

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 23rd January 2022 Hymns 192, 394, 145 Read: Genesis 37:1-4 Text Genesis 37:4

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph Two Dreams

Verses 5-11 we learn that Joseph dreams two dreams.

Now before we actually deal with those dreams, allow me to say that, that before the scriptures of truth were given in their complete written form of both Old and New Testaments, the Lord delivered or communicated His word to individuals, through dreams, or visions, which were forms of special revelation.

In Special revelation, God progressively revealed Himself by His word to fallen man, concerning redemption by faith in the person and work of the Saviour He promised, who is the eternal word of God, the fulfilment of all special revelation.

Time after time, generation after generation God continually progressively revealed more of who Christ was for the saving of sinners.

Paul said in **Hebrews 1:1** "**God who at sundry times**" meaning **God revealed Himself progressively**," to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, **and in divers manners spake**", meaning in many ways, through dreams, types. "**spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets**," the words "**In time past**", refers to the **OT**, God revealed His covenant of grace through types, shadow, pictures. These all pointed to Christ as Saviour.

Hath in these last days spoke unto us by His Son..." God does not speak anymore through dreams, or vision's, why is that, because we have in our possession a copy of the complete canon of inspired scripture.

All that God will speak to any man about redemption, or all that God wants you to know about Himself, His work and will, He

speaks by His Son, through His written word, as read or preached.

There is no new revelation, or inspiration, there is nothing that needs to be added, subtracted, rather all that God has permitted us to know about Himself is revealed by His Son in His word.

People today get caught up in the confusion between manmade dreams and special revelation. There is no doubt we all dream, some even daydream, however, our dreams are not new special revelation from God, as some claim.

Our dreams are not messages from God.

Such promote that God has something else, new, updated to say to man that is not in His word, but through men's dreams, visions, hallucinatory experiences.

This is great error, such is to claim that God's salvation in Jesus Christ is not enough. Such is to claim that God has more to say, that does not include Christ the word of God.

It is to teach that Christ is a failure, confusion within the Godhead, And so, what men do, is give their own opinions, add their own books, based on their dreams.

They seek to turn their own dreams into Theology, such the Lord charges with the same charge as the false prophets in **Jeremiah 23:25** ***I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed.***

This is why we cannot trust in men's visions, and dreams, but we trust in God's word. it is superior. Peter said in **2 Peter 1:19** ***We have also a more sure word of prophecy...*** God's word is our Authority for matters concerning faith and practice.

This was one of the five foundations of the reformation, Scripture alone. God by His Spirit will speak of Christ to the hearts of men and woman by the word of God.

Men's dreams lead to their own ambitions and ways, whereas from the time man fell into sin, God has revealed to man one redeemer and one way of redemption.

All in the context of Joseph's dreams point toward redemption, God saving His people, preserving a nation, pointing to Jesus Christ the only redeemer of His people

I FIRST, THE REVEALING IN JOSEPH'S TWO DREAMS.

God spoke through dreams to communicate His word, will and way concerning His eternal plan of redemption in Jesus Christ.

When we read words as we do in **Genesis 37:5** "**Joseph dreamed and dream...**" or **verse 9** "**he dreamed yet another dream...**" that is really language to mean **the word of Lord came to Joseph with a message.**

God in speaking to Joseph through his dreams communicated to him a message, leading to future days.

The first message is recorded in **verse 7** "**For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.**"

Now we may read this and say what does that mean, however, **verse 8** confirms that Joseph's brethren knew what the words meant. **And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us?** There was no confusion, or play on words, it was simple and plain language.

Joseph used the language and illustration of the field. Joseph's sheaf, his stack of grain, was standing up, placed upright,

whereas the sheaves or bundles of grain belonging to his brothers are in a lower position.

It meant that Joseph one day will be exalted and will rule over his brethren.

They will bow before Joseph.

His brethren understood the dream, but refused to accept it as **verse 8** teaches.

The second dream is recorded in **verse 9**- "***behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.***" again we may think what is this all about, but his father and brethren understood, it was clear, the answer and meaning is given in **verse 10**, notice Jacob asked "...***What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?***"

we learn from Jacob's question and answer that the sun and moon spoken in **verse 9** symbolise Joseph's parents father and mother ***Shall I and thy mother.***

There are differing views on this phrase ***thy mother***, who does the mother refer to. There is suggestion the word **mother** still refers to **Rachel**, therefore, Jacob views this dream as mockery questionable, because Rachel's dead, **that's part of the reason why Jacob rebukes him.**

There is also suggestion since Rachel was dead then her Sister Leah, who was also Jacob's wife acted as a step mother to Joseph, and so When Jacob brought his family or household to Egypt Joseph would rule over them, Gen 46, 47, that's part of the reason Jacob thinks over the saying, after rebuking him.

The eleven stars in verse 9 symbolised in verse 10 Joseph's brethren *thy brethren*. The meaning of the word obeisance in verse 9 is given in verse 10 to bow down.

