

Genesis 41: 37-52; "In the Eyes of Pharaoh", Sermon # 103 in the series - "Beginnings", Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on July 8th, 2007, in the Morning Worship Service.

Joseph has given Pharaoh the interpretation of his dreams. He showed Pharaoh what God was about to do in the land of Egypt over the next 14 years. There would seven years of great plenty followed by seven years of intense famine. The famine would be so great that all the plenty of the former years would be forgotten. Joseph also gave Pharaoh some very good advice. He said to him, "Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt." "Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years." "And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities." "Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine." The response to this was that "the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants." Since they believed the interpretation to be correct and true, the advice also was good in their eyes, they now began to view Joseph as someone great and wise and able to save them from the calamity which was coming. All of Joseph's life and story are given to us as a type of what our Lord Jesus Christ would be, and become, in His mission, His kingdom and His glory. There are many things, given to us here in our text, which relate to Joseph's exaltation to power, and they are pertinent to how we should view Jesus Christ, now that He is exalted to the right hand of the Father. Joseph was exalted by Pharaoh and made to be viewed by His people, as one who was to be respected, followed and obeyed. This is how God would have us to view our Lord Jesus Christ in the way of worship. The question which I set before you this morning is, "How should you and I view the Lord Jesus Christ in light of this story of the exaltation of Joseph?"

1st- We should view the Lord Jesus Christ as One who is Incomparable.

(Verses 38 and 39)

"And Pharaoh said to his servants, 'Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?'" In this statement of Pharaoh's we realize that we are dealing with a king whose eyes had been opened by God to discern what a unique gift and blessing had been given to him when Joseph came to him. He recognized that God indeed was speaking to him through this man, and he had believed that revelation had been given to him through this man. He is holding up Joseph to the minds of his servants as a man who was special and incomparable; one of a kind in comparison to all the men whom he had ever

met. Joseph had spoken of seven lean years and seven years of famine; years of blessing and prosperity. He had also spoken of years of leanness and famine which would bring pain and suffering and death, if provision for the body was not obtained. The whole world would be affected by this famine and Joseph was the only one who had the answer that would make provision for the needs of every man. And certainly we must say, that if Joseph was one of a kind, unique, and special; that Jesus Christ is altogether "such a One" as well. If you have received the revelation of the Word of God, the testimony of the Bible to Jesus as the Son of God, you realize that He is a unique gift of God to a world starving for truth, a fallen world of sinners who are heading toward the Judgment of God. He is the only begotten Son of God, God's gift to a perishing world. If we have had our eyes opened to this truth, we have come to see that it is in Jesus that we find such a One who will bring to us all the answers to all of the questions that we have concerning how we are to be provided for in this life and in the life to come. You may know times of great prosperity and blessing in your life, years without number. But a time is coming, that if you do not have Jesus Christ, if you do not have the answers that His words bring, to the great questions of the salvation of your soul; if you do not have the provision of grace that He purchased with His own broken body on the cross, then most certainly you will perish eternally. You see, although Joseph went to prison as one who was falsely accused of having committed sin with Potiphar's wife, and though he suffered in that prison because of the sins of another person; he did not die for that other person's sins. But Jesus Christ was falsely accused by the Jewish leaders, His own countrymen, and put to death on the cross by the Roman authorities. He was not exalted, but rather scourged and killed by those who should have seen Him for who He is; the unique Son of God, the Savior and Lord of all mankind.

He is incomparable in this; that He is fully God and fully man. He alone was born of a virgin. He alone was sinless and perfect; He alone was the spotless lamb of God. He alone, had not only the Spirit of God within Him; but He was given the Spirit without measure. He alone of all men was spoken of, with a voice from heaven, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased." He alone, O sinner, has given His life for you to show you that you can trust in Him. No other great or good man could do this; to die for sinners and to have his sacrifice accepted by God and merit the favor with Him to release your soul from the bondage of death which it is in, because of Adam's sin. He alone has suffered for you so that you might see your need to trust in Him. He suffered not for Himself, but for you if you see your need of Him. Can you find such a one among all the sons of men; the fairest of ten thousand to your soul?

