



- In The Wilderness!

- “For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed!” - We’ll Stop There!

4. Now - How Did The Lord:

- “Preserve” His People:

- In The Way?

- He Preserved Them:

- Graciously!

- How Many Times Do We See God’s Personal Activity:

- To Preserve Them?

- Beginning In 24:3 - The Lord Tells Them:

- “I Took!” - And Then:

- In 24:4 - “I Gave!”

- And - As We Continue Through The Verses:

- 24:5 - “I Sent” & “I Plagued” & “I Brought You Out!”

- 24:6 - “I Brought!”

- 24:7 - “Your Eyes Have Seen What I Have Done In Egypt!”

- 24:8 - Again - “I Brought” & “I Gave” & “I Destroyed!”

- All For His People!

- 24:10 - “I Delivered!”

- Every Time We See The Word “I” - It Tells Us:

- Of God’s Gracious Preservation:

- Of His People! But Also:

- He Preserved Them:

- Actively!

- Because - Each Of The Verbs We Just Looked At:

- Are Verbs Of Action & Activity!

- The Lord Was:

- Active In His Role:

- Of Deliverer!

- And So - We Also Know That:

- He Preserved Them:

- Continuously!

- Because - He Did All Of These Things:

- For 40+ Years!

- Not Only To:

- **Bring** Israel **Into**:

- The Promised Land!

- But Also To:

- **Keep** Israel **In**:

- The Promised Land!

5. And This Providential Preservation:

- Was A Shadow:

- Of Jesus Christ And His Preservation Of His People!

- And - As We See Summarized For Us:

- In 24:17 - Christ Himself:

- Preserves His People:

- Through His Presence!

- Through His Protection! And:

- Through His Provision!

- All Of Which Are Still Done:

- Graciously & Actively & Continuously!

- And So - The First Way We Can See Christ:

- Is That:

1. **Christ Preserves His People Through His Presence!**

- Even As God Was With Israel:

- In The Wilderness!

- From Joshua 24:17 - “For the LORD our God - preserved us in all the way wherein we went!”
- The Lord Displayed His Presence With His People:
  - Not Only In The Pillar:
    - That Went Before Them:
      - Day After Day & Night After Night!
  - In The Pillar Of A Cloud:
    - By Day - And:
      - In The Pillar Of Cloud:
        - At Night!
- But - He Also Displayed His Presence:
  - In The Tabernacle:
    - Which We Read About In:
      - Exodus 25:8 - Where The Lord Says To Moses - “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them!”
  - And - This Tabernacle - Or:
    - “Tent Of Meeting” - Where:
      - God Himself Would Meet With & Dwell With His People:
        - Was To Be Right In The Middle Of & Heart Of Israel!
- And - Even Though:
  - There Are Many Details Provided:
    - About The Tabernacle:
      - Which We Will Look At Even More Closely In A Few Weeks!
    - The Details About:
      - The Assembly Of The Tabernacle!
      - The Articles In The Tabernacle! And:
      - The Activities About The Tabernacle!
  - The One Single Purpose:
    - Of The Tabernacle Was For:
      - God To “Dwell” Among His People!
- And - All Of This:
  - Points To Jesus Christ!
    - And His Gracious, Active & Continuous:
      - Presence With - And:
        - Preservation Of:
          - His People!
    - In John 1:14 - We Are Told This About Jesus:
      - “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth!”
        - “Dwelt” Here Is The Verb Form For:
          - “Tent” Or “Tabernacle!”
        - So - Jesus “Tabernacled” Among Us!
    - That Is - Jesus Christ Is The **True** Tabernacle Of God!
      - In & Through Christ:
        - God Meets With Us! And:
      - In & Through Christ:
        - You Can Meet With God!
- And - We Need To Remember:
  - The Presence Of Christ:
    - In Our Own Wilderness!
      - And Then - The Second Way From Joshua 24:17 That We Can See Christ:
        - Is That:

## 2. ***Christ Preserves His People Through His Protection!***

- Even As God Protected Israel:
  - In The Wilderness!
    - Because - Even Though They Faced Many Enemies:
      - Both Before & Even In The Promised Land:
  - Again - Joshua 24:17 - “For the LORD our God - preserved us - among all the people through whom we passed!”

