

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/ Hymns Ps 40:1-4 Ballerma. 382, 260 Read: Genesis 41:1-16 Text Genesis 41:1-16

Series: Joseph (40) Title: Pharaoh's Dream (2) His Action & Answer

Two years after his birthday feast, King Pharaoh dreamed one dream but in two parts.

In our last study we noted **Pharaoh's Anxiety and Pharaoh's Advisors.**

This dream left Pharaoh troubled, no peace, he was anxious.

Furthermore, he turned to his advisors or councillors, the **magicians of Egypt**, and **all the wise men**, yet none of them could give the interpretation.

None could give Pharaoh the answer of peace that he needed.

The reason being, the carnal mind is an enmity or war with God, and when the carnal mind attempts to interpret the message of God they cannot, God is not in their thoughts.

Christ said in **John 3:6** "**that which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Paul said in in **1 Corinthians 2:14** "**the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**"

Therefore, Pharaoh needs God's message delivered **not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.**

**Ephesians 1:5&9** instructs us that **God works** according to the good pleasure of His will to bring about **His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself.**

All God does in His creation and among His creatures is for His glory and pleasure in redemption through Jesus Christ.

Don't lose sight of the main theme in Joseph's life. God has chosen Joseph as the preserver of the nation of Israel and in particular tribe, or seed line of Judah, for that is the line to which Christ would be born and which was fulfilled in **Matthew 1-2** and **Luke 1-2**.

The nation must be preserved, but Joseph is in prison. Pharaoh has a dream, he is told of Joseph and then Joseph is brought out of prison and exalted with all authority in order to provide and preserve the Jewish nation and surrounding Gentile nations in the famine to come.

What a wonderful gospel lesson there is in Joseph's life that points to Christ, the elect of God, chosen to preserve His people both Jew and Gentile from wrath to come, Christ is the provision for sinners.

Having thought **firstly of Pharaoh's Anxiety and secondly Pharaoh's Advisors.**

Please notice regarding Pharaoh's dream:

### **III THIRD, PHARAOH'S ACTION**

when Pharaoh dreamed his dream, the first course of action he took was to seek his advisors.

However, Pharaoh's advisors the **magicians of Egypt**, and **all the wise men**, couldn't interpret the dream, and Pharaoh remained troubled.

It was then the Chief Butler in **verse 9** remembered his **faults** or as the word translates as **sins**, in forgetting Joseph.

Then having confessed his sins, he seeks to put the wrong right, and tells Pharaoh of Joseph.

Notice his testimony of Joseph's dealings in **verses 12-13** ***And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret. <sup>13</sup> And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.***

You can imagine King Pharaoh, hearing his confession, and news about this man named Joseph. A man he has not heard of before. Surely from a human view point, there were many reasons why King Pharaoh should have refused to hear the Butler.

But through each description there is a message that leads to Christ a greater than Joseph, in His role or office as our prophet, priest and King.

***The butler spoke of Joseph's age and inexperience. "there was there with us a young man..."*** don't forget **verse 46** ***Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh King of Egypt.***

What would this young man, inexperienced know, what wisdom would he possess compared to all my wise men. Pharaoh had the best of mature minds. Pharaoh had every reason to say Joseph is too young, unwise.

Yet is the one who reveals the will of God.

Remember the Lord Jesus Christ in **Luke 2** at the temple in Jerusalem, how old was He? **verse 42** ***"he was twelve years old..." what was Christ doing at 2 years old, verses 46-47 sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.<sup>47</sup> And all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers."***

What a challenge for young people, a young man or woman, to follow Christ likeness.

Read many good books, learn your shorter catechism, move onto the large catechism and Westminster confession of faith, learn

them, but above all read the scriptures, which these other helps are founded upon, and you will grow in grace.

Notice also, when Christ began His public ministry as the prophet, priest and King of His people, **Luke 3:23** records, ***And Jesus Himself began to be about thirty years of age...*** so there is no confusion Christ from His birth was our prophet, priest and King, but as the age of Thirty His public ministry officially began after His baptism.

In His role as priest Christ carried out the work of sacrifice and prayer upon the shedding of precious blood. He fulfilled the priest's office and tabernacle ministry by His one offering for sin.

The Levite priests in the OT began their public priestly ministry at the age of 30. ***Numbers 4:3 From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation, see also, verses 23, 30, 35, 39, 43, 47.***

***The butler spoke of Joseph's association and identity. an Hebrew...*** The Egyptians as Gentiles, they were heathens who worshiped their own gods. The Gentles nations despised the Jews as they still do.

In making the point that Joseph is a Hebrew, not only set him apart nationally but also spiritually.

