

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles

Hymns Read: Genesis Text Genesis 41:56-57

Series: Joseph Title: There is Corn In Egypt

The dream Joseph interpreted for Pharaoh was ultimately a message from God what He was about to do in the land Egypt.

The message was one of life and death,

The famine would last 7 seven years, there was a great hunger, a lack of bread, and death seemed to be evident.

God in His sovereignty permitted the famine to come, and the only way to escape it's impact and live was obedience to God's message

That's why God's message by the dream, was also a message of life.

Before the seven years famine there would be seven years of plenty, and one man full of wisdom and understanding must be chosen to rule over the land of Egypt to make preparation, to provide and preserve the people from death by the famine,

God Providently placed Joseph before Pharaoh as the chosen provider and preserver to save life from death in the famine.

There was no other person within Pharaoh's kingdom, good enough and wise enough to meet the requirements God gave in His message, only Joseph.

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

He gave Joseph a name above all other names, and at this name every knee would bow and confess him Lord of the land.

Pharaoh gave Joseph a bride and from their union two sons were born.

Joseph the ruler, came from His throne to serve the people of the land, and during the seven years of plenty, **Genesis 41:49** **Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea.**

Joseph set up storehouses throughout the land, and each location was accessible for people to reach when seeking bread to live.

When the famine became stronger, we read in Genesis 41:55 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.

Ch 41:59 the famine was over all the face of the earth: and Joseph opened all the storehouses.

Genesis 41 deals with the Gentile nations coming to Joseph for provision, whereas Ch 42 opens with the Jews coming to Joseph for provision.

In taking all that is said what a wonderful picture we have of the Lord Jesus Christ, a greater than Joseph, Christ is the saviour of the world, He has been given a bride, His church, and from their union, many sons are born for glory.

Jesus left the throne in glory and came into this world, as the bread come down from heaven. He came to nourish famished sinners. He came to give life when death was evident.

The message for spiritual famished stricken Jews and Gentiles is go to Jesus and whatever He saith to you do.

There is only one Saviour of the world, one gospel, one message to obey.

The Lord has said, in **John 6:35** “...*I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.* He said in **John 3:16** *that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Upon hearing the message go to Joseph and knowing Joseph has opened his storehouses, the people go.

This is where we have arrived in Genesis 42, the same message is heard, there is corn in Egypt, so Jacob sends his sons for this corn in Egypt.

I FIRST, THE AWARENESS OF THE CORN IN EGYPT

Before, Jacob hears the message of hope, he and his sons are gathered together.

Jacob knows that as things remain they will die as the famine will become stronger and the little left will be gone.

However, Jacob receives a word in season, a good word that maketh the heart glad, a word that lifts up the downcast, **verse 2** states Jacob ***heard that there is corn in Egypt.***

Notice, also the opening words of **verse 1** ***Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt.***

The word **saw** has the idea of ***awareness, understanding, knowledge.***

Jacob understood that there was corn in Egypt because he had heard of it.

The reference in **v5 *those that came***, means others heard about Joseph opening the storehouses, and they went down to Egypt and received corn and having come back they bring with them a bountiful supply.

The news has spread ***that there is corn in Egypt, so Jacob understands my sons must go as well.***

Jacob was aware there is a provider and provision in Egypt.

Jacob is aware there is hope in the midst of despair, there is life when facing death, notice Jacob's words, in **verse 2** "***...that we may live, and not die.***"

therefore, men and woman once again we are taken to Jesus Christ who is our heavenly Joseph the provider and provision for all who trust in Him, the only giver of life, and preserver of His people.

Christ gives life to sinners by the power of the Holy Spirit to regenerate them, that is new life, but also Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit revives the life of believers, refreshing, and causing them to live again.

Christian you must be aware of times of famine in your life, when you are hungry by not feeding on the word of God, when you are famished, and you feel like Jacob and his sons your just getting by the day, you depend on what's left, past blessings.

you spend your time like Jacob's sons looking around at others as the years of famine are wasting your life away,

taking your energy, zeal, blessings, and you wonder how can you get out of the Spiritual quick sand you are in,

And how can you be spiritually watered in dryness, spiritually fed in hunger,

you wonder **how the time of spiritual famine will end, or will my time end with the famine.** How can you be made to live again.

You are at the lowest point in your life that you have ever been, and you remain in great need, until you're made aware of the blessings of others, you hear and see that others have had their needs meet by Christ.

You don't want to miss out anymore.

You must say like Jacob ***I have heard that there is corn in Egypt, the storehouses are open,*** believer at such times remember Christ is your Jehovah Jireh, your corn of wheat, the bread of heaven, the Lord your provider and He is your provision, He is the one who causes His people to live again, restores the years of waste, He pours water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground.

In Christ there is a storehouse of blessings that are continually open you,

oh believer, ye have not because ye ask not, rather ask, seek and knock and you shall find and the door that be opened unto you.

But also unsaved men and woman sin has left you spiritual famished, bankrupt having lost the blessing of God.

However, there is hope for you, as you have heard there is a Saviour from all sin, one who satisfies and thrills the soul. His name is Jesus for He shall save His people from their sin.