Putting it all together the phrase *made obeisance to me*, means that *Joseph's brethren would bow down to him, but also Joseph would rule over all the family*.

Again the dream and its meaning was clearly understood, but rejected, to the point his brother envied him more.

Joseph's dreams spoke of events that would happen in the future, and therefore, Joseph's brethren lived in the present, they couldn't grasp this would happen at some point in the future. Yet Joseph's words came to pass.

We have in our possession what they didn't have, the complete written word of God, we can read the whole story from start to finish.

Turn to Genesis 42:5-6 ***And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan. ⁶ And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth. Genesis 42:9 "Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them." Gen 43:26. 44:14 "they fell before him on the ground.***

What another pointer we have of Christ, our heavenly Joseph, the Highly exalted one, all will bow down and worship Him as the exalted King of kings and Lord of lords.

Paul said in Philippians 2:9-11 ***Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;***

Christ is coming back in all His heavenly glory and Kingly power, to continue His rule and Reign. Those who hear and refuse such a message in the present, will in a future day bow down before Him ***11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***”

Joseph’s words came to pass, and so will Christ’s. You can trust the word of God, **Mark 13:31** ***“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”***

In fact Psalm 2 shows that in the mind of God, these words, the coming of Christ, His rulership, have already been fulfilled, God is just waiting for the day when He will cause earth to agree, and acknowledge Christ is King of kings and Lord of Lord’s.

Believer, there will be a reunion of our all loved ones, those dead in Christ shall rise again. In heaven we will bow before our heavenly Joseph Crowning Him the Lamb upon His throne in endless praise, as the Lord and Saviour of His people. **Rev 4:11** ***“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.***

II SECOND, THE RECIPIENTS OF JOSEPH’S TWO DREAMS.

Joseph’s dream’s where not so much for himself, rather this was a message his brethren must hear. In other words Joseph was not to keep the message of the dream to himself. It was given out.

Notice Joseph’s words in **verse 5** ***“And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: verse 6 “and he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed.”*** **verse 9** ***“And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold...”*** **Verse 10** ***“and he told it to his father, and to his brethren...”***

The message was for others to hear, it was a message of warning, a call to make preparation, it was a message to act upon, it was a message that would be fulfilled.

Remember when Joseph communicated the word, his brethren hated him, however their hatred of Joseph did not stop Joseph delivering the message.

Joseph senses this was a message from God. He had a responsibility to tell the family the dream, He was their answer, their provider and provision for they would need.

In Gen 41:55 when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.

Therefore, men and woman we have the message of God's pardon of sin, peace with Him and salvation only through faith in Christ as recorded by the word of God. This is message that sinners must receive, and act upon.

The Apostle Paul knew the importance that sinners must receive God's message, even though they were against him, and didn't want to hear the gospel preached, he said in 1 Cor 1:17 "**Christ sent me not to Baptise, but to preach the gospel...** he then said in 2 Cor 4:13 "**But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**

The Lord Jesus Christ hated, and envied, prayed to His father these words in John 17:14 "**I have given them thy word;** He alone is the **good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people**, He preached the gospel message to poor and needy sinners in Luke 13:3 "**except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

The people didn't want to hear that the righteousness they claimed to have, was imperfect and unacceptable to God, therefore they needed a perfect righteousness, one that would

exceed or greater than the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, but such a perfect righteousness, acceptance is only provided by God through faith in Christ. For that reason, **John 1:11** records of Christ, "***He came unto His own, and his own received him not.***"

sinner must see Christ as their only provider and provision, Christ is the bread and the water of life, to nourish and satisfy hungry and thirsty sinners.

None, but Christ can satisfy, He is everything to His people, keep going to Christ our heavenly Joseph he provides day by day.

III THIRD, THE RESPONSES TO JOSEPH'S TWO DREAMS

V11 "***And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.***" We spoke of their envy last week rooted in pride, the responded by hatred and rejection.

At first Jacob as **verse 10** states **rebuked him**... The Hebrew word translated **rebuked** is a strong word. It means **to scream at**. like I said it maybe because Rachel is dead, Jacob may see this a mockery, or that he as the Father will bow to his son.

Then Jacob stops to think, Notice **verse 11**, **his father observed the saying**. The idea is kept the matter close to his heart.

Did Jacob also remember the time in his own life recorded in **Gen 28** when God spoke to him by a dream concerning his need of Christ as Saviour. Now God has spoken to, is his son by a dream.

Remember in **Matthew 1:18**, Joseph concerning Mary his fiancee, who was with child that was not his naturally, should he end the engagement, "***...he thought on these things...***"

It is clear he took the night, as he slept. The word **thought** means ***to ponder, to bring to mind.***

However, as he thought, ***behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.*** The made the right decision because he took God as his word.

What will you do with Jesus? How will you respond? What is your response? Will you take the Lord at his word. Joseph's brethren refused his word.

Their heart hardened to Joseph, they would not have this man rule over them, and you say the same about Christ.

Believer continue to give out the word, care for the souls of sinners. salvation is of God not man.