

**SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON**

**Lord's Day Afternoon**

**Date 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymns Ps 103:1-7, T Kilmarnock, 286, 151, 260**

**Read: Genesis 41:1-8 Text Genesis 41:1-8**

**Series: Joseph (38) Title: Pharaoh's Dream (1) His Anxiety and Advisors**

In Genesis 40 we discover that it was Pharaoh's birthday. This was a time of celebration, as there was a feast and guests were present.

During the birthday feast, Joseph's interpretations of the Butler and Baker's dreams were fulfilled at this point.

Both men who had offended Pharaoh and legally guilty now stand before Pharaoh for judgment.

The Chief Butler was restored to office, whereas the Chief Baker died for his offence.

Joseph's interpretation of the dream was one of life and death.

The interpretation of the message in the dream centred upon how each man stood before Pharaoh.

The Butler's dream made mention of the grape vine, whereas the Baker's dream made mention of baskets of bread.

Here is the difference, the Butler stood before Pharaoh with grapes which are naturally provided by God, whereas the Baker stood before Pharaoh with bread which he himself provided.

The Butler came with the natural provision of the grape from the vine which in John 15 speaks of life and union.

Whereas the Baker came with the works of his own hands, his own efforts, which Gal 2:16-15 show does not save.

It is the Abel and Cain scene, only with the Butler and Baker.

What a gospel picture, to stand before the King with His provision of Christ is life and acceptance, but to stand before His presence with the works of your own hands is to perish.

Two years later, Pharaoh dreamed one dream with two parts, which again speaks of life and death, to be rescued or to perish, concerning a famine that is coming.

Therefore, men and woman know, a day of judgment is coming, a matter of life and death is before you, and I warn you not by a message in a dream, but by the message in the written word of God.

I share with you John's words in **Matthew 3:7** *flee from the wrath to come*. Yea I tell of Christ's word's about Himself, from **John 3:15** *whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life*.

*In considering Pharaoh's Dream, notice:*

***I FIRST PHARAOH'S ANXIETY* verses 1-8**

From the time of his birthday in **chapter 40:20**, and then two years later, Pharaoh has gone about life, as any lost sinner, involved in heathen and pagan worship.

At this stage in life, Pharaoh knows nothing of Joseph. But also, at this time Pharaoh has lived without any reference to the only true and living God. God is not in his thoughts.

We learn from **verses 1-7**, that King Pharaoh dreamed a dream. However, in **verse 25** *Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one*.

One dream with two parts, but both are the one and same dream. This dream showed a river which in Egypt was the river Nile. Straightway the dream is close, it's about home.

There are 14 cattle or cows. 7 cattle are fattleshed, healthy, strong, and well feed. The other 7 are leanfleshed, weak, and in need of food.

The 7 lean, weak cattle eat, the 7 strong cattle, yet they are still weak and in need.

Can you imagine Pharaoh's dream, because the scene in his dream was enough to wake him up. Look at the end of **verse 4** *so Pharaoh awoke*.

However, **verse 5** shows Pharaoh goes back to sleep, then dreamed again. Now is the same information only instead of cattle, God uses Grain. Seven good ears of grain were devoured by seven poor ears of grain.

Once again, this scene in his dream was enough to awaken him as showed by **verse 7**, *and Pharaoh awoke, and behold it was a dream*.

This is still during the night, Pharaoh is up, he cannot sleep anymore. His mind begins to work over time. He has no peace.

Notice **verse 8** "*And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled...*" the word **troubled** means **to be stirred up**. The clear meaning is to be **anxious**.

Pharaoh is troubled, unrestful, stirred up, startled, disturbed, worried, and anxious by this dream.

He has no clue what it means or why he has dreamed it, but all he knows it's affects him, Egypt and involves the number 7, cattle and grain.

The same word **troubled** and its meaning is also used in **Daniel 2:3** "*And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. <sup>3</sup> And the king said*

***unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.”***

Unknown to Pharaoh, God in His sovereignty has caused Pharaoh to dream this dream to get his attention, understand the message for him and the nations around.

Remember, God during Bible times when the word of God was not fully written down as we have today, delivered His message by dreams.

God's message to Pharaoh has troubled him, made him anxious, made impact.

The first time God spoke through the dream to Pharaoh, Pharaoh fell asleep. Maybe he tried to sleep it off.

But the second time God spoke to Pharaoh through the dream, he was troubled, he couldn't get back to sleep. He had no rest in body, no peace of mind.

**Do you see, what God is doing**, He is preparing Pharaoh to meet Joseph, to hear His word, to have clear understanding and knowledge that Joseph is the only one can meet the need as the preserver and provision of the world.

God, who knows the end from the beginning, could have left Pharaoh in silence, and face the famine without provision.

God knows the famine is coming, but Pharaoh does not, but none the less it's still coming.

However, God in grace, and mercy visits Pharaoh to warn and prepare him for a coming day.

God intervenes, He orders the events, that Pharaoh will hear about Joseph, the one God has chosen to bring deliverance from the famine.

Therefore, what a message we have in the gospel and a reminder for you believer, as Paul said in **Ephesians 2:2** *“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”*

In our lost estate, God didn't have to trouble, stir or cause us to be anxious about spiritual matters.

He could have passed us by, He could have left us to continue on the path to stand trial for our offences against Him and suffer eternal punishment in hell.