He is incomparable, as well, like Joseph, in the Wisdom which He has to deal with the greatest difficulties in our lives. In verse 39 of our text it says, "Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is

no one as discerning and wise as you." God revealed to Joseph the interpretation of the dream and God gave Joseph the wisdom from above to tell Pharaoh how he ought to act upon this revelation. The Lord Jesus Christ is incomparable in Wisdom far beyond that of Joseph. In fact in Colossians chapter 2, verses 1-3 the Apostle Paul says, "I want you know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." He speaks of Jesus Christ in chapter 1, verse 27, as "this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." "Him we preach," says Paul, "warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." Do you wish to be complete in wisdom? Do you wish to have eternal life and Christ Himself living in your life? Then believe in Christ and cry to Him for the wisdom that you will need to live godly in this present evil age! He alone can give it. Do you need wisdom to overcome temptations? Jesus has it. Do you need wisdom in your finances? Jesus has it. Do need wisdom in your relationships with people in your family or in your marriage? Jesus has it. Do you need wisdom in the way that you should spend your time, and strength and money? Jesus has this wisdom and He will give it to you. He is unique and incomparable in this ability to give it to you. He does so through His Word and by His Spirit. He does not give it apart from His Word. But He does not make the Word of wisdom effectual and powerful to our being convinced to do something about what we are reading, in terms of obedience to His Word, except by His Spirit. Pharaoh and his servants were convinced by the Spirit of God to act upon what Joseph had told them would be the right course of action. This leads me to the second way that we should view the Lord Jesus Christ in light of what Joseph became in Egypt.

2ndly - We should view the Lord Jesus Christ as One who has all power and authority.

(Verses 40-44)

Pharaoh says to Joseph, "You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." "And Pharaoh said, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." Truly this shows the great working of the Spirit of God; that a king who had only just a few moments before been a heathen, should so quickly be convinced to place Joseph in such a high position and to show him such favor as he did. The description of what he is conferring upon Joseph is of one who would have no one above him in authority except Pharaoh himself, and everything that Pharaoh himself would have come to him, because he was the sovereign ruler, would come also to Joseph. "Then Pharaoh took his signet ring

off his hand," it says in verse 42, "and put in on Joseph's hand." "He clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck." "He had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, 'Bow the knee!' And to further secure the strength of Joseph's absolute authority in the land of Egypt, he also said to him, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." This is not to be taken literally, but in terms of men doing anything that affected in any way, the welfare of the land of Egypt, Joseph would have the authority to put prohibit it or to affirm and establish it.

This is a very good picture and type of what Jesus Christ was given when He overcame sin and death and sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. He has been appointed by God as being in authority over all of God's house, which is the Church. Listen to Hebrews chapter 3 verses 1-6. "Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and high priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all his house." "For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house." "For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God." "And Moses indeed was faithful in all his house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end." Are you a part of this house which is built by our great God and Savior Jesus Christ? Are you holding fast the confidence that he will provide salvation for you; that He will continue to provide for your spiritual needs throughout your life? Joseph was faithful in Potiphar's house. He was faithful in prison. And he was faithful in Pharaoh's service. He stored up grain and provided for the people's life and physical sustenance. And he points with his life and service to One who is greater than he. Certainly Jesus Christ has also been counted worthy of more glory than Joseph, even as he was counted worthy of more glory than Moses. Jesus was faithful as the Son of God to be faithful to keep God's holy law. He was faithful unto death, even the death of the cross. "Therefore," it says in Philippians 2: 9, "God also has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." Joseph would be second in command to Pharaoh, but our Lord Jesus would be crowned with such glory that "all authority in heaven and on earth would be given to Him." (Matthew 28: 18) Joseph would be given authority so that no man could lift a hand or foot in all the land of Egypt; but to Jesus The Father would give such authority "over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as the Father had given Him." (John 17: 2) Joseph would get to ride in the second chariot