- And - All Of This Too:
  - Points Us To Jesus Christ:
    - And His Gracious, Active & Continuous:
      - Protection And Preservation:
        - Of His People In The Wilderness Of This World!
  - But - Christ Is Not Only:
    - Our Protector:
      - He Is Our Protection Itself:
        - From All The Enemies We Face!
          - The World, The Flesh, And The Devil!
    - **IE:** Middle Ages - Castles - Villages Around - When Attacked - Go To The Castle - When Sieged - Go To The Keep With The Castle! Most Secure!
      - And So - Jesus Christ Is Not Just:
        - Our Keeper:
          - He Is Our Keep:
            - To Whom & In Whom We Can Run In Times Of Danger!
- We See This In:
  - Philippians 4:7 - Where The Apostle Paul Tells Us:
    - “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through - IN - Christ Jesus!”
      - So - The Peace Of God:
        - Keeps Us - Through Christ!
          - Christ Himself Is Our Protection!
  - We Also See This In:
    - 1 Peter 1:5 - Where The Apostle Peter Tells Us That We:
      - “Are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time!”
        - So - The Power Of God Also:
          - Keeps Us - Through Faith - In Christ!
            - Christ Himself Is Our Protection!
    - Jesus Christ:
      - Was & Still Is:
        - The Very Means Of Our Protection & Preservation:
          - In The Wilderness Of This World!
      - If You Are God’s Child:
        - Through Faith In Christ:
          - You Possess His Protection:
            - Right Now!
      - So Now - You Need To Rely Upon:
        - His Protection:
          - In Your Own Wilderness!
            - But Then - The Third Way From Joshua 24:17 That We Can See Christ - Is That:

### 3 ***Christ Preserves His People Through His Provision!***

- Even As God Provided For Israel:
  - In The Wilderness!
    - But - Not Just By Providing Them:
      - The Meat & The Manna & The Water:
        - That We’ve Already Looked At!
    - But By Another:
      - Miraculous Way:
        - Did The Lord “Preserve Them In All The Way Wherein They Went!” (24:17)
- And We Are Told About This Provision:
  - In Several Places In Scripture!
    - First - In Deuteronomy 8:4:
      - Moses Reminds The People:
        - “Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years!”
    - Then - In Deuteronomy 29:5:

- Moses Again Tells The People:
  - “And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot!”
- So - How Else Did The Lord:
  - Provide For His People In The Wilderness?
    - By Preserving - Not Just *Them*:
    - But Their *Clothes & Their Shoes!*
  - Now - Some Would Point Out:
    - That - God Could Have Preserved These Things:
- Through Ordinary Means!
  - After All - When Israel Left Egypt:
    - They Brought Out Clothes:
      - Along With The Other Things They Would Need For The Journey:
        - When They “Spoiled The Egyptians!” (Exodus 12:34)
  - Also - The Children Of Israel:
    - Could Also Have Used The Clothes Of Others!
      - Since - An Entire Generation Of Israelites:
        - Perished In The Wilderness:
          - There Would Have Been Plenty Of “Hand-Me-Downs!”
  - But Also - The Children Of Israel:
    - Had With Them Sheep & Cattle:
      - So That They Could Have Used:
        - The Wool & Skins Of Those Animals:
          - To Make New Clothes As They Needed Them!
  - And - God Certainly Could Have Used:
    - Those Ordinary Means:
      - To Preserve The Clothes & Shoes:
        - Of His People!
    - But - There Seems To Be Something:
      - More In View In These Verses!
        - And That God Preserved Them:
- Through Extraordinary Means!
  - Even - Miraculous Means!
    - Because - This Preservation Is Remembered:
      - Even By Nehemiah - 9:21:
        - “Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, [so that] they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not!” (Quotes Deuteronomy 8:4) - So:
- Their Clothes:
  - Did Not Wax Old!
    - They Did Not Wear Out / Decay!
  - So - Even If The People:
    - *Did* Make Something New!
      - Perhaps They Didn’t Want To Wear Uncle Jacob’s Tunic:
        - When He Died!
    - But - Even When They *Did* Make Something New:
      - It *Stayed* In That Condition!
        - New!
  - So - More Than Likely:
    - The Children Of Israel:
      - Left The Wilderness:
        - With More Clothes - Than They Had:
          - When They Entered!
  - **IE:** Certainly Not The Case Today! Survivor! Castaway!
    - But Not For Israel!
      - No Fading! No Tearing! No Diminishing! Stayed As New!
        - But Also:
- Their Shoes:
  - Did Not Wax Old!

