

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 19th February 2023

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles, Ps/Hymns Ps 145 2ND Version, 1-3, 9-15 T- In Christ Alone, 134.

Read: Genesis 41:40-44 Text Genesis 41:40-44

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph Set Over Egypt (2)

Having been exalted by Pharaoh, Joseph was positioned to rule over Egypt, ***Thou shalt be over my house***, that is to rule, execute power over the affairs and furtherance of the Kingdom of Egypt.

Joseph was set before the people of the land as the only preserving and provider of life when facing death.

Joseph's Responsibility, Rule and Right belonged to his exalted position over the Kingdom It belonged no other.

Therefore, as we consider Christ in His highly exalted position by God, He alone, has all ***Responsibility, Rule and Right over His eternal Kingdom. And all the kingdoms of the world.***

Having seen ***Joseph's Position***, we, now consider:

II SECOND, JOSEPH'S PRESENTATIONS

V42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

These presentations were symbolic of Joseph's role and office as ruler over all the land and Kingdom.

The presentations, or regalia that Joseph wears, declares his work and office of a prophet, priest and king, over the kingdom, delivering a people from death.

By His humiliation, Joseph was sent forth by his Father to seek the wellbeing of his brethren, therefore, Joseph pictures a prophet to bring God's message before men, and then a priest to

sympathise with, and to seek God on behalf of sinners, in order to bring sinners to God, and then a king to rule over and secure deliverance.

By Joseph's exaltation, He is enthroned, and from his throne he still fulfils his role as a prophet, a faithful messenger, as priest robed in righteous garments, and as king to govern.

Joseph will act for all he represents.

All he does is for those he will save from perishing in the famine.

Joseph never stops to fulfil these roles, therefore, what a picture we have of Christ a greater than Joseph.

After his humiliation ended, Christ our Exalted Saviour, Righteous Redeemer, and Sovereign Lord, entered into heaven, seated at God's right hand, there to act on the behalf the people within His eternal Kingdom.

All Christ does from the throne of heaven is for the benefit of and on behalf of His inheritance, a people given to Him.

The SC Q 23 what offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer, the answer- *Christ executeth the office of an prophet, of a priest and of a King both in His estate of humiliation and exaltation.*

When Christ entered heaven He ever remains our prophet, priest and King and one glorious day when Jesus comes again, we shall see Him as He is, exalted on high.

1 Joseph was presented with a RING, And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand.

The ring symbolised authority.

The ring of power declared that Joseph was sent out by Pharaoh to rule and reign. It was the mark to confirm his royal decree was sealed. Joseph's word will be the final authority.

What did Pharaoh say in **verse 40 according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: verse 55 ...Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.**

This Hebrew word **ring** in this verse, originally reads **signet ring** which means **to sink**.

When royal documents, decrees, laws from the rulers mouth, were put in place, the ruler's ring was put into wax, and then put on the document to seal it, making the information within the document legally binding, because it came with the ruler or kings imprint or image. It was the Kings word and command.

It meant the law established was now in operation, its commands must be upheld. It's what the King required.

Therefore, Pharaoh gave Joseph the power of law making. The ring marked Joseph as one who had supreme authority given into his hand. The ring upon his hand was the seal of authority.

Joseph by his exalted position had all power from the throne to rule.

Upon the throne, Joseph gives the message of God instructing and counselling giving the terms of deliverance to the people of the land and his own brethren what they must do to live and not perish in the famine.

Therefore, all who come to Joseph take him at his words, as we see in **chapters 41-46**.

What a view of Christ we have as our exalted Prophet, upon the throne of God.

In His exaltation Christ continues as our faithful prophet, because He will never stop revealing the will of God for our salvation, and

edification. Both in Humiliation and Exaltation His word always came and comes with His authority.

The Lord Jesus said to His disciples in **Matthew 28:18-20** “...**All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**
¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen

Pharaoh sent out Joseph with the ring of authority, likewise the Lord Jesus said in **John 20:21** “...**as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

By Christ sending believers, to serve Him, **He equips, empowers and enables** to do so, by His authority which is His word, the ring of authority.

When you hold the word of God in your hand, you hold the ring of authority.

When you proclaim the message of the Bible, you do so with authority from heaven’s throne.

When you read the Bible, you read the word from heaven’s throne to you. His commands can’t be changed they are forever settled in heaven and sealed by blood.

It’s not the Bible that needs updating, or Biblical laws need changing, or Biblical foundations needing redefined rather we need to submit to the King’s ring of authority, His Word, in our lives.

In other words we don’t need to redefine the Bible, we to rededicate and return to the Bible.

We don’t need to challenge the Bible, rather we must be challenged by, changed by and conformed to the Bible.

When the preacher tells forth the word of life, how sinners can flee wrath to come and how believers claim for their spiritual

growth all the benefits of Christ's death, the preacher is demonstrating Christ's word, is all authority in heaven and earth, and it must be obeyed.

Believer, when making decisions, about, work, education, marriage, moving house, pray and perform your daily tasks, His council is your authority and guide for life.

2 Joseph was presented with ROBES, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen,

The words **vestures** mean robes, clothing, apparel, garments. That's why it's interesting to note the word vestures is plural, meaning many robes, garments.

The ring symbolised authority

The robes symbolised appointment.

Joseph was appointed, set apart as the only one who could to save people from perishing in the famine.

Joseph's life has been associated with many garments, robes, clothes.