with Pharaoh and no one would be greater than he except Pharaoh himself. And of Jesus we read in Psalm 110, verse 1, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." "The Lord shall send out the rod of your strength out of Zion." "Rule in the midst of Your enemies." Jesus has overcome sin and death and has been given a throne by the Father which is different from the Father's throne. It says in Revelation 3: 21, "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down on His throne." You see how Jesus has been given a mediatorial kingdom and will reign over His church until the end of the world, when something quite extraordinary will happen. It says in 1 Corinthians 15: 24, "Then comes the end when He delivers up the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power." "For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet." "The last enemy that will be destroyed is death." "For he has put all things under His feet." "But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is now excepted." "Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."

You should never believe the lie that Jesus Christ is not God. He is indeed God made manifest in the flesh. But in order to accomplish God's will in saving a people to be His people forever, God the Father had to be above Him as head. Listen to 1 Corinthians 10: 3. "But I want you to know that head of every man is Christ, head of a woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." We should view Christ as having all power and authority; but we should still see the Father as greater than He in the throne, until the end when the mediatorial kingdom shall be given up to God, when all rule and authority and power will come to an end. Do you view Jesus Christ in this glorious way of having all power and authority in heaven and earth? Do you recognize Him as your Lord and Savior; the One who rules over you as well as the One who takes away your sins? You must come to view Him this way if you would have a sincere relationship with Him and find yourself numbered among those who will stand with Him on the last day rejoicing. No one who holds fast to their sin and still professes Christ shall enter into heaven. It is "he who does the will of God" who will abide forever. If you will not have this man to rule over you, then you will certainly be cast into hell forever. In Luke 19: 27, Jesus in telling the parable of the minas, and speaking of those who did not want Him to rule over them, He says, "Bring here these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me." Let us receive Christ Jesus as Lord into our hearts, that He may rule over us and that we may serve Him as He desires.

3rdly- We should view the Lord Jesus Christ as One whom the Father has given a Bride (Verse 45 and 46)

"And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-Paaneah." "And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On." "So Joseph went

throughout all the land of Egypt." "Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt." It is no doubt true that all the details of Joseph's life are typical of some aspect of Christ's life and ministry, and we needn't press them too far. But I find it interesting that Joseph was exactly 30 years old when he stood before Pharaoh. Jesus Christ was 30 years old when he began his ministry. It appears that the details of typical significance do not coincide with each other, because Joseph's being betrayed by his brethren and his sufferings in the prison came before he was 30 years old, and the sufferings of the Lord Jesus in his betrayal and death took place 3 1/2 years after his ministry began. The wife who was chosen for Joseph by Pharaoh was the daughter of an Egyptian priest named Poti-Pherah, priest of On. What application of truth flows forth from these verses? Well, I think that we can say with all definiteness that it was God's purpose that the Pharaoh choose a wife for Joseph. This was a part of the favor and blessing that was bestowed upon Joseph, in God's kindness to him, but it was also God's kindness and undeserved mercy being shown to Asenath. She was not a Jewish princess, but an Egyptian priest's daughter, and so the truth that this sets forth is that even as Pharaoh would choose a bride for Joseph; that even so, God the Father would choose a bride for our Lord Jesus. And the Scriptures bear this out. In telling a parable about a wedding feast which represents inviting sinners to receive the gospel which He would die to bring about, the Lord Jesus says this in Matthew 22, verse 2. "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son." The certain king is God the Father and the Son is our Lord Jesus Christ. It is true that Christ's sufferings came after he was 30 years old and Joseph's before; but we must think of these typical things in terms of what Christ came to do to establish His kingdom and to extend it, and not simply limit it to those who were saved unto eternal life after Christ died, but also to those who were saved unto eternal life before He died. Christ's death applies to both, and this, Joseph shows forth as a type. When Jesus began to minister at the age of 30, the things he suffered in His life during those 3 1/2 years were sufferings for people who had already lived and died in the faith that the Messiah was coming. The sufferings of one such as Joseph who was looking forward to the Messiah's coming, went before his exaltation as a type of all Old Testament believers. In the New Testament, since Christ has come and suffered and died, all of the blessings of our salvation are applied in reference to our looking back and remembering what Christ has done. Neither the sufferings of persons in the Old Testament, or sufferings of persons in the New Testament merit any favor for salvation in God's sight; it is only the sufferings and death of Christ that save. But this will help explain the type. Joseph was simply a man after all, and Jesus Christ is the Lord of glory. God the Father chose a bride for Jesus Christ before He ever began His ministry here upon the earth. Christ's sufferings go before His exaltation, just as Joseph's went before his. Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt after he