- They Too Did Not Wear Out / Decay!
- Truly A Miracle!
  - Especially With The:
    - Terrain & Temperature In The Wilderness!
- And So - God Preserved:
  - The Feet Of His People (Deuteronomy 8):
    - By Preserving:
      - Their Footwear! (Deut. 29)!
  - Their Foot-Wear:
    - Was Always Broken-In!
      - So That They Had No Sores / Blisters On Their Feet!
- The Lord Preserved:
  - Those Items - That Are Still Some Of The Least Thought Of:
    - Until Needed! Clothes & Shoes!
      - At Least For Men!
  - But - I Wonder:
    - Did The Children Of Israel:
      - Notice These Things:
        - Year After Year?
    - Did The Children Of Israel:
      - Realize That:
        - They Were Actually:
          - *Wearing A Miracle:*
            - In Their Clothes & With Their Shoes?
            - Every One Of Them!
- But - This Also:
  - Points To Jesus Christ:
    - And His Provision For His People!
      - A Provision That Is:
        - Gracious & Active & Continuous:
          - In The Wilderness Of This World!
      - But - How Often Do We:
        - Notice? How Often Do We:
          - Give Thanks?
  - In Matthew 6:25-34 - We Are Reminded:
    - That God Is Our Great Provider!
      - Even Of The Basic Necessities:
        - In Life!
    - “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? / Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? / Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? / And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: / And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. / Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith? / Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? / (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. / But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. / Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof!”
      - God *Is Still:*
        - Our Great Provider!
          - Even As He Provided For The Children Of Israel!
        - So - “Take No Thought” - Jesus Tells Us!
          - Don’t Worry About Those Things!
            - But - Even More:
    - Jesus Christ Is Our Great Provision Itself!
      - Several Places In The New Testament:

- Jesus Is Described:
  - Even In Terms Of Clothing!
  - So - As Christians:
- We Are To *Wear Christ!*
  - In Romans 13:14 - We Are Told To:
    - “Put Ye On The Lord Jesus Christ!”
  - So - Even Though:
    - Christians:
      - **Have** Christ Already!
  - We Still
    - **Need** Christ:
      - Day By Day!
    - And So:
      - Keep Putting Him On:
        - As You Would Your Clothes - Daily!
  - But Also - As Christians:
- We Are To *Walk In Christ!*
  - By - Walking In:
    - The One We Wear - Spiritually!
  - Even As We Find In:
    - Colossians 3:12-13 - “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; / Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye!”
- So - Jesus Christ:
  - Is Our Provider & Our Provision:
    - In The Wilderness Of This World!
    - And That Is Why:
      - We Can & We Must:
        - Rest In Him!

**Conclusion:**

1. So - When It Comes To:
  - The Different Ways:
    - By Which The Lord Preserved His People:
      - In The Wilderness:
        - In The Old Testament!
    - They All Point Us:
      - To The Ways Jesus Christ:
        - Preserves Us:
          - Today!
2. So That Now:
  - You Need To:
    - Remember His Presence!
    - Rely Upon His Protection! And:
    - Rest In His Provision:
      - For You!
3. Because - Christ Will Always:
  - Preserve His People:
    - In The Wilderness:
      - Of This World!

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