



FAMILY STUDY

Squanto

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"Squanto"

A Raw Deal...

In your history classes in high school, you may have heard about a meeting between the Pilgrims and an English-speaking Indian named Squanto. Squanto, as it happened, was able to communicate with the Pilgrims and taught them important skills for survival in the New World. But have you ever heard why he just happened to be there where the Pilgrims were? Do you know why he knew how to speak English? Was there a purpose in all these happenings? By studying the life of Squanto, we can learn a lot about how God uses hardship for the good of those who love Him.

Squanto was twice captured by dishonest European sailors when he was a young man. At one point, he was taken to Spain, where he was bought by some Spanish friars. Here Squanto lived for a few years and was "instructed in the Christian faith." Eventually he made his way to England, where he lived and worked for a while. By the time he finally found a way back to America, ten years had passed. Imagine how excited he was to finally be going home! When he got home, however, only sorrow awaited him; his entire tribe had died from a European disease. Now all alone, he went to live with a neighboring Indian tribe.

Bitterness or Benevolence?

A few months later, the Pilgrims arrived, and they chose to live in the very place where Squanto's village had once been. Squanto soon had a choice to make. Should he side with the Indians who wanted to befriend these white men, or should he side with the Indians who wanted to kill them? Should he harbor bitterness toward all Europeans for the pain they'd caused him, or should he use his experiences to accomplish something good?

Romans 8:28 says "And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." To be sure, Squanto had some hard times, but whether Squanto ever came to a saving knowledge of Christ or not, his difficulties DID benefit those who loved God. As you consider Squanto's life, we encourage you and your family to study the Scripture passages found on this page and discuss how God has worked in the difficulties of your life. Our hope for you is that you will build an attitude of thankfulness, even for the painful times of life.

Why Does a Good God Allow Bad Things?

Children don't always understand why parents make the decisions they make. Things that seem harsh or unfair are actually acts of love by a parent who knows what's best. Ps.25:10 says "All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant." The following verses also remind us that God is taking care us, all the time.

Romans 8:28 Psalm 91:14-15 Isaiah 63:9

A Sovereign God...

God is the ultimate authority and power in the universe. Nothing happens without Him knowing about it, and He has a purpose to accomplish through all that is happening in our lives.

While Squanto may not have understood why terrible things kept happening to him, a look at his life clearly shows that God was working toward a special purpose with him. Consider this; if Squanto hadn't been captured, he may never have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. We don't know for sure if Squanto was a Christian, but we do know that he knew about and believed in the one true God. By living in England for a while, Squanto learned to speak very good English. Furthermore, his unfortunate kidnapping spared Squanto for a plague that wiped out his entire village.

Amazingly, when Squanto finally made it back home to stay, he was in the right place at the right time to mediate between the Pilgrims and the Indians, working toward a peace that lasted for fifty years and saving the Pilgrims from starvation. The Pilgrims themselves stated that if it hadn't been for Squanto's help, they would have all perished. Was all of this merely coincidence? Not in light of Romans 8:28!

Joseph: History Repeats Itself...

Squanto's story sounds very much like the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50. He too was sold as a slave and went through many hardships. Yet God used these hardships to put Joseph in a position to save many people's lives. From Joseph's own words, we see how he realized that God had used his terrible circumstances to save thousands. "Joseph said to them, 'Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.'" (Genesis 50:19-20) Consider these Scriptures from Joseph's story:

Genesis 45:5 Genesis 45:7 Genesis 50:20

Who Are We to Question?

Because God is sovereign, and because He knows everything so much better than we do, we cannot question God's right to handle things the way He knows is best. God is God and we are His creation. Aren't you glad to know that God is perfect and makes no mistakes? God is holy and just; everything He does is right. We are His creation; created to do His will. We can take comfort in knowing that He will make everything turn out right in the end. The following verses are some examples of God's sovereignty.

2 Chronicles 20:6 Psalm 83:18 Psalm 103:19
Psalm 135:6 Isaiah 55:8-9 Daniel 4:35
Acts 17:24-25 Romans 9:20-23

Joseph, Squanto, You, and God...

If it weren't for the trials God allowed Squanto to go through, he would have never been prepared to help the Pilgrims. If the Pilgrims had died, things might have been different for our entire country. Our founding fathers used some of the Pilgrims' ideas when they set up our government. If it wasn't for the trials God allowed Joseph to go through, he would have never been able to save his family and the nation of Israel would never have been born. If it weren't for the trials God allows us to go through, we wouldn't be prepared for the circumstances ahead of us that God has already seen.

God is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Almighty Creator of the universe. He knows the future as well as the past. There is absolutely nothing He doesn't know. He is in control of everything that happens to each one of us. Be thankful that He is there taking care of us the whole way through. He loves you and won't let anything happen to you that isn't for your best.