

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 25th June 2023

Preacher: Pastor Philip Knowles Hymns Ps 138:1-5
Tune Winchester, 228, 219

Read: Genesis 41:46-53 Text Genesis 41:46-53

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph Providing for the coming
Famine.

When Pharaoh dreamed dreams, he was troubled as he didn't know the meaning and message in the dream, in its literal sense and spiritual truth.

Pharaoh a heathen ruler, was naturally blinded by sin, his understanding darkened, therefore, he was unable to interpret spiritual matters.

Furthermore, Pharaoh's counsellors, were unable to give Pharaoh an answer to what troubled him, however, when Pharaoh's Chief Butler spoke of Joseph who reveals secrets, Pharaoh without hesitation called for Joseph.

God revealed His will to Joseph who was spiritually minded. God communicated to Joseph what He will do in the land of Egypt and with Pharaoh.

The message in the dream spoke of a famine that was coming to the land of Egypt. It seemed to be a message of doom, destruction and death, however, the message also give hope, and life.

One man who is wise and full of understanding, must be chosen to rule over the Kingdom, to prepare a people for the coming famine, and provide for the people in the coming famine to preserve from death.

Pharaoh knew there was none other full of wisdom and understanding within his kingdom than Joseph.

Pharaoh having chosen and exalted Joseph to his right hand, he said to Joseph in **verse 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 would rule, with power over the affairs of the Kingdom of Egypt.

Joseph would provide grain or corn to make bread, to satisfy the people in the coming famine.

For that reason Pharaoh named Joseph, **Zaph-nath-paa-neah, the Saviour of the world, the revealer of secrets and living bread.**

However, Joseph's life, service and faithfulness, points to One who is superior namely, the Jesus Christ who is counted worthy of more glory than Joseph.

Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God, His understanding is infinite and He is faithful in all things.

Christ alone satisfies, Christ is the **Zaph-nath-paa-neah** for needy sinners. **Christ is the Saviour of the world, the revealer of secrets and the living bread** or bread of life.

Christ came into the world to save sinners, providing for them eternal life, deliverance from death by famine.

Be sure, in Egypt a famine was coming, Joseph would provide for the coming famine.

Likewise, the final famine is coming, death, and destruction in eternal hell, but Jesus has provided for that coming day.

He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but has passed from death unto life.

I FIRST, JOSEPH'S ACCEPTANCE IN PROVIDING FOR THE COMING FAMINE

“And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt..”

The very fact that Joseph stood in the presence of King Pharaoh, declared he alone is accepted to serve Pharaoh by ruling over all the land of Egypt for the purpose to provide deliverance from the coming famine.

No other was accepted by Pharaoh, there was no other provider for the people.

There was none within Egypt that was suited and qualified as the wise and discreet man needed to carry out the demands of God's message.

Only Joseph, who is the chosen one. Pharaoh gave all things into the hands of Joseph. All authority and power given to Him.

At the age of 30, ***Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.***

Joseph had been in Egypt for many years, around 13 years, and now having been set apart by Pharaoh, he is appointed by Pharaoh to provide a way of escape.

that is amazing to think, before there was a need there was a provider.

what a view we have of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is chosen and accepted by God, as the provider and provision for the deliverance of men and woman from the wrath to come. God has given into His hands all things.

before there was a sinner, God had already provided, Jesus Christ the eternal word of God, to come in the fulness of time to redeem spiritual beggars as yourself, robed by sin and left poverty stricken.

The Lord Jesus Christ, having spent 30 years on this earth, stood before God, to commence His public service in **Luke 3:23**, as the prophet, priest and King, of sinners He came to save.

the age of 30 was the age for the priesthood to begin public service. We learn this in **Numbers 4:3** ***From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.***

On that occasion, God spoke concerning the acceptance of His Son as the chosen provider and provision for fallen and woman, by saying, ***Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.***

Christ was accepted by God, because He is without sin and perfect. His life was pleasing to the Father and His speech was pleasing as never man spake like this man.

As Christ was accepted by God, so all who receive Him personally are accepted by Christ.

you see before you had ever sinned, God had provided only one ransom in the person of His beloved Son.

Therefore, believer, having been elevated by the grace of God from the prison house of sin, clothed in the garments of righteousness, we are accepted in the beloved, called with a holy calling.

We are given a role in service for the master, a public ministry, to walk in the newness of life, to shine a lights in a crooked and perverse generation, to make known the way of salvation.

Every part of our life must be like a road map that leads to Christ. Our lips will testify of His greatness, our feet will walk in His ways, our hands will handle the word of life.

Our mind will have the mind of Christ.

II SECOND, JOSEPH'S ACTIVITY IN PROVIDING FOR THE COMING FAMINE

And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

Having been accepted by Pharaoh, **Joseph got straight to work in doing all that needed to be done to secure deliverance for a people from the coming famine.**

He laboured for the needs of the people facing famine.

This task was given to Joseph and to him alone. He must do all things in order and well.

He went out a man full of the Holy Spirit, wisdom and understanding.

