

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 5th February 2023

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps Hymns Ps 8 Wiltshire, 85, 145

Read: Genesis 41:39-41 Text Genesis ch 37-50.

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph's Humiliation & Exaltation

In studying the life of Joseph we have noted on many occasions, that his life can be viewed by his humiliation and exaltation.

God was working out His eternal plan of redemption through the life and ministry of Joseph in his office as the saviour of the world, the preserver of a people, facing death by famine.

All that takes place is for the benefit of Joseph saving a people, from the Jewish nation and gentile nations of the world.

Having considered Joseph's humiliation from **Genesis 37** through to **Genesis 41:25**, we are now enter into Joseph's Exaltation, from **Genesis 37-50**, where he is enthroned with power, glory, and people bow the knee before him.

Joseph's humiliation and exaltation is a picture, a type, symbolism, a shadow, a ministry pointing to the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus Christ.

God is working out His eternal plan of redemption through the life and gospel ministry of Jesus Christ, as the Saviour of the World, the redeemer of His people.

All that takes place is for the benefit of saving a people, out of the Jewish and gentile nations of the world, from God's wrath, and one day every knee shall bow and confess Jesus is Lord.

SC23 *asks what offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer? The answer is Christ as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of priest and of a King, both in His estate of Humiliation and Exaltation.*

Therefore, in this half way point and new section of Joseph's life, we want stop and consider where we have been and where we are going in the life of Joseph, what has taken place from chapters 37-41, and what is yet to take place from the end of chapters 41-50.

May our study lead us to look beyond the temporal to the eternal, considering a greater than Joseph the Lord Jesus Christ, and in an overview of His life consider what has taken place and what is yet to take place in future days in the mind of God.

Joseph's humiliation and exaltation.

I FIRST JOSEPH'S HUMILIATION

Genesis 37 through to Genesis 41:25 details Joseph's humiliation.

During the stages of Joseph's humiliation, we have considered His sufferings, sorrows, service and sentencing.

Joseph was hated, despised, rejected, mocked, smitten, stript of his garments, betrayed, sold, tempted, falsely accused and viewed and treated as guilty for a crime He did not commit, forgotten and forsaken. His message rejected.

His message questioned. His own Jewish brethren did not receive him, the gentiles in Egypt authorised his prison, he was sentenced among transgressors. Joseph was a man of sorrows.

Yet above the mind and work of men is the sovereign plan of God.

Joseph said in **Genesis 50:25** ***"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.***

The works of men hands were in the hand of God. All alone God was fulfilling His redemptive purposes, to save a people from Pershing and to exalt Joseph upon the throne.

In considering Joseph's humiliation, we are to gaze our eyes and behold Christ in His Humiliation.

Then **SC 27** asks wherein did Christ's humiliation consist? In others what are the step of His Humiliation.

The answer is *Christ's Humiliation consisted in His being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross, in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.*

When Christ voluntarily came into the world His humiliation commenced at once. Having left the place of fellowship with the Father in heaven. He took unto His deity our human nature yet without sin. He who was rich yet for our sakes became poor.

Christ came unto His own and His own received Him not. He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with our grief.

Christ was hated, despised, rejected, mocked, smitten, stript of his garments, betrayed, sold, tempted, falsely accused and viewed and treated as guilty for a crime He did not commit, forgotten and forsaken. His message rejected.

His own Jewish brethren did not receive Him, the gentiles authorised his crucifixion among transgressors.

Acts 2:23 *"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.* God permitted the works of men to fulfil His redemptive purpose.

As the servant of God, He became a curse for sinners He came to save, by firstly living a life of perfect obedience to honour the commands of God's broken law, and then secondly giving His

sinless life to die a substitutional death to pay for the curse of God's broken law.

And this He did completely, and successfully.

Christ's humiliation having ended, He has now entered into His estate of Exaltation. In other words with Christ's exaltation, Christ's humiliation came to an end. Christ said in **Luke 24:26**, "**Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?**"

I FIRST JOSEPH'S HUMILIATION

II SECOND, JOSEPH'S EXALTATION.

The exaltation of Joseph declared the punishment he was under was lifted. The exaltation of Christ declared that the curse that He had come under was lifted.

Joseph's exaltation is pictured, illustrated in four stages as Christ's exaltation.

The **SC Q28** asks wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation? In other words what were the steps of His exaltation. The answer is ***Christ's exaltation consisteth in His rising again from the dead on the third day. In ascending up into heaven, in sitting as the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to Judge the world as the last day.***

In these words, we have Christ's exaltation consisting of four stages all of which when we read throughout Scripture but in particular the gospels, **His Resurrection, Ascension, Session and Return.**

1 JOSEPH'S RESURRECTION.

There are three pictures or object lessons to teach Joseph's resurrection, pointing to Christ's resurrection.

It Centres upon deliverance from the pit.

The word **pit** means a **prison, dungeon, a well or hole.**

(1) In **Genesis 27:24 & 28** Joseph was **cast...into a pit...**

The whole point is this, Joseph was in the pit, a whole in the ground, and there was nothing else in it, not even water.

But Joseph who is the innocent one was in the pit, yet he did not remain in the pit for he was delivered out of it. **Verses 29-30** **And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. ³⁰ And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?**

(2) Think of **Genesis 40-41**, Joseph is in the prison, which is the same word, **pit, dungeon, a well or hole.** **However, King Pharaoh delivers him out and then starts his Ascension.**

But never forget Joseph entered the pit for the preservation of the nation. He is there for them.

