

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Hymns 303, 445, 25 Read: Genesis 39:1-6 Text Genesis 39:1-5

Series: Joseph (19) Title: The LORD was with Joseph in Egypt (2)

In considering the account of Joseph's life, we learn Joseph has experienced much suffering.

Remember Joseph is 17 years old. His youth is marked with sorrow, hated, and betrayal. He is sold, by his own Brethren and then bought as a slave into Egypt.

Some might ask or conclude, was Joseph being chastened by the Lord for some sin in his life's However, this would be wrong thinking, because we know the end of the story in **Genesis 50:20** as **for ye thought evil against me but God meant it unto good.**

Therefore, God was working out His own redemptive purposes in the life of God. God was the Potter and Joseph was the clay. The Lord was preparing Joseph as a vessel unto honour to be fit for use.

All that occurred in Joseph's life was planned by God's decree and put into action by God's guiding hand.

All that took place in Joseph's life was not a surprise to God, for He was directing Joseph's paths, even into Egypt and through times of severe, struggles, suffering, and sorrow.

In Egypt Joseph would be furthered challenged, pressure added, his life examined, however, during such times we read in **Verse 2** "**...the LORD was with Joseph...**"

In **Acts 7** when Stephen repeated the History of Israel, and spoke of the life of Joseph, he said in **Acts 7:9** "**but God was with him.**"

Egypt, the place of trial, testing, and temptation, yet Joseph had the presence of God with Him, which meant the Lord made all that Joseph did to prosper.

Remember, **Genesis 45:7 & 50:20** God has chosen and sent Joseph to save the tribes of Israel, to save much people from death by Famine, preserve the seed line to which the promised messiah will come through. Therefore, Joseph cannot fail, for God is with Him.

Christ, a greater than Joseph is chosen by God, sent forth to save sinners from every nation from eternal death, and bring many sons to glory. Therefore, Christ did not fail, for God was with Him.

Therefore, believer, this world, with all its trials, struggles, heart breaks, temptations, challenges, accusations, at home, in employment, in education, as the Lord leads so He promises to presence Himself with us and prosper us by turning the evil set against us for our good.

Having thought about **the presence he enjoyed** and **the prosperity he experienced**, please notice with me:

### **III THIRD, THE POSITION HE EARNED**

**Verses 4-5** *“and Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. <sup>5</sup> And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had...”*

As the Lord was with Joseph, and made all that Joseph did to prosper, then it was only natural that Potiphar would take notice and promote Joseph.

Joseph's behaviour, attitude, diligence, integrity and gentleness won over his master,

Joseph was rewarded for the labours of his hand. Joseph was a worthy and faithful servant.

In thinking about all we have said concerning the word **prosperous**, or **prosper** in **verses 2-3**, which means **successful** or **success**, ***we noted the words also translates as prudent which refers to the conduct, or behaviour of a person.***

through the life of Joseph he behaved himself whether in the field or among his brethren.

At home or away from home. In Hebron the place of Fellowship, or Shechem, Dothan and in Egypt places associated with the world and all its spiritual wickedness, carnal pursuits and ungodly pleasures.

Even when among God's people or among the unsaved, in the presence of his father or away from his fathers presence, Joseph behaves himself, because, ***the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.***

Since Joseph is now in Egypt, a servant in Potiphar's house and it is evident to Potiphar as he watches Joseph in his work, how he does things, his behaviour, he favours Joseph, that he makes him ***overseer over his house***, a role and duty of responsibility.

If you like, Joseph is a servant of servants, a chief or head servant in the house.

For that reason Potiphar trusts Joseph to leave ***all that he had in Joseph's hand***; except his wife. Potiphar went about his own duties, and responsibilities placed upon him by Pharaoh, knowing the business of his house was in good hands.

**Therefore, the promotion Joseph received was due to the fact he earned it by his obedience, he was a faithful servant.**

Once again men and woman look beyond an earthly Joseph, to the heavenly Joseph, the Lord Jesus Christ, the perfect servant

of God and consider salvation blessings He earned by His perfect life to save sinners lost in Adam and ruined by the fall.

All the rewards that Jesus Christ received within the everlasting covenant of grace, He did so by the perfect life that He lived and by the sacrificial death, that He died.

Never forget that truth. Christ had to earn His people and earn for them a perfect righteousness to enter heaven as the only way to find acceptance with God.

In order to fulfil God's holy demands, concerning His offended nature and broken law, Christ gave Himself to God by honouring His law and then to pay the penalty of law to purchase forgiveness for sinners.

What was free to us, Cost Him His own body and blood.

Christ said in **Luke 22:29** *And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;* The Father promised the Son a Kingdom, a covenant people as His reward for fulfilling the terms of the covenant.

Therefore, Christ received the rewards of His labours because He earned it. God's people have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, because Christ earned it for them.

Christ entered within the veil or entered into heaven, as the guarantee of all that is promised to them, because His redemptive work was accepted by the Father.

#### **IV FOURTH, THE PRIVILAGES HE ENDOWED**

**Verse 5** "...*that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.*

Potiphar's house and surrounding boundaries were blessed by the Lord. The success extended to his land. He could see the rise of good things around him.

