

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 16th July 2023

**Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Hymns Read: Genesis
41:53-57 Text Genesis 41:55**

Series: Joseph Title: Go to Joseph

Pharaoh's dream, interpreted by Joseph, was in fact a message from God what He was about to do in the land of Egypt and with Pharaoh.

The dream was essentially a message of life and death.

A famine was coming to the land of Egypt, to fulfil God's sovereign purposes in redemption.

Seven years of plenty would be followed by seven years of dearth.

During the first seven years, Joseph the ruler of Egypt, laboured, so that nations through him would be blessed, in preserving a people from death.

He gathered corn or grain which was used to make bread which was and still is a filling meal and satisfies hunger.

However, during the seven years of famine we read in **verse 50** *when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.*

Verse 50 is like the selah of the Psalms. These words cause us to stop, pause, take time, to reflect and think what he just been stated. *Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.*

Pharaoh directs the people in obedience. *Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.* He is clear and plain.

Joseph is not one of many people to go to. Joseph is not the best among worst to save from destruction.

Rather, Joseph is chosen as the only one suited by God and placed before Pharaoh and the people to save from death.

In considering such words, we will receive a blessing, because our eyes will behold a greater than Joseph, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ alone is the one by who all the nations of the earth will be blessed. He will save a people from every nation.

Paul makes gospel simple when he said in **1 Thessalonians 1:10** "***Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.***

Men and woman go to Jesus Christ and obey His word. His words are faithful and true, they are forever settled in heaven.

I FIRST, GO TO JOSEPH AS HE ALONE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SAVE FROM DEATH IN THE FAMINE.

verse 46 "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."

The very fact that Joseph is exalted and stands in the presence of King Pharaoh, confirms that Joseph has all authority by Pharaoh as the only one named **Zaph-nath-paa-neah**, ***the Saviour of the world, the revealer of secrets and giver of bread.***

Go to no one else in physical need, a famine, only Joseph, He alone has all authority given by Pharaoh to provide and preserve the people, guiding them to safety.

These words lead to Jesus Christ, a greater than Joseph. Christ alone has all authority given to Him by Heaven to save fallen men and woman from the famine in their soul and secure deliverance from eternal death.

His Name is the only name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. His life and blood saves from wrath.

God referring to Christ's sufferings said, in **Isaiah 53**, my righteous servant shall justify many.

men and woman, today, you must view Christ this way, as He is revealed in scripture, having all power and authority in heaven and earth to forgive sins.

Otherwise, you remain numbered among the transgressors, as the Pharaoh of Moses day who foolishly said in **Exodus 5:2** ***"Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice..."***

Scripture is clear in **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

Therefore, believer, having been lifted by the wonderful grace of God from the prison house of sin, clothed in the garments of righteousness,

we are given a role in service for the master, a public ministry, to shine as lights in a crooked and perverse generation, to make known the way of salvation, caring for the souls of men and woman.

Go throughout your part of the land or London, tell people of Jesus the mighty to save.

II SECOND, GO TO JOSEPH AS HE ALONE HAS THE ABILITY TO SAVE FROM DEATH IN THE FAMINE.

Always remember during the seven years of plenty the Egyptians nor any other people came to Pharaoh seeking bread. why is that, because they didn't feel their need and they didn't see a need to come.

Even when the famine started the people still depended upon the works of their own hands, the amount they had gathered.

They knew seven years of famine would come, but there was still the thought they had worked enough to provide for themselves during this time. They believed they had done enough to survive the famine.

Verse 53 and the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended. verse 54 And the seven years of dearth began to come....and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

while all the lands felt the impact, there was still bread in Egypt, not only in Joseph's storehouses, but also the people own supply.

Then the famine becomes severe, for the first time the Egyptians feel the intense impact of the famine, ***all the land of Egypt was famished***. The word **famished** means ***hunger, to lack food***.

Once the people felt their emptiness, barrenness, hunger, and need for food, they came seeking bread.

Once they realised their total desperation, hopeless and helpless, they cried unto Pharaoh for bread.

Once reality hit them, we could die in this famine they came seeking how to live.

However, Pharaoh, pointed to the source and supplier of the storehouses, Joseph.

Go to Joseph, he alone has the ability to save from death by famine.

Go to Joseph as He is able provide the food needed to satisfy.

What a picture we have in the gospel.

Famished sinners, barren lives, by nature have no concern for the eternal well being of their soul. They walk according to the course of this present evil world.

God is not in their thoughts, none seek after him, they have no concern where they will spend eternity, rather they store up goods for themselves, they drink and are merry, they live on the pleasures of the world.

They depend upon the works of their own hands to see them through. They seek to gain the whole world but lose their own soul.

