

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 15th January 2023

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymns Ps 103v1-7 Kilmarnock, 305 300.

Read: Genesis 41:15-40 Text Genesis 41:17-37. V25.

**Series: Joseph (41) Title: Joseph's Insight,
Interpretation, Instruction Concerning Pharaoh's Dream**

The closing chapters of Genesis are taken up with the times of Joseph.

(He is set forth as the provider and preserver of the promised seed line from which Christ would come, but also through Joseph surrounding nations will be blessed, they too will come to Joseph and find Him as the only provider in a time of famine.

There is a picture of Jew and Gentile coming to Christ who is the power of the gospel and becoming one in Christ, to makeup one body, one household of faith.)

In this passage, Pharaoh dreamed a dream, leaving Pharaoh troubled, meaning he was stirred up, and anxious.

He didn't know what the dream meant.

Pharaoh then turned to his advisors for counsel. At that time he had the best minds in Egypt to give him an answer or peace.

However, we discover none of the men could answer him.

Pharaoh's advisors and counsellors tried to solve heavenly and spiritual matters with earthly and fallen philosophy.

Their mind was blinded by sin and their understanding darkened.

Pharaoh's dream was a message from God and could only be revealed by the spiritual man.

God ordered the events, that Pharaoh would hear of Joseph as one who can interpret dreams. In trouble he calls for Joseph.

All that occurred in Joseph's life was no mistake, but God arranged every detail so that Pharaoh would hear about Joseph, seek him and meet with him to have an answer of peace by Joseph.

Joseph was the answer.

Therefore, what a view we have of God's intervention, and dealings in our own lives.

He ordered our path, that we would hear the gospel pointing us to Christ as the only one who can give an answer of peace to our trouble and anxious soul.

God still arranges our path to meet individuals or they meet us, in order to share with them the message of God, given an answer of peace, and comfort in their time of trouble.

Jesus is always the answer for trouble and anxious hearts.

I FIRST JOSEPH'S INSIGHT OF PHARAOH'S DREAM **verses 17-24**

If we connect **verses 16 & 25**, we see Joseph's insight to Pharaoh's dream.

Verse 16 *And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace, Verse 25 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what He is about to do."*

Joseph points Pharaoh Godward, he makes it clear it is God who gives the answer, and the answer is ***what He is about to do.***”

The same insight is given years later in reference to Daniel interpreting ***king Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.***

Daniel 2:28 “***But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days***

God showed King Nebuchadnezzar, the course of history for the future of the rising and falling of 4 great nations, empires from Babylon, to Medes and Persians, then Greece, and then to an unnamed empire but through history we know it to be Rome as it was Rome who conquered Greece.

Joseph has insight into the workings of God, “...***what He is about to do.***”

Joseph said in **verse 32** ***And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.***

Another term for what God ***is about to do*** or what God does, or ***the thing is established by God***, is God’s eternal decree.

What is a decree? What does the word decree mean?

A Decree is a decision made that is law, therefore, it is established, binding, it is unchanging.

For instance, **Dan 6**, **Ezra 5:13** “...***king Cyrus made a decree to build this house of God.***”

Think of the NT, **Luke 2:1** “***and it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.***”

God's decree is eternal and unchanging. Included in God's decree are men's decrees, because nothing takes place outside God's decree. He rules over the affairs of humanity. He is KING of Kings, LORD of Lords

Paul said in **Ephesians 1:9 & 11** *Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: ¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will:*

Therefore, all that comes to pass is ordained of God.

Shorter Catechism Q. 7, **What are the decrees of God?**
Answer *The decrees of God are His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, He hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.*

Shorter Catechism Q. 8, **How doeth God execute His decrees.** **Answer,** God executeth His decrees in the works of creation and providence.

God's decree is establishment by God Himself, nothing outside of God affects Him, or makes Him to work.

Everything that God has decreed comes into existence, comes to pass because of His decree. God's decree is His own good pleasure.

God's decree comes to pass, not because God knows what will come to pass, or takes place, but because He has decreed what comes to pass.

Whatever takes place is according to His divine decree.

Everything detail within His decree is certain and fixed.

All that occurs in your life is within God's decree, learn nothing goes wrong, but works for His eternal purpose.

From eternity God's plan is unchangeable with reference to all His creatures. God's plan is stated in **Ephesians 1:4** as "**...before the foundation of the world...**"

Here is the point, Joseph is stating what God "**is about to do**," will come to pass.

God means what He says and says what He means.

Pharaoh's dream relates to days to come, matters covering a number of years, a time of preparation, then famine.

Joseph was clear the famine is coming, it has been established by God, it is immutable and irreversible. The famine cannot be stopped.

In the events in Joseph's life, God is working out of His own sovereign purpose in proving and preserving the nation for the first coming of Christ, but also His second coming in view.

Protecting, providing and preserving the promised seed line to which Christ will be born in a future day, which is the tribe of Judah.

But also, God will provide for gentile nations to find provision in Joseph.

Always look into the word of God, search the scriptures to see what God is doing.

We can look at scripture and see God's decree concerning the first coming of Christ all fulfilled.

Christ Jesus came into the world, He was born of the seed of David from the tribe of Judah, at Bethlehem for the saving of sinners.

Just as God decreed the first coming of Christ and it came to pass in His own appointed time, so He has also decreed the second coming of Christ which in His appointment time will come to pass.