His lifting out of the pit guaranteed life for the nation, **Genesis 45:5** **"...God did send me before you to preserve life."** **verse 8** **"God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.**

(3) Also, Jacob believes Joseph is dead, and is sad until he hears the news in **"Genesis 45:26** **Joseph is alive....** **Yet at first Jacob doubted, he did not believe it, then He believed and came to see Joseph.**

Put the whole scene together, think of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **Matthew 28**, after He had suffered, His brethren put him into pit, the tomb, a whole in the wall, his body did not see corruption, and He is raised up by another, **Acts 4:10**, God hath raised Him from the dead for the justification of sinners.

In the gospel we learn the disciples, were sad, they came the tomb He was not there, it was empty, Thomas doubted Christ

was alive. The message was spread among the other disciples **Luke 24:34** *The Lord is risen indeed*. He was risen to save the lives of His people by a great deliverance.

2 JOSEPH'S ASCENSION.

Having been delivered from the pit, into the palace. Joseph now stands before King Pharaoh. He has ascended on high. Joseph is honoured and highly exalted. He is ascended for the people he came to save.

His ascension into the palace confirms the palace was opened unto his Jewish brethren and gentiles who came into him for deliverance. There was access to enter Joseph's presence.

Genesis 41:40-41 *Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. ⁴¹ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.*

Think of Jesus Christ, **Luke 24:50-51**, and **Acts 1:9-11**, we have **HIS ASCENSION** into heaven, where Christ was received up into glory. **Philippians 2:9** *God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

John 16:28 *"...I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again I leave the world, and go to the Father."*

Christ's very presence in heaven is the guarantee for His redeemed that they so will enter into heaven.

in **Heb 6:20** Paul speaks of Christ's entrance within the veil, into the most holy place heaven itself.

Paul writes "...**whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus.**" Christ entered heaven on behalf of His people, not in isolation from them. Therefore, heaven is opened, and heaven is ours because of Christ's entrance.

His entrance in heaven guarantees our entrance in heaven

3 JOSEPH'S SESSION

Genesis 41:40-41 *Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.*

Joseph in the palace ruled from a throne of power. His session is seen in the sense he is at Pharaoh's right hand. Joseph is on the throne to act on behalf of his people in the famine.

He has been given all power through the land and over the people. Joseph's presence in Egypt and upon the throne, secured the preservation, and provision for his people.

The exalted position at God's right hand is known as the *Session of Christ*. What do we learn about the session of Christ.

Hebrews 10:12 *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.*

(Romans 8:34 *"...Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.)*

Heb 9:24 informs us that Christ has entered heaven "...now to appear in the presence of God for us.**"** Christ is there "for us" which means that He is active on our behalf believer.

Christ's intercession for His people will never end because His exaltation is eternal.

Believer Jesus is praying for you.

4 JOSEPH'S RETURN

We have Joseph's **ASCENSION** into the presence of Pharaoh, then His **SESSION** to sit upon the throne, now there is his **RETURN** back to the land of Israel.

This is pictured in three ways.

Joseph's return to the land of Israel was prophesied by his father in **Genesis 48:21** ***“And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers.***

In **Genesis 47:29-31**, Jacob, entered into covenant promise with his son Joseph, that after his death, Joseph will promise not bury him in Egypt but back in the land of Israel. This a binding agreement.

The time appointed for Joseph to return was set by His father after his death.

Until this time Joseph would not return. It's interesting to note, that in **Genesis 42-44**, Joseph never left the throne in the palace, to return to Israel to gather the rest of his brethren.

Rather, Joseph's brethren came to him, where he was.

The only time Joseph left his throne was when all His brethren were gathered unto him and in fulfilment of a covenant promise between Him and His father.

The time came in **Genesis 50:1-8**, after Jacob's death, Joseph leaves his throne of power for the purpose to return to the land of Israel in agreement the His Father's will.

As Joseph returns to the land, He comes back to the land of Israel with a very great company.

Another picture of Joseph's return, is stated In **Genesis 50:24-26, Exodus 1, 13:19 Joshua 24:32 and Hebrew 11**, it centres upon the phrase the bones of Joseph.

In **Genesis 50:24** **Joseph prophesies his brethren will also return to the land of promise. And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.**

Verse 25-26, Joseph makes his brethren promise that after he dies, they too will not bury him in Egypt but in the land of his fathers the land of Canaan the promised land.

Acts 8 records, 430 years later, the children of Israel return to the land of Canaan. All those years later, they still carried Joseph's bones based on a promise, as confirmed **Joshua 24:32** **And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.**

Consider the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Father has appointed that day, when Christ will return to earth, to the land of Israel. **Matthew 24:36** **"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.**

The prophet Zechariah prophesied in **Zechariah 14:4** **And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east...**

When the Lord comes back to Mt Olives, a great company will return, **Zech 14:5** **"the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee."**

(**Jude verse 14** **"...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints."**)

The Lord will return to earth, believer what a day that will be when all His redeemed people from the time of Adam, will be gathered together with Him forever, saved from God's wrath.

Unsaved, His coming eternally separates, sentences, and sends you to God's wrath.

You need to receive Christ now as Saviour or be judged by Him.