Joseph was ever active and busy. He identified himself with the people of the land. He laboured for the well being of the people.

He went out and took a general survey of the country round about him, then having ascertained the extent of his work, he puts his plan into execution energetically and without delay.

Though officers were appointed to serve, he travelled up and down the land, through the cities and towns.

The Egyptians seen the one exalted yet humbled himself to serve and labour for their good.

Notice, **verse 47** ***And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls***, the word **handfuls** means **abundance**.

verses 48-49, *And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. ⁴⁹ And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.*

⁵³ And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.

Joseph laboured for the people, ever and always active for the people.

Again, see the Lord Jesus Christ a greater than Joseph, who laboured and suffered far more than Joseph to rescue souls.

Christ was the busy servant of God. The Spirit God came upon for public service. He was anointed to preach the gospel.

He was full of wisdom and understanding.

He had a zeal for the work of God. He stated Himself. I must be busy about my Father's business. He identified with sinners

He came to save. He dwelt among humanity to receive sinners.

He laboured for the souls of men and woman in-trusted to Him.

He came to seek and to save that which was lost. When you read Mark's gospel, you will notice, it seems fast, busy, Christ is going from place to place doing the works of Him that sent Him.

Mark's gospel shows forth Christ as the busy servant of God, who came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give His life a ransom for the many.

once Christ entered into public ministry His first active service was defeating Satan, overcoming His temptation, by doing so,

Christ was earning victory for His people providing a perfect righteousness for them by His sinless life.

He laboured and travailed in the garden of Gethsemane in prayer.

He laboured as His sweat became great drops of blood. He suffered being scourged and whipped and mocked and mistreated until His face and body were almost unrecognisable.

The responsibility of His people, was placed upon Him as the representative and only mediator of the everlasting covenant of grace.

He travelled around the cities, towns and villages to preach the gospel, calling upon His hearers to repent and believe the gospel.

*Remember in **Mark 2** four men were burdened to bring their friend to Christ. Their friend was sick physically and in great need spiritual.*

However, when they approached the house where Jesus was presented, they couldn't enter for the crowds who gather to hear Christ preach.

instead of giving up and turning back, the men burdened, made a hole in the roof of the house and lowered their friend down to meet Christ.

They wanted to see their friend healed physical but also spiritually. Christ provided for the paralysed man what he needed to rise up and walk.

But also Christ provided the forgiveness of sins that man needed for entrance into heaven.

John 9:4 I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work._

Believer, we must be actively providing the gospel to the people of London

we have been called into active service. A gospel responsibility has been placed upon us, to share the gospel to bring men and woman, boys and girls to the righteous person and redeeming work of Christ.

Be busy about the Father's business, seek the lost for Christ, to win souls for Christ's glory.

Give out gospel leaflets, for a day judgment is coming, but not in the form of earthly and temporal famine but in the wrath of God which is eternal.

*We have only one life to live don't without it from God. **James 4:14** described life as a vapour or steam, **that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.***

Only what's done for Christ will last.

III THIRD JOSEPH'S ACCOMPLISHMENT IN PROVIDING FOR THE COMING FAMINE

Joseph gathered enough grain to last through the entire famine, and he stored it in safe places so it would be preserved and ready when the famine came. ⁴⁹ ***And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.***

the corn or grain gathered, was also, stored as **verse 56** states in **storehouses**. It needed to be stored up in good places not to rot. ⁴⁸ ***And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.***

The amount of grain gathered and the place of storage for the grain demonstrated that Joseph accomplished His work, He provided fully for the needs of the people.

Joseph finished the work he was sent to do. He did a work that provided life.

What Joseph accomplished was sufficient to save the needy of Egypt and other nations through the terrible seven years of famine.

The storehouses were filled, there was an abundant supply for all who would come.

based on God's message in Pharaoh's dream, Joseph clearly had the foreknowledge that people would be in want, that there would be a famine in Egypt.

Just as Joseph built the storehouses and filled them in anticipation of the famine, so too Christ, in the covenant of grace, provided for the needs of His people before the world began.

The storehouse of grace is God's covenant, with Christ, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Christ in the fulness of time filled the storehouse of grace. He obeyed the law in order that His people might have a perfect righteousness imputed unto them. He died on the cross that they might be justified through His blood.

The storehouse is full, and there continually flows from His grace a bountiful supply and as His people draw upon it continually, It is a storehouse of grace that will never run out.

It is a serious thought, but had Joseph failed the people would perish in the famine. However, Joseph was successful.

Likewise had Christ failed to secure redemption for sinners given to Him within the everlasting covenant of grace, all would perish and none would be saved.

However, Jesus Christ upon the cross, triumphantly said it is finish, accomplished. He secured a full deliverance for sinners from the wrath of God that waits ungodly and unrighteous sinners.

There is a fullness of provision found in Jesus Christ, And of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

All who believe in the gospel will receive this provision, day by day, but also for all eternity. There is immeasurable grace that has been stored up in Jesus Christ for sinners.