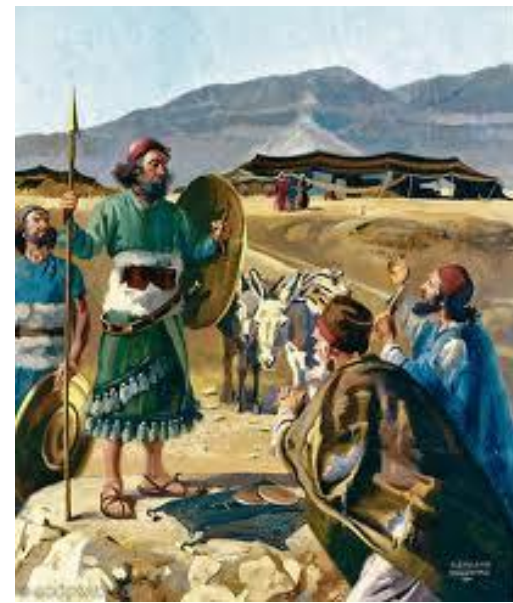
19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? **20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.** 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.



Covenant with Gibeonites

(Josh 9:3-15)

3 But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, 4 **they worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors.** And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended, 5 old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy. 6 And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "**We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us.**"



14 Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; **but they did not ask counsel of the Lord. 15 So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.**

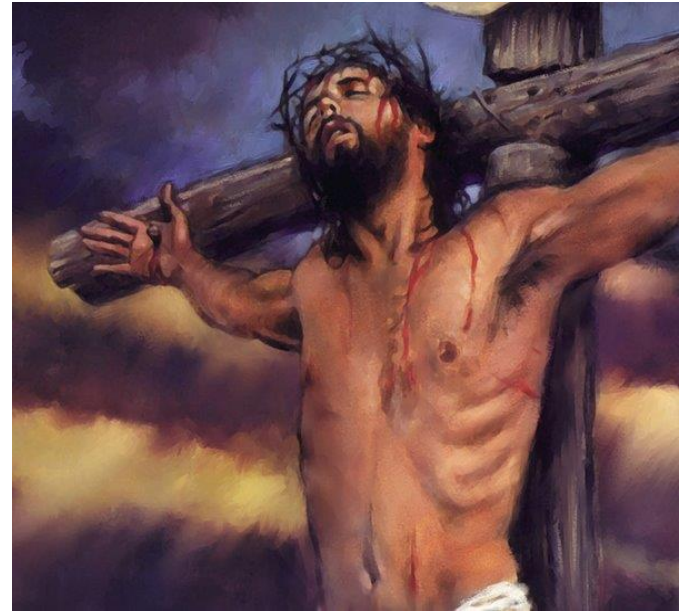
God used Bathsheba (1Chr 22:7-11)

7 And David said to Solomon: "My son, as for me, was in my mind to build a house to the name of Lord my God; 8 but the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight. 9 Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; **and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. 10 He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'**

God is more interested in how we handle our sins, than the sin itself!



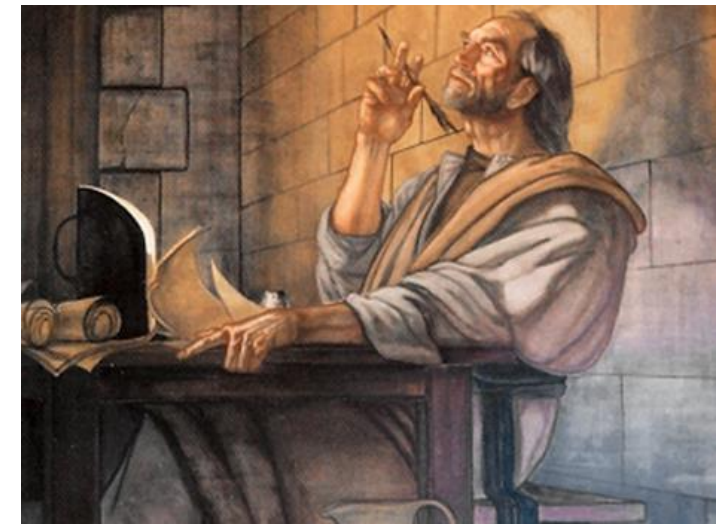
People crucified Christ, but God used this to Justify us! (Acts 2:22-23)



22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — 23 **Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God,** you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

**God used their wicked act to bring
about the salvation of all His children**

Onesimus ran away & God had Paul convert him (Philem 10-17 RSV)



10 I appeal to you for **my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment.** 11 (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) 12 I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. 13 I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel; 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will.

15 **Perhaps this is why he was parted from you for a while,** that you might have him back for ever, 16 no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

**Paul tried to help Philemon understand that
God had brought good out of a bad situation**

God's Flexibility



**Some outcomes
are fixed with
only one pathway**

Lot's wife (Gen 19:17, 26)

17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! **Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.**"

26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Many pathways dealing with consequences of our actions are fixed - we must be careful!



Abram pleads for Ishmael

(Gen 18:17-19)

17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" 18 And Abraham said to God, **"Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"**

19 Then God said: **"No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac;** I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

God's covenant had to be established on His promises, according to His election (Rom 9)



God struck Uzzah

(2 Sam 6:6-8)

6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 **Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error;** and he died there by the ark of God. 8 And **David became angry** because of the Lord's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day.



**Sometimes God's holiness cannot
accommodate other outcomes**

Let this cup pass (Mat 26:39)

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, **let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.**"



40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "**O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.**"

Jesus realized there was only 1 way

David prays for his child (2 Sam 12:15-20)

And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill. **16 David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.** 17 So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them. 18 **Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died.** And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, "Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!"

19 When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" **And they said, "He is dead."**

20 So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.

David understood God's pathways!



Do not pray for these people!

(Jer 14:11; 15:1)

11 Then the Lord said to me, "**Do not pray for this people, for their good.** 12 When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence."



15:1 Then the Lord said to me, "**Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth.**"

**God had to remove them to
Babylon to save a remnant**

Paul asks for thorn's removal

(2 Cor 12:7-10)

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing **I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.** 9 And He said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.



God knew Paul needed this!

Lessons from This Class

- Be aware that many times God has a variety of pathways He can work through – so pray! He's listening and can sometimes accommodate our desires.
- Even when we have made terrible mistakes, God can bring good out of it – move forward with confidence in our God.
- Accept that some times God will not alter His pathway because He knows what's best for all involved – trust and believe He loves us and wants to save us!
- If God is so flexible with us, we must be with others!

Don't be afraid to ask God!

Philippians 4:6-7



6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The peace comes from trusting God is in control and knows what's best for all of us!

The prayer of a righteous person
has great power as it is working.
(James 5:16 ESV)

