

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 29th January 2023

Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymns Ps 121, Tunes 58, 219, 180, 221 Read: Genesis 41:28-40

Text Genesis 41:37-39

Series: Joseph (42) Title: Joseph A Man In Whom The Spirit of God is

The words at the end of **verse 38** *a man in whom the Spirit of God is*, were spoken by King Pharaoh of Egypt.

What makes these words remarkable is that they are in response to Joseph's instruction concerning the wise and discreet man who must be chosen to rule over the land of Egypt, in preparing the people for the coming famine.

Joseph in giving God's answer of peace to Pharaoh who was troubled and anxious in soul concerning the famine was instructed by Joseph in **verse 33** *to look out a man, discreet and wise and set him over the land of Egypt.*

The word **look** or the phrase **look out**, means **to see, choose, select and provide.**

The idea of the word is to choose, to look for the best man who can perform and carry out God's message in saving a people from perishing.

Pharaoh is to select, provide a man from his own Kingdom to rule over his kingdom. The man he selects must be **discreet and wise.** These two qualities go together.

The word **Discreet** means **Discernment, Understanding, knowledge.** The word **wise** means **wisdom.**

Discernment, understanding is the knowledge of what needs to be done, what needs to be carried out, and act upon.

Whereas **Wisdom is the application of knowledge.** Wisdom is doing what you know needs to be done. Wisdom is knowledge in action.

(Let me use this illustration to help. When our boys were younger, we wanted to teach them how to cross the dangerous and busy road from school, and that they should use the traffic lights as the cars would speed down the narrow road.

We gave them the knowledge the understanding, there are traffic lights for a reason, therefore, stop, press the button wait, and then when the light is green walk across. That's the knowledge they have, but wisdom, is putting that into practise.

I remember when driving I would see certain children coming from school in groups near or close to those traffic lights and they refused to use them, and so they would run quickly across the road, while the cars were coming at great speed. Sometimes the children got their timing wrong they started, some made it across, and others ran back only getting halfway.

They understood, what they needed to do, they had knowledge of the situation, but they acted unwisely.

That is the kind of person and action that Pharaoh is to avoid.)

Pharaoh must provide, select a man who demonstrates qualities, of discernment and wisdom, because to have a man with discernment, a man who knows what must be done, yet act unwisely, misuse, misjudge, and miscalculate time, provisions and be unprepared, is to fail in the day of famine and perish.

Both discernment and wisdom are needed.

But in answer to these requirements and qualities, **verse 38**
“Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?”

Pharaoh links this very description of a **discreet and wise man** ***in whom the Spirit of God is***, to Joseph.

Pharaoh couldn't provide a man from His kingdom, there was none good enough, wise enough, even from his counsellors, but he looked to Joseph and found these qualities.

He could see that Joseph was discreet and wise. One good enough to make preparation and meet the requirements to save from death. He could see in Joseph a man suited to rule **over the land of Egypt**, and govern the people.

Joseph is the chosen one, the provided one, he is set apart by the Spirit of God who rests upon him.

See how God has brought everything together, where all eyes are upon Joseph, to be the Saviour of the land, the provider for the people, the provision in need.

One who does all that is required to save and preserve the people from perishing in the famine. It is through Joseph the nations surround Egypt will be blessed.

What a picture in Joseph's life that points to Christ. He is the supreme discreet and wise man. Even King Solomon in the Bible is described as a wise man, given wisdom from God, yet **Matthew 12:42** records of Christ **behold, a greater than Solomon is here.**

Christ's knowledge understanding and wisdom cannot be equalled or compared to. Christ is far above all. His wisdom is eternal, infinite and unchangeable.

You see through the fall of mankind into sin, there was left a famine in the soul of men and woman, there is a barrenness, an emptiness, a void to the things of God, the understanding darkened.

The entrance of sin into the world, breaking God's law, has set off the alarm, the penalty for sin which is death has sounded forth.

Judgment for sin is ringing loud against Men and woman who dwell under the wrath and anger of God due to their own sin.

Therefore, a day of wrath, a day of judgment, an eternity of torment, of wailing will be an unbearable tormenting sound for all who reject Christ as Saviour.

The day has been established by God, it is appointed there is a day God will judge the world by Jesus Christ.

However, God in mercy, selected, chose, and provided a Saviour, Jesus Christ a discreet man, one who has infinite knowledge, and understanding, **one