Now is the time of preparation, and working, but a day of judgment is coming, an eternity of blessing is reserved for all who have obeyed the gospel in receiving God's provision Jesus Christ, but an eternity of wrath is reserved for all who have disobeyed the gospel in rejecting God's provision Jesus Christ.

We have the insight, according to the word of God, you know then end of the ungodly, all who have not obeyed the gospel, they shall perish.

How do you stand for that day now!

You must call upon Christ and be saved by His blood, from wrath to come.

II SECOND, JOSEPH'S INTERPRETATION OF PHARAOH'S DREAM

verses 26- 32

Upon hearing of Pharaoh's dream from **verses 17-24**, and then God giving Joseph the answer, Joseph then gave the interpretation, the meaning of the dream from **verses 26-32**, what God is about to do, what is actually going to come to pass.

But in giving the interpretation the message is once again a message of life and death.

A famine is coming to Egypt the message is to prepare for the famine, be ready for famine or perish.

Verse 26 *The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one.*

Basically, 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine.

It's message and meaning is life and death, of barrenness and blessing, of preparation and provision.

Joseph interprets the message given by God, because the message comes back to Joseph. God's answer centres upon Joseph's work and wealth. He owns the storehouses full of supplies.

Pharaoh will view Joseph as the only one able and qualified to carry out what needs to be done to save them from perishing when the famine comes, as **verse 36** states.

Remember Christ, in **Luke 24**, as He spoke to the two on the Emmaus Road who didn't understand the message and meaning of Calvary.

Christ opened to them the scriptures. He gave the message and meaning why He must suffer such things, to enter into glory. His life, death and Resurrection was accepted by the Father for the justification of guilty sinners He came to save.

They viewed Christ as the only Saviour, and that's how you must view Him today. Christ is the only one qualified to save sinners and keep all He saves.

There was no other good enough to die, only He could honour God.

God ordered the steps to Christ to Calvary, and His path to glory, to save and guarantee our entrance into heaven.

Believer, aren't you glad for the one God sent you to, who gave you the message and meaning of God's word, preaching to you Jesus the Saviour of sinners.

You viewed Him as your only hope and deliverance from sin's guilt and sin's punishment in hell.

I urge you do the same for others, spread the gospel of grace around there's life in the risen Lord.

Invite people to this church to sit under the preaching of the Word, and hearing of so great salvation and a great Saviour for great sinners.

Encourage believers, that Christ is all sufficient, His storehouses never empty, the stock for what you need is always there.

III THIRD, JOSEPH'S INSTRUCTION FROM PHARAOH'S DREAM

verses 33-37.

When Pharaoh unburdened himself to Joseph, and told him the troubles of his heart, that which takes his sleep, not only did Joseph tell Pharaoh what his troubles meant, but he also shared with him what he was to do.

Joseph communicated to Pharaoh how to prepare for the coming famine.

Here is Joseph once again as a faithful messenger and prophet not only to **foretell** or prophesy of events in the future, but also **forthtell**, proclaim and prepare in the present for what is to come in the future.

Joseph has told Pharaoh what is going to come to pass, but he also prepares him at once for that coming day.

Verse 32 *Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.*

Verse 34 *Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers*

over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.

Pharaoh was to choose one man to rule, and then others were given responsibilities to serve alongside him. these men will gather the food in **the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.**

The man is to be selected must be **discreet and wise.**

The word **Discreet** means **Discern, Understanding, knowledge.** The word **wise** means **wisdom.**

Discernment, understanding is the knowledge what needs to be done, Wisdom is the application. Wisdom is doing what you know needs to be done.

Joseph tells Pharaoh to choose, to select a man, who knows what needs to be done and will do it. One who understands the situation and will act accordingly.

From these verses its clear Pharaoh has no man within Egyptian who can fit such a description.

The only one he could turn to was Joseph because he sees the qualities for the man needed in Joseph.

In **verses 38-40**, Pharaoh choses Joseph, and places upon him authority **verse 41** "**I have set thee over all the land of Egypt...**"

Joseph knows what needs to be done and He does it. There is no one else compared to Joseph.

Think of Christ, who is chosen by God among the people, His Elect one, His Exalted one. Paul teaches that Christ in **1 Cor 1:30** "... **is made unto wisdom**...." The eternal and infinite

wisdom of God is revealed through Christ, because He is God.

He has instructed sinners that they must be born again to enter the kingdom of God.

It can be said of Joseph as it was said of ***the children of Issachar*** in **1 Chron 12:32** “... ***the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do;***

Joseph understood the times, he knew what Pharaoh ought to do in this time of trouble and anxiety with a famine to come. Pharaoh must not only be a hearer of the word but a doer.

There was an urgency, **verse 32** “... ***God will shortly bring it to pass.***” Time was short.

What a word for all who will share the gospel, as Bible believers, children of God, we have understanding of the times as revealed by God, and we know what troubled sinners must do as the day of judgment gets closer.

Time is short, 2 Corinthians 6:2 "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation".

Troubled sinners must confess their sin to God as David did, against thee and thee only have I sinned and pray as David did blot out my transgressions, pardon my iniquity for it is great.

Only then will troubled sinners have peace within and peace without. A Hope that is steadfast and sure.

Believer, when your soul was troubled, and you cried unto Christ, save me or I perish, He spoke to your troubled heart peace be still, and when you are continually troubled by

events, and circumstances, He still speaks peace be still for
He knows what He is about to do in your situation.