

Lessons From Route 66: The Story of Redemption

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Think of some of the wild things that are going on right now that can cause us concern, worry or anxiety. Good examples: Trump verdict, chaos in the Middle East, inflation.....where is hope and encouragement in hard times?

- Find hope and endurance by recalling the Lord's faithfulness, and trust in His promises for the future.

Route 66: The Bible is over a 1500-year time span on 3 continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.

- It was originally written in 3 languages: Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, and was written by over 40 authors.
 - Authors included kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, farmers, scholars.

1. Recalling the Lord's past faithfulness gives enduring faith and hope in hard times.

- People in the Bible faced incredible difficulties at times seemingly from nowhere (i.e. Job, Elijah, Paul) or brought on by themselves (i.e. David, Sampson, Peter).
 - The overarching Old Testament theme is not the rebellion or failure of God's people, but God's faithfulness to continually redeem them from their messes and sin.
 - Remembering the Lord's past faithfulness to yourself and others gives hope and endurance during difficult times.
Deuteronomy 5:15, Psalm 77:11, 2 Timothy 2:8, Jude 17-18, 1 Corinthians 15:20-21
 - My current struggle is with retirement.... remember Jesus' past faithfulness.
- The greatest testimony of the Lord's past faithfulness is His provision of our Savior.
 - 4 Old Testament covenant promises, and 300 Old Testament Messianic prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus is the greater reality of Old Testament shadows: Adam, Moses, Melchizedek, David, Joseph, High Priest, Noah's Ark, Jacob's ladder, Passover lamb, sacrifices, manna, and the bronze serpent.
 - Jesus and the cross are a scarlet thread throughout the Story of Redemption.

2. Trust in Lord's yet unfulfilled promises in order to help us to endure and give us hope in difficult times.

- In hard times, Old Testament saints hoped in the promise of One who WOULD come.
- In the New Testament, hope in Jesus' 2nd coming (assured by 1st coming) encouraged New Testament saints in difficult times. Hebrews 11:13; 16, Colossians 3:2, 2 Peter 3:13, Romans 8:18

- **Our future eternal life is sure** because of God's utter **truthfulness** and His **past faithfulness** to His promises.

3. In **difficult** times, **obedience** is a fruit of **trust** in the **Lord's past and future faithfulness**.

- This principle is **demonstrated** in the **Old Testament** through people like **Noah**, Abraham, Moses, David and Ruth.
- It's also declared in the **New Testament**. Hebrews 11:8, Jeremiah 2:17, John 14:15-17, 1 John 2:3
 - **You are not saved because** you do good or **obey** – you do good and **obey because** you are **saved**.
- **Genuine faith** and **trust** in the Lord during **hard times produces** God honoring, **Holy Spirit empowered obedience**. John 15:5, Romans 6:6, 14, 18, 22
 - **God** has **graciously given** Christians **everything** they need to **obey**.
 - The Cross has **paid** sin's **penalty** and **broken** sin's **power**....
 - **Obedience** is **possible** because we are **no** longer **slaves to sin**.

The **Lord's table** is a regular **application** of this **principle**. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

- **Remember** the Lord's **past faithfulness** of **providing** a promised **Savior**.
- **Hope** in the Lord's **future promises** of **eternal life** with Him.
- **In response**.... joyfully and **obediently celebrate** the Lord's table.

Hard and difficult times are **here** and in the future, but **don't** be despondent and **lose hope and joy**.

- **Remember** this **lesson** from **Route 66**....our Sovereign **God** has been **completely faithful** in the **past** and **will fulfill ALL** His **promises** that He made **for future**.
 - The **Lord** is greatly **glorified** if **by** His **grace** through the **Holy Spirit's power** we **joyfully walk** in **obedience** during **hard and difficult times**.