Chapter

A God of Restoration

* Isaiah 49:8 - This is what the Lord says: “In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances,
* Ezekiel 39:25 - “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will now restore the fortunes of Jacob and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name.
* Acts 15:16 - “‘After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,
* 1 Peter 5:10 - And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.
* For Joseph, it was the restoration of his leadership in Egypt after being accused of dishonoring Pharaoh's wife.
* For Nehemiah it was the restoration of the walls of Jerusalem.
* For the leper, it was the restoration of his skin at the word from Elijah.
* For Jesus it was the restoration of His life after three days.
* For the human creation it is the promise that in Him shall the curse yield its grip and that we will be restored, redeemed, transformed.

This is the nature of God's grace. It follows after you to turn what the enemy designed for destruction and to turn it to good. God is purpose driven to restore what the enemy too from us in the garden and to give it back. But interestingly, He never give us back exactly what we had in quantity or in quality. What He restores is always better and more.

The story of Job is one of my favorites. He seemed to be stripped of everything, but in the end he had double. Job is not the story of misery and woe, but of restoration and blessing. That is the nature of God. He is giving, He blesses and He is not pleased to watch the stripping of His provision from His children.

Just a few minutes ago I was setting and worrying about some things that are happing in our lives. The past 10 or more years have been difficult, physically, emotionally, and financially. I wondered what next was going to happen to strip us of what was legitimately ours. And then a question popped into my head. Why do I assume that the stripping is continuous and without end? What give me the right to ever think that those losses are without redemption and that the restoration is not impending and probable?

We get too conditioned by out circumstances and think that those patterns are continuous, but that is not God's intention. His intention for us is good:

* Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

As I sat here thinking about these things, I thought I heard a little voice, somewhere inside my head speaking these words - What are you worried about? I will restore and it's going to be better than you can imagine.