However, in Grace and Mercy, He troubled us, not just the first time, but the second time. He spoke not by a dream but by His own Word as it was read, preached, or heard some other way such a radio station.

He spoke again, for there is mercy with the Lord. He troubled you to awaken, arouse alarm, and alert you that there is wrath for unpardoned sinners.

He troubled you, to expose your lost condition, and cause to know the meaning why you feel oppressed, live in misery, unrest, burdened, why you are troubled and anxious, to show there is one we need and that is Jesus Christ.

**Isaiah 57:20-21** *the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. <sup>21</sup> There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.*

**Romans 8:6** *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

**Romans 5:1** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform in order to bring about the meeting between Joseph and Pharaoh.

God worked in providential ways to bring to meet the heavenly Joseph and find in Him safety from wrath to come.

## **II SECOND PHARAOH'S ADVISORS.**

**Verse 8** *And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.*

Pharaoh troubled about his dream, knows he has no answer himself, however within his kingdom he is surrounded by advisors, which in times like this, they are explain these matters.

Remember the words **sent** and **called**, reveal a purpose, an urgency. Pharaoh calls his advisors to come without delay.

***He sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, their area of advice was religious matters, and the supernatural.***

In repeating the words just to get the flow notice

***He sent and called for....all the wise men, their area of advice was wisdom, philosophy, prophecies, and patterns.***

Pharaoh gathers them both!

As far as Pharaoh's concerned, he has the best councillors and council around him. ***Pharaoh told them his dream, but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.***

Can you imagine that! the magicians and wise men, who Pharaoh has placed in such a role for this very purpose to give him answers to his questions, are unable to give an answer of peace.

The same with King Nebuchadnezzar in **Daniel 2:2** ***Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king***

**his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. verses 11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”**

Both King Pharaoh and King Nebuchadnezzar, are surrounded with the best minds of their days, but none could interpret the meaning and message of God in the dream.

Why, not? well the answer needed was not the wisdom or workings of men, rather from the LORD Himself giving wisdom by the Holy Spirit pointing to Christ as the answer for the need of sinners.

Pharaoh's matter related to the word of God, a message from the LORD. Beyond the dream there was a message from God which pointed the way to Joseph.

The Apostle Paul in writing to the church at Corinth, said in 1 Corinthians 2:14 ***“the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”***

In 1 Corinthians chapter 2, Paul contrasts the Spiritual man to the Natural man to discern the things of God.

what makes the difference between the two, it is the indwelling of the Spirit of God.

The message or things of God is revealed by the Spirit to the spiritual man.

Notice the closing words of verse 9 and the opening words of verse 10, ***“...the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him...God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.”*** Rom 8:9 ***“...now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”***

Paul speaking about the natural man, focuses upon the point they cannot discern the things of God because the Spirit does not dwell within and therefore are not led by the Spirit.

The natural man or mind is unable to come to terms with the message of God. The understanding of fallen man has been utterly impaired by sin.

Therefore, the natural mind has no awareness of the value of Christ's death. Fallen man's answers lead anywhere else but to Christ.

Paul clearly proves this point where he deals with natural man's failure to understand the gospel, by crucifying Christ.

He then proceeds to make the powerful statement that lies at the beginning of **verse 9** – ***“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”***

Notice the first part of this statement is about ***the eye, the ear, and the heart of man***. This is the unsaved man in view, he is totally ignorant to the message of God.

Then there is the spiritual man who loves God, who enjoys the things, the blessings that God in His grace has prepared for sinners.

Paul highlights **the natural man's spiritual blindness** – ***“...eye hath not seen...the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”***

The Eye is a symbol of understanding, to the natural mind, there is spiritual blindness.

Paul teaches in **Eph 4:17** the natural mind is empty of true wisdom and understanding, by the words ***in the vanity of their mind***. The word **vanity** means **emptiness**.



Paul highlights **the natural man's spiritual deafness** – "...**nor ear heard...the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**" This is a deafness that is deliberate, an unwillingness to believe the message of God when it is preached.

Paul highlights **the natural man's spiritual hardness** – "...**neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**" when the Lord opened the heart of Lydia, there is the truth that by nature man is hard against the message of God because their heart is closed due to sin.

This means the natural mind when troubled about sin, will always seek to find carnal solutions to spiritual matters, without Christ.

How many today are troubled about their sin, or matters relating to guilt, forgiveness of sins, full pardon, peace with God, yet they go to many advisors, paying money and seeking help for answers to spiritual matters, finding peace with God.

But such are unable give the answers needed, as they have not the mind of Christ or the leading of the Spirit.

**You see the Spirit's ministry and a Spirit filled ministry, will always lead the way to Christ.**

Believer, praise the Lord when troubled about sin, anxious to know what it all meant, there was a faithful witness who lead the way to Christ.

(Remember the mocking words of the demon possessed lady, concerning the missionary team, yet her words were true, **Acts 16:17** "**These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.**")

Think of Andrew's ministry in **John 1:41-42** **He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus**

That is what we have in Genesis 41, God by His Spirit points the way to Joseph. He providently intervenes convicting the Butler of his sin in forgetting Joseph then upon confession of his faults he speaks of Joseph to Pharaoh, the one who can interpret the dream giving the meaning in the message.

Believer, God works in our lives daily

Next time we will consider

**III THIRD PHARAOH'S ACTION.**

**IV FOURTH, PHARAOH'S ANSWER.**