was exalted to his position. Christ, by His Spirit, working through His Church goes throughout the world with the gospel. Joseph was preparing for the famine by building granaries in cities. Jesus Christ, through His gospel being preached, is building His Church in which is stored all the grain necessary to feed the starving world the truth that will save their souls. You and I who believe in Him are a part of this glorious mission. We are His bride, a Gentile bride even as Asenath. God's spiritual Israel, the bride of Jesus Christ, is composed of Jews and Gentiles and must be seen this way. In Ezekiel 16, verse 3, when the word of the Lord was given to Ezekiel to remind sinful Israel of the way that God had saved them out of Egypt and also from heathen idolatry years before that; He gives them this picture of what they were like. "Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem: 'Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.'" "As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling clothes." "No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day that you were born." "And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!'" "Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!'" "I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful." Verse 8 says, "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness." "Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into covenant with you, and you became Mine, says the Lord God." "Then I washed you in water; yes I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil." "I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk." "I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck." What is all this a picture of? It is a picture of salvation being given, of favor being shown; of God choosing a bride for His Son. Pharaoh exalted Joseph and when he did, he took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph. He arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck." It is all the same kind of language. We are unworthy as Asenath was to be married to Joseph, but Pharaoh chose that it should be so. Joseph did not fight this. The reason was that it is meant to picture Christ and the Church. Unworthy, heathen sinners, brought up in the idolatry of this world find Christ. We believe the blessed gospel of salvation and are saved and married to Christ forever. What a picture is given to us here.

And then 4thly- We should view the Lord Jesus Christ as One whose labors were rewarded. (Verses 47-52)

In verse 47 it says, "Now in the seven plentiful years the ground brought forth abundantly." "So Joseph gathered up all the food of the seven years which

were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them." "Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for it was immeasurable." Joseph's labors in storing grain were rewarded. He stored it up until it was immeasurable. Our Lord Jesus Christ was rewarded for His labors. Because of His sufferings, His pains and His labors, there is an abundance of grace and truth stored up that will feed the whole world. Will we not believe this morning that God has appointed it to be so and live therefore in light of this fact? Believe that the storehouses of Christ's grace and truth are immeasurable. Believe in the conversion of nations as well as individuals, for Christ will bring it to pass in time. Psalm 72, verse 15, speaking of Christ prophetically, it says, "And He shall live; and the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; Prayer also will be made for Him continually, and daily He shall be praised." "There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, on the top of the mountain; its fruit shall wave like Lebanon." "And those of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth." "His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun." "And men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed."

Joseph also had children during this time of prosperity in Egypt. He had two sons. The name of his first-born was Manasseh, which means, "God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house." And then the name of the second born to him was Ephraim. This name means, "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction." These names also have significance in terms of how we view Jesus Christ. It says in one place, "He shall see the travail of His soul and be satisfied. Even as Joseph suffered so much at the hands of his brothers and was able later, in the time of his exaltation to forget the pain of the past, the Lord Jesus is also able to forget the pain of his brothers, through Judas, selling him for 30 pieces of silver, the travail of that night in the garden, and the agony of the cross; when all of His children surround Him in the day of the Resurrection; when we shall see Him face to face. Then we will all truly know that God has made Him fruitful in the land of His afflictions. But does He not already know it now? He is arisen and is gathering God's Elect even today; more grain for the harvest of the last day. Will you not come to Him today and be gathered to Him? Be saved by calling on His Name.