

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 5th March 2023

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymns Ps 110, 1-1-2, 5-7 1st V, T St Magnus 58, 138, 42

Read: Genesis 41:40-44 Text Genesis 41:43-44

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph's Set Over Egypt (3)

Genesis chapter 41:40 onward, opens up a new section in the life of Joseph, his humiliation consisting of his suffering and sorrows had now ended and his exaltation begun.

Pharaoh exalted Joseph as recorded in **verses 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.*

Joseph was positioned on the throne and it was from the throne, He would rule by His word. Joseph's Responsibility, Rule and Right over the people and land, belonged to his exalted position over the Kingdom give by Pharaoh It belonged no other. Joseph was the chosen protector, provider and preserver.

Verses 42 *Joseph was presented with the ring that symbolised Authority in his office,
the robes that symbolised Appointment to his office,
and then the gold chain that symbolised the Accomplishment in his office.*

Joseph was chosen as he could not fail and we see will see in the next number of chapters, Joseph did not fail all who came unto him by his word.

Joseph life points to the Lord Jesus Christ, as Head of His Church. One who is positioned on the throne of power and glory

seated at God's right hand, clothed in majesty and He rules by the power of His word.

Christ did not fail to save sinners given into His hand. All who have come to Him and yet to come to Him as chosen from the foundation of the world, to make up His Jewels, will be saved from eternal wrath.

As citizens of Christ's everlasting Kingdom, He has full right to rule in our lives. whatsoever He saith unto you must be done, as hearers and doers of the word. We must trust and obey His word.

Give the honour due to His name.

Because obedience to God's word always bring blessing to God work, but also on an individual basis.

You obey His precepts, and He will bless your path.

Honour His law and He will honour your life and labour.

Solomon instructed his son by the word of God, said in **Proverbs 3:1-2** "**my son forget not my law, but let thine keep my commandments, for length of days, and long life and peace shall they add to thee.**"

Having seen **Joseph's Position & Joseph's Presentations.**

now consider: **III THIRD, JOSEPH'S POWER**

Verse 43 **And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.**

What was a chariot, today you may know the phrase the horse and the cart. Well, the chariot was a wooden vehicle generally used for warlike purposes, or peaceful purposes.

The wooden cart and beam were attached to the horses harness, and as the horse ran forward, the one in the chariot holding the reigns, was paraded around.

The Chariot speaks of power, and a great company, therefore as Pharaoh rode in the first chariot and Joseph went throughout the land in the second chariot, a great company or army followed Joseph, because of his position as ruler of the land.

(As Genesis is the book of beginnings, then **Genesis 41:43** is the first mention of the chariot in the Bible.

In **Genesis 46:29**, we read that Joseph went out in his own chariot to meet his father, Jacob. Chariots formed part of the funeral procession of Jacob **Genesis 50:9**.

In **Exodus 14:7** when Pharaoh pursued the Israelites he took 600 war-chariots with him. Solomon maintained as part of his army 1,400 chariots **1 Kings 10:26** , which were chiefly imported from Egypt (29). From this time forward they formed part of the armies of Israel.

There are many more references and comments that I could make, but I'm identifying or describing what a chariot is.

The point is, during Joseph's exaltation, and being presented with a ring, robes, a golden chain he now rides in the **second chariot**, demonstrating here is a man of power in the land, a man of war, a mighty man in valour, a defender of the people, he rules with an army behind him.

Joseph is set forth as one who will lead the people into victory, and they will enjoy that victory as they obey his word.

Joseph now commanded Pharaoh's army, a great host of people, but also the chariot demonstrated complete power over to the people of the land, not only power to govern them, but great power, strength and might to conquer for them.

You see the people had no power, strength to save themselves from perishing in the coming famine. There were without hope and strength, in want of great need.

However, God has given Joseph favour, he is the man chosen out from among the people to give deliverance, He rides in the **second chariot**, to show he has all ability, power, strength and might to rule, defend, conquer and give victory over the famine.

Once again, we are taken to a greater, a stronger a mightier one that Joseph, the Lord Jesus Christ, He the captain of the host of heaven, the armies of Heaven will come with Him as His return.

Christ is our man of war, our defender, our strong hold, our fortress, our conqueror, there is victory from the wrath of God, by His life, through His blood, and because His, glorious exaltation.