First there was the vesture of a Son, Genesis 37, the coat of many colours given by his Father, this is sign of sonship, leadership.

Second, there was the vesture of a Servant, Genesis 39, having been stripped of his first coat, Joseph now in Egypt a servant of Potiphar's wears the servants clothes. He left his servant's raiment in the house of his master when he fled from Potiphar's wife.

Thirdly there was the vesture of Sentencing – Genesis 39-40, during his years in prison, he wears prisoners clothes.

Fourth there was the vesture of a Seer, Genesis 41:14 new garments given by Pharaoh, as Joseph tells the message of God.

He was adorned with the robe of royal favour and righteous vindication.

And fifthly there are the vestures of Supremacy, Genesis 41, arrayed him in vestures of fine linen.

Pharaoh in bestowing these robes sought to reverse the act of Potiphar's wife who removed Joseph's robe.

Pharaoh exalted the name of the one who had been subject to slander and suffering.

He clothes Joseph in vestures of fine linen testifying Joseph is the righteous one.

The word "**linen**" comes from a Hebrew word meaning "**to be bright or to be white.**" It speaks of a **purity, holiness and righteous.**

Joseph lived in holiness of life, he was marked out by his purity, and now Pharaoh in clothing Joseph in vestures of fine linen declares the wise and chosen ruler, the appointed one is holy, pure, and he will rule righteously.

He will intervene in the lives of men and woman. He will rule in glory, holiness, and honour. Joseph will rule, serving God by faith in Christ.

If you remember, around 430 years, when the children of Israel left Egypt during Moses's time, they didn't leave empty handed, they took materials which was used to build the tabernacle such as the **white line fence, Ex 27**, and **the curtains, Ex 26** and **the priest garments Ex 28**, all were appointed and set apart for God, in holy service.

Linen was a priestly garment. The priest's service included prayer and sacrifice to God upon the ground of blood sacrifice acceptable to God.

As we consider the Lord Jesus Christ, He is the appointed one to save, He is the perfect one, the Righteous one. Holy harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners.

At Calvary He was stripped of His garments. But today He is clothed with Glory and honour.

He is the exalted Great High priest. He is clothed in garments of glory and beauty. Absolute purity.

Upon His throne, Christ's intercedes and intervenes. He rules in righteousness.

There is no other qualified, appointed to save you, clothe you, comfort you, sustain you in life and in eternity, only Christ,

Therefore, Believer, Christ's Priestly appointment guarantees our perseverance and, deliverance from eternal wrath. He is the Lord our righteousness.

Revelation 19 describes the church of Christ as His bride, at His return when He gathers His bride together to meet Him, **verse 8**
And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

His enthronement declares He was appointed to do what was required to honour God that whosoever believeth Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Joseph was presented with a GOLD CHAIN. and put a gold chain about his neck;

The ring symbolised authority

The robes symbolised appointment.

The gold chain symbolised Accomplishment, meaning **Rank, Rewards, Royalty, and Rulership**.

It points to one who could not and did not fail.

Pharaoh exalted Joseph to assure the people here is one who is able to do great and mighty things. One who will deliver and bring to safety, all who come to him.

The one who wears the gold chain, is one who has earned such a reward.

Through his sufferings, Joseph as a prisoner, had worn a chain of iron around his feet as stated by **Psalm 105:17-18**, but he exchanged this for a chain of gold around his neck.

His chain is that of a lofty prince, not that of a lowly prisoner.

His prison exchanged for a palace. His fetters for a golden chain. His prison garments for robes of glory.

Joseph has earned His reward.

Furthermore, Gold was also associated with Royalty, and Kingship. Sovereign rulers possessed Gold demonstrating their power, wealth, and riches, as seen by Kings and Queens in the Bible.

Today, Officers in Armed forces, wear stars or stripes to denote rank and rewards, accomplishments for service to another.

If you remember in **Daniel 5:7 & 29**, Daniel was given a chain of gold by Belshazzar as one of the promised rewards for interpreting the hand writing on the wall.

Daniel was promoted to third ruler in the land, and the chain symbolised this rank.

When Pharaoh put the golden chain about Joseph's neck, it was the sign of his high office and evidence of worth, glory, and accomplishment.

Joseph will give victory over the famine. He will secure deliverance, none who come to him shall perish in the famine.

The gentile people of the land have full confidence in Joseph that He is able to save in the famine.

In coming chapters, we discover his own Jewish brethren believe his word, that God sent him to preserve their life to save their lives by a great deliverance.

Here we see once again, both Jew and Gentiles, looking to Christ who their only preserver and deliverer. In Christ both Jew and Gentile are one body. He has accomplished salvation for all He came to save.

Christ as the King of all His people, Rules, and governs righteously.

Christ has earned His reward, He meet every requirement of God, by His perfect life and sacrificial death. His people are the reward of His labours. You are the Kings servants, inheritance, treasure, His Jewels, a royal diadem.

Christ calls His people a new name, **Isaiah 62:4** **Hephzi-bah**, meaning **my delight**.

Joseph's presentations caused all to recognise and acknowledge **His authority, appointment and accomplishment**, to office to save lives.

Therefore, Christ is a glorious Saviour, a victorious King, He defends His people. His wealth never loses value, rather, God

shall supply all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

And when we shall behold Him, He shall be presented as one who possessed all authority to save, appointed to save, and accomplished to save.

Are you a member of His Kingdom? Will you surrender to Him as receive Him as your prophet, priest and King. None will perish who come to Him.