The phrase **Hebrew** singled out Joseph as one who worshipped Jehovah the everlasting God, the true and living God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

It showed that Joseph did not worship the many false gods that the Egyptians worshipped. Later this mark of difference was stated by Moses, in **Exodus 11:7** ***...the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.***

The name and identification goes back to Abraham the father of the Jewish nation, and the father of a spiritual family in Christ, **Genesis 14:13** ***Abram the Hebrew.***

**Galatians 3**, teaches that Abraham believed the gospel it was preached unto him, he was justified by God through faith alone in Christ the promised Saviour, who at His Birth the wise men said in **Matthew 2:2** ***“Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship Him.”***

At Christ’s death, Pilate wrote in **Matthew 27:37** ***THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.***

Christ is the King of all His people both Jew and Gentile, one Kingdom one King.

**The butler spoke of Joseph’s assessment and imprisonment.** ***servant to the captain of the guard;***

Joseph was a servant or slave to Potiphar. Potiphar worked for Pharaoh.

In Pharaoh’s mind, the very fact this man Joseph is a Hebrew in prison by Potiphar means he’s guilty of crime and liable for punishment.

Nothing good can come from this man.

Think of Christ, the servant of God, serving sinners He came to save by giving His life a ransom for them.

In reference to Christ, Nathaniel said in **John 1:46** ***“Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.***

Christ was taken as a prisoner bound and sentenced to death. Christ was upon Cross not for any sin of His own, for He had none.

But He was there as the representative and surety of His people. Upon the cross, Christ was viewed and treated by God as guilty for the sins of His people.

God took all the guilt, all the sin, of those people and he made Christ accountable for it. He took responsibility for their sins and paid all their debt, by having all their sins laid upon Him.

Christ bore all the sins of all His people from all ages on His own body on the Tree.

**The butler spoke of Joseph's ability and interpretation.**

***and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret. <sup>13</sup> And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.***

Christ as our prophet, delivered, interpreted the message of God to show the way of salvation and way of service to God.

There was every reason why Pharaoh should have refused but there was one reason he couldn't, because Joseph was who he needed.

Only Joseph could give the right message from God.

Upon hearing of this man named Joseph, and his ministry, wisdom his ability to interpret dreams, Pharaoh then acts and in **verse 14** ***sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon...***"

Pharaoh called for Joseph, because he saw himself in great need and there one was who could meet that need.

Pharaoh had lost all hope in his advisors, but there was hope that this man Joseph could give the answer that no one else could.

Pharaoh had turned to the wisdom of men, he turned to the best of minds in his day, men of position skill and intellectual ability, but none could interpret the dream from God. None could give Pharaoh the true message that God had for him.

But here was one that Pharaoh's heard of, and he learns that this man Joseph has interpreted dreams before, and they have come to pass.

Therefore, in his needy situation he calls for Joseph.

It was only when Pharaoh acknowledged he was troubled and needy, and that all others he turned to could not help him but in hearing of one who could, he then seeks for Joseph.

See again a wonderful picture of the gospel pointing to a greater than Joseph our heavenly Joseph the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believer, before salvation, we were as Pharaoh troubled, and needy concerning the message of God. It was only when the Holy Spirit convinced us by Christ life and death, that one else could give us the true meaning of God's word.

As we heard faithful teaching, we heard of man name Jesus who can do helpless sinners good.

You see Christ Himself said in **Mark 2:17** “...***they that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.***”

Upon hearing that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, and He had all ability to save and completely willing to save our soul, we fled to Him to Him for refuge.

Unsaved, until you ACCEPT the message that you need sins forgiven and ADMIT you are lost in sin, troubled about your sin and in need to have of your sins forgiven, you will never be cleansed from sin.

Because if there's no ACCEPTING, and ADMITTING, you will not ACKNOWLEDGE that only Jesus has all power to save you, which means you will not ASK Christ to save you.

Therefore (**Acts 4:12** ***Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.***)

**Acts 10:43** ***that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.***

Pharaoh, was told about Joseph, who He was and what He had done, and based on that testimony Pharaoh called for Joseph, he received ***an answer of peace.***

Based on who Christ is in all His perfection, and all that Christ has accomplished for full salvation, you must call for Him today to have an answer of peace with God.

### **Pharaoh's Anxiety, Advisors, Action**

### **IV FOURTH, PHARAOH'S ANSWER.**

**Verses 15-16 *And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. <sup>16</sup> And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.***

Joseph as God's chosen servant glorifies God in His words and work in answering Pharaoh. He honours and testifies of God.

Joseph has faith in God, who is the God of all peace, the one who can unburden the burdened, and bring rest to the weary, and peace to the troubled.

There is hope in God.

There is a word for the heart of Pharaoh, for Joseph knows how to bring a word in season to him that is weary.

Just as Christ does in His speech and service.

Read the gospels and see the times God is glorified by Christ's works and work, in His life and death in doing God's will.

Christ Himself is our peace. He alone keep sinners in perfect peace who rest on Him. He purchased peace with God by His own precious blood.

Peter preached in **Acts 10:36** ***"the word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all).***

Troubled soul today, the answer for your need is Christ. He gives everlasting peace.

Christ prayed in **John 17:4** ***I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. He provided redemption and eternally preserves His people.***

By their words and work, Joseph and Christ glorified God, believer the message to you in serving God, **Matthew 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***