Christ can never be defeated or dethroned. He is the wisdom of God. He rules from a throne of power. **Rev 6:2** states ***a crown was given unto Him: and He went forth conquering, and to conquer.***

When Christ the Sovereign King returns in great glory and power, He will not come back alone, rather He will come upon His horse, as **Revelation 19:11** ***And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.***

But He does not ride alone, He is followed or accompanied a **Revelation 19:14** ***the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.***

Likewise believer we will not be left out, for scriptures assures us in 1 Thess 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

The point is since Christ secured our victory at Mt Calvary, He has secured victory from the wrath of God for all who trust in Him.

Then we can say with Paul in **Romans 8:37-39** ***Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

We are kept by the power of Christ through faith. All who have fled to Him for refuge will not perish.

That is the message, which is shown to the people, as Joseph rides throughout the land, in the Chariot, a famine is coming, but Joseph has all power to save all who will go to Him for bread, none will perish who go to Joseph.

Therefore, believer what blessed assurance you have not only strength and power through life, but for all eternity.

Power to live for Christ on earth, and power to be kept by Christ through life, and power to be with Christ in eternity.

Believer, the victory over death, and destruction is already won, and as we follow Him, we rejoice and enjoy in that victory.

Unbeliever, you are powerless and without strength to save yourself,

you remain under wrath of God, condemnation, destruction and soon to be cast into hell to feel the full force of that God, at present eternal death is your end,

however eternal life is offered unto you hallelujah, there is power in Jesus Christ to forgive all your sins, bring you our condemnation.

Go to Him for forgiveness and acceptance with God and to be saved from wrath to come, and be assured when the roll is called up yonder you will be there.

Joseph's Position Presentations, and Power

IV FOURTH, JOSEPH'S PROCLAMATION

As Joseph is exalted far above all within the land of Egypt, and he rides in the second chariot, with all its glorious meaning, notice the people as they behold his ring, glorious robes, gold chain, riches, power and majesty, in **verse 43** *they cried before him, Bow the knee:*

This was a parade of reverence, honour and glory for Joseph. They recognised Joseph as one worthy to receive such honour and proclaim him as ruler over their lives and land.

The phrase ***bow the knee*** while it gives the action of bowing down, yet the wording means **to make way**.

One commentator said this phrase is still used in Arab countries today. You can hear it in the street, **make way, make way**, indicating someone is coming.

It gives the idea all attention upon that person coming.

Today we may say excuse me I'm coming through or can I get past or clear the way.

As Joseph rode passed, the people cried and bowed the knee, by their words and action they proclaimed make way for Joseph, the ruler is coming.

This is the same idea in royal events in own land, and will do so as King Charles the 3rd is crowned, as the King passes the Stewarts and organisers will make way for the King, the roads cleared.

But in times gone past, during the life and times of Queen Elizabeth 2nd During the late Queen's enthronement, people lined the streets on either side, why to make way for the Ruler as she passed the streets of London to her Palace.

This is the scene in Joseph's exaltation, the people of the land cry and bow reverencing their new Ruler, to make way for Him.

Once again see the wonderful view there is of Jesus Christ.

Seated at God's right hand, He is magnified, and worshipped, far above all.

Rev. 4:4-11, 5:11-12 proclaims that the angels of Heaven exalt Him. Rev. 5:9, 7:9-10, 22:3 proclaim the saints in glory exalt Him. The King of glory is exalted on high.

However, at present, Christ is not recognised as the great King over all the earth.

Rather the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing. They speak against the Christ of God.

Yet the Lord Jesus said in **John 5:23 *That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.***

That time will be a future day, when the King will be recognised by all the King, they will cry and bow the knee.

They will make way for the King coming. All eyes will be upon Him, they shall Him whom they have pierced.

We read 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; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father***

There is coming day when heaven and earth is going to cry out "Bow the knee."

From the four corners of the earth, North, South, East and West, will go up the shout, "All hail the King." The Rich and Poor will bow the knee.

One day: Every King, Queen, Monarch will bow the knee, Every Prime Minister, Every President, Every Dictator will bow the knee Every General will bow the knee.

Just as the way was made for them, likewise they will make way for KING of Kings, and LORD of Lords. The only Saviour of His redeemed people.

Is there one like the hardened Pharaoh of Exodus, which says who is the Lord that I should obey His voice.

I urge you men and woman, obey His voice, because the end of those who don't obey the gospel, is eternal darkness.

Believer, continue to learn from the wise men's example in Matthew 2, who came to worship Christ, presenting themselves to Him first and then gave their gifts to Him.

Fall before Him, present yourself daily to Him, keep the best you have for Him, and crown Him King of your life, Crown Him Lord of all, the Lamb upon His throne.

Make way for King, in your life.

Are you making way for the King, day by day in your life, marriage, work, routines, don't allow any distractions, or blockages, or fleshly protests, rather bow before Him, and say how great thou art.