Test, Trials, & tribulations are part of life.

(Especially if we choose to follow Jesus)

They are good for….

Showing us who we really are

What is on the inside of us (sometimes hidden)

Test, trials, & tribulations..

Reveal to us – who we actually trust

Build Character

Perfect us

So count them all Joy

***Don’t get them mixed up with reaping & sowing**

Do we really want what we say we want?

How bad do you want it?

Maybe we just want our perspective of something, rather than the actual thing?

Maybe we just want the good, easy, look the best, comfortable, peaceful feelings that cost us nothing.

When God gives us a promise,

He would all mankind to receive the promise!

But because His promises are created by love, truth & righteousness….

They are only received by His children of faith.

Most Kingdom Parables

Benefactor – King, Leader

Gift – talent, instruction, Promise

Beneficiary – recipient, receiver

Accountability - what the recipient did with the gift

God hears the cry of His people

Reminder - Abraham childless

Genesis 15

13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.

God hears the cry of His people in Egypt

Exodus 3

- **7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.**

Whenever God hears the cries of His people.

His response is many times a bit different than we expect.

Whenever God hears the cries of His people.

His response is many times a bit different than we expect.

His Plans & thoughts are a bit higher than ours!!

Isaiah 55

6 Seek the LORD while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.
7 Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the LORD,
And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55

8 "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts,
Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD.
9 "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Ephesians 3

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Ephesians 3

[18] may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— [19] to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3

[20] Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, [21] to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

God's Plan for the cries of His people

Exodus 5

Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'"

2 Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go."

God's Plan for the cries of His people

Exodus 14

Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They *are* bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.' 4 Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I *am* the LORD." And they did so.

God's allows others to hinder His People while fulfilling the plan?

Exodus 14

5 Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" 6 So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. 7 Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them.

God's people being tested while fulfilling His plan?

Exodus 14

8 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. 9 So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

God's people react to the test?

Exodus 14

10 And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. 11 Then they said to Moses, "Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?

God's people react to the test?

Exodus 14

12 *Is* this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For *it would have been* better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid.

Does God get tired of hearing the cries of His people?

Exodus 14

Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. 14 The LORD will fight for you, and you must hold your peace."

(Just stay calm) (must be quiet)

GOD'S ULTIMATE PLAN for MAN

1 Peter 1

3 Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his
great mercy he has given us
new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead,
4 and into an inheritance that
can never perish, spoil or fade.

1 Peter 1

This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1

6 In all this you greatly rejoice,
though now for a little while you
may have had to suffer grief in all
kinds of trials.

7 These have come so that the proven
genuineness of your faith—of
greater worth than gold, which
perishes even though refined by
fire—may result in praise, glory and
honor when Jesus Christ is
revealed.

1 Peter 1

**8 Though you have not seen him,
you love him; and even though
you do not see him now, you
believe in him and are filled
with an inexpressible and
glorious joy, 9 for you are
receiving the end result of your
faith, the salvation of your
souls.**