Go to Him at once by faith alone, for Christ fills void, and reverses the ruination left by sin, which is physical, spiritual and eternal death.

Jesus said in **John 10:10** ***“I am come that they might, have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”***

II SECOND, THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE CORN IN EGYPT.

In essence Jacob's words are important, for he acknowledges, that they would die if they didn't have this corn to make bread.

All Jacob's sons can do is to look at one another, as they don't have the answer needed.

There was no bread for their children, no food for themselves, and no corn for their animals.

They were hopeless, powerlessness, and helpless of themselves to change their present situation, to provide life when facing death.

Once again, men and woman we must look beyond the literal circumstance of the famine, for there is a scriptural and spiritual lesson that is being symbolically presented, **which is the spiritual dilemma man find himself without Christ due to man's own sin.**

Due to the spiritual famine in the soul and emptiness of heart, spiritually famished sinners, are without Christ the true Bread of heaven,

Until men and woman acknowledge the dearth or emptiness in their soul, and their total inability in that they have no power to change their position, or ability to overcome sin. All that men and woman can do without Christ is to perish eternally.

However, Jacob hears of hope, life, his family doesn't need to perish in the famine, because corn, bread, all that is needed to live has been provided for them by Joseph.

Oh men and woman life is offered unto you, **believe the gospel, there is full Christ for empty sinners.**

There is grace for the guilty, redemption for rebels, there is spiritual food for the hungry.

Jesus said **John 6:32-33** "...my father giveth the true bread of heaven," "for the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world."

III THIRD, THE APPROACH TO THE CORN IN EGYPT

when Jacob heard there was corn in Egypt, he commands his sons as stated in **verse 2** ...**get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.**

Jacob calls upon his sons to respond to the hope that lies before them. They must make approach and go to Egypt, there is no other way.

Jacob is basically telling his sons, life is offered therefore chose life, otherwise we die.

There is a place of provision that is opened for all who will come and take of it.

There is a person to go to, seek him and he will give unto you.

Jacob concludes to know there is corn in Egypt and neglect and refuse it, is to seal their doom.

But they go, they go with the full assurance, when they arrive, they will receive corn, because the news Jacob has heard is certain, notice, ***I have heard that there is corn in Egypt,***

Jacob didn't hear there might be corn, or there is a possibility there could be corn, or take the journey and find out.

Jacob said, I have heard I know there is corn, it is actual, it is certain, and on that word, **verse 3** shows ***And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.***

Unbeliever, there is a message for you in your time of spiritual famine, and barrenness of soul, having heard Christ satisfies and saves from death and destruction, you must go to Him.

His eternal provision is actual and certain, them who come to Him He will in no wise cast out.

Rather, He receives sinners, and gives them abundant life there is joy overflowing and everlasting.

Just as Jacob and his family would die if they did not go where the corn was provided, so you will die eternally if you do not get to Christ.

Others had gone to Joseph and had found corn, so there is none who seek Christ to be turned away.

Believer, there is a message for you in your time of famine, and barrenness, having heard and seen others being blessed by Christ the bread of heaven,

you must leave the place of waste and go to Christ for refreshment, and enjoy all the benefits of His redemptive labour.

It's interesting to note that the same word **heard** is also used in reference to Naomi in the book of Ruth.

Naomi dwelt for 10 years in Moab the place of nothingness, and barrenness, wasting her life, but like Jacob, Naomi heard good news, **Ruth 1:6** she "...**heard in the country of Moab how that**

the Lord had visited His people in giving them bread.” She made the journey to get back the place of blessing and provision.

Believer live near the cross, consider the glorious person and gospel ministry of Christ, and you will remain in the place of blessing and supply.

Christ through His word will satisfy and sustain you.

The Awareness, Acknowledgement, Approach and now

IV LASTLY THE ABUNDANCE OF CORN IN EGYPT

Having been accepted by Pharaoh, Joseph the sovereign of the land, 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 death by 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.

Joseph filled the storehouses full, Genesis 41:49 **And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.**

There was an abundant supply, a sufficient supply to meet the needs of the famished people in all the lands.

Look at verses 5-6, ***⁵ And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan.⁶ And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land:***

Joseph accomplished the work He set out to do. Joseph did all that was required to provide and preserve all who came to him.

Even though they came to buy corn, yet their money was restored and they received more blessings in return, their sacks full with the best of things, the greatest blessing they were saved from perishing in the famine.

In a sense Jacob heard of a finished work, a provision that guaranteed life in death and on account of that finished work Jacob sent his sons to partake of it.

The redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ is a successful work because it is a finished work.

Christ by the labour of His sinless life and substitutional death provided eternal life for sinners facing the ways of sin which is eternal death.

He said on the cross in John 19:30 ***It Is finished completed, perfected, accomplished.***

All who come to Christ for full satisfaction come on the ground of a finished work.

Christ opens the storehouses of His grace and He makes all there is in Him available to sinners of every nation.

It was best step Jacobs sons ever took to come to Joseph, Likewise the best step you will ever take, is to step on the promise of Christ, He is no disappointment.

Today sinner there is all you need in Christ for life and eternity, seek the Lord while He may be found call upon Him while He is near.