Potiphar knew increase in different areas. All that belonged to him prospered in some way.

But notice, the prosperity of Potiphar's house was not down to Potiphar himself, and how he managed matters.

In fact Potiphar deserved nothing from the Lord. The Lord was not obligated to bless Potiphar's house.

There was every reason why the LORD would afflict the house of Potiphar, and deliver Joseph.

Rather the increase came, by the LORD blessing Potiphar's **house for Joseph's sake**.

The word **sake** or the phrase **for Joseph's sake** can be read **on account of" on behalf of" or "because of"**. **The LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake, or because of Joseph, on behalf of, or on account of Joseph.**

Joseph is the chosen son, obedient son, the suffering servant, the one where it is prophesied he shall be exalted to rule and reign over his house.

The point is, any blessing, success increase in all that belongs to Potiphar, this ungodly man, heathen worshipper was because of God blessing Joseph. Every goodness, blessing, every increase is for the sake, the benefit of Joseph.

The LORD was with Joseph, the LORD blessed Joseph. Joseph is the channel of blessing.

Potiphar this unjust, ungodly, heathen man, whose loyalty lies with Pharaoh, only knows the blessing and goodness of God, because of Joseph.

Take Joseph out of the picture and there is no blessing, no increase and Potiphar's house, possessions and property just get by or struggle.

That opens many lines of thought. one is what is termed **common grace**. Common grace is not saving grace, rather it is God's blessing, His goodness both to the saved and the lost as His creation.

The Lord Jesus spoke of what we term **common grace** in **Matthew 5:45** “...for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”

He sustains and supplies for His creation, He upholds all things, by the word of His power, because all things were created for Him. **Genesis 8:22** “*While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*”, even, the grass, trees, and animals benefit and prosper from God's blessing in common grace.

Also, Christ said of His people in **Matthew 5:13** “*ye are the salt of the earth...*” Salt dealt with corruption. Salt is vital for everyday use.

### **Salt Preserves.**

**Before the days of fridges,** salt was the means of preserving meat from decaying, going off, salt was applied to meat and fish to preserve it for regular use.

**Salt Purifies.** Salt has remarkable cleansing ability.

Salt is an anti-septic, putting into wounds it will cleanse, purge and heal, according to **Ezekiel 16:4**, newborn babies were washed in salt to cleanse their bodies.

**Salt Provides Seasoning,** it gives food flavour. Salt adds flavour to food, to give a distinctive taste.

**Job 6:6** “*Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg*”? the egg white needs salt.



This is why chiefs will always taste the food before it is given out to the customer to make sure it is not bland.

They have a phrase keep tasting. **Salt Promotes Thirst.** Salt creates a thirst for water.

**Salt penetrates.** When salt is applied it starts to work silently, then manifests itself.

For instance, take hard cold ice. The ground may be frozen, but when you pour salt over the ice, it starts to work, melting, softening, then it starts to break up the ice and it becomes water.

Take Christians, and the word of God, out of society, homes, schools, hospitals, work place, government, you take out the salt, you remove that which preserves, purifies, and is effective.

But where God blesses his people, His presence is with them, they are effective.

Education, Business flourish, because God blesses His people.

Joseph to Potiphar was salt, he was effective in his house, Joseph's presence in the house made all the difference.

Potiphar, knew it, others could see it, his possessions and property were blessed, increase, went up in value because of Joseph, on account of Joseph.

**Therefore, let me take you afresh to our heavenly Joseph, Jesus Christ, because all the exceeding riches of God come through Christ, He is the channel to which every blessing of God.**

Remember, Paul spoke in **Galatians 3:8** *that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

God promised that He would bless the family or seed line of Abraham, through Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and so on.

Then in **Gen 22:18** the gospel promise is basically restated but with this difference, ***“in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...”*** Paul then confirms in **Gal 3:16** the **“seed”** is Christ Himself.

The good news announced to Abraham was that the promised Saviour would come from his seed line, but others will be blessed because of Him.

Paul said in **Ephesians 1:3** ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:***

Any blessing we receive it is not due to any works of righteousness which we have done, rather the LORD blesses for the sake of Christ.

The blessing of God in the saving of sinners, and transforming them from vessels of dishonour to be vessels of honour, ***is because of Jesus Christ, on account of Jesus and for the sake of Jesus Christ.***

Sinner, Jesus saves all who come unto Him by faith, not because of the sinner, but for His own sake, His glory and praise.

The Lord spoke through Isaiah said in **Isaiah 43:25** ***“I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake.”***  
**Ps 25:11** ***“for thy names sake O LORD, pardon mine iniquity for it is great.”*** **1 John 2:12** ***“I write unto you little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake.”***

**Verse 5** ***“... the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.***

God blesses our house, family, work, school, education, journeys, health, finance, church ministry, He prosperous our service, and all that we have for Jesus sake, and because of Jesus sake.



He gives the increase. He sends the showers of blessing. He causes our coasts to enlarge, on account of Jesus.

When it comes to God's redeemed people, the heathen will say as **Psalm 126:3** "...***The LORD hath done great things for them.*** and God's people will say, as **verse 4** " ***The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.***