

Destitute Sojourners

1. How Did Naomi Get to Rock Bottom?
2. Sin Always Leads to Death.
3. What Deadly Threats Are We Entertaining?

Conclusion: The story of this Jewish family opens with a bleak account of their misery and descent into destitution. Before we can rightly understand their restoration, we need to reckon with how they got where they were. What lessons are there for us in digging into their folly? How do the promises of God to His people apply to them? How do they apply to us? What is the Holy Spirit leading us to do as a result of what His Word says here?

Genesis 17:7-8

⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you [Abraham] and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you *the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession*, and I will be their God.”

Second Chronicles 7:12-16

¹² Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ *When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain*, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, ¹⁴ *if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land*. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

Deuteronomy 12:5-9

⁵ But you shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there. There you shall go, ⁶ and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. ⁷ And there you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the Lord your God has blessed you. ⁸ “You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, *everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes*, ⁹ for you have not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance that the Lord your God is giving you.

Second Corinthians 6:14-18

¹⁴ *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers*. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? *For we are the temple of the living God*; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” ¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, ¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

Nehemiah 13:26-27

Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. Shall we then listen to you and *do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?*”