Therefore, due to their fallen understanding, sinners do not feel their need for Christ or see any reason to go Christ.

Blinded by sin and their understanding darkened, the gospel is nothing to all who pass by.

The proud heart does not feel the emptiness of sin or the poverty stricken state sin has brought them.

Things may fall around them, but since they have not been touched personally they remain ignorant of their dangerous position and destructive end.

However, when the Lord sovereignty works and intervenes in that individual life.

He causes sinners to see the pleasure of sin only lasts for a season, they are made to realise there is an emptiness a void that the world can never fill.

They understand there is a full Christ for empty sinners.

What gospel hope and assurance there is in Christ. He has full ability to give eternal life and save from spiritual and eternal death.

He had all ability to feed the soul starved by sin, and the life left empty and wasted by sin.

Go unto Jesus, He is the bread come down from heaven.

John 6:34-35 *Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.* Christ is the manna from above, He alone fills the void and hunger left by sin.

Believer, the confidence and assurance that He is able to fill you full rests on His ability. who He is what He is able to do.

Ephesians 1:19 *"And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*

*The word **exceeding** means to surpass, to go beyond the mark.*

it was used in spear throwing, where one threw the spear further than anyone, surpassing all others, incomparable.

*The word **greatness** is where we get the word **mega**. That which is stronger, bigger than anything else.*

since its in reference to Christ's mighty power and ability, toward those who believe, then when it comes to eternal

salvation, protection, and satisfaction, Christ's power, is mega, His greatness goes beyond time and temporal, to eternal, none can equal him.

That's why sinner, Christ's power forgives sin. That's why believer, He is able to keep you for all eternity, and satisfy you on earth. His great power.

Go unto Jesus.

III THIRD, GO TO JOSEPH AS HE ALONE HAS THE ANSWER TO SAVE FROM DEATH IN THE FAMINE.

verse 55 "...**Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.**

These words may seem simple, but they are packed with gospel treasure.

Notice, when the all the Egyptians came to King Pharaoh for bread, His answer was the same for all the Egyptians.

Never let that pass you by.

Pharaoh didn't point some Egyptians to Joseph and then some to another person.

Pharaoh had one answer, the same answer for all the people in need, **Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.**

(King Pharaoh has appointed Joseph as the only provider for the nation. In Pharaoh, eyes Joseph was the only **Zaph-nath-paa-neah, the revealer of secrets, the Saviour of the world, the food of life, or the food of the living.**)

Therefore, lift your eyes heavenward to the man of glory the Lord Jesus Christ our greater Joseph, our eternal **Zaph-nath-paa-neah.**

God has only one answer for the needs of men and woman, Go to Jesus.

God has only appointed one Saviour, one gospel, one way of Salvation, go to Jesus Christ.

furthermore, Pharaoh said, **what he saith to you, do**. whatever he said do it, obey it, for Joseph alone has the answer to save from death in the famine.

According to Pharaoh from **verses 30-39** Joseph is the wise and discreet man he needs to carry out the plan to save the people, Pharaoh said **there is none so discreet and wise as thou art**:

Remember Pharaoh said to Joseph in **verse 40** “**according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled. Joseph’s word, and counsel shall stand. In order for the people of Egypt and the surrounding nations to be spared from death in the famine, they must surrender, trust and obey to Joseph answer for there is no other way.**

what he saith to you, do, even its not what you thought, or the way you would about it, even if you have your own thoughts and ways, abandoned them, **what he saith to you, do**. Joseph ways are not your ways and Joseph’s thoughts are not your thoughts, Joseph’s answer to live is not the answer you would give, but obey his word. He is man of wisdom and understanding, trust him.

what Joseph said, the people must do, they must trust and obey, his command.

Later in **2 Kings 5** we read of a man named Naaman, who wanted to be healed of his leprosy. Naaman had his cleansing all worked out, how it would be done, what rivers to wash in.

But the answer given was not what he expected, leaving him to say behold I thought.

and how many today, when people of the way to heaven say behold I thought it was by good works, learning about religion,

attending church, church membership, baptism, communion, and much more.

The Lord said concerning His one and only way, in **Isaiah 55:7-9** ***Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.***

The Lord said in **Isaiah 45:22** ***Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.***

In other words, in looking only to Christ for pardon and satisfaction, look away from all else.

Trust and obey only Him for eternal deliverance. Only Christ can fill the longing heart and void left by sin. It's by Christ, God reconciles sinners to Himself.

Pharaoh wanted to save his land and his people and so he directed all Egyptians to Joseph who had and was the answer for the great need.

Even so, in a greater sense, God the Father, in saving and preserving a people from sin, directs all sinners to His beloved Son who pardons from all sin and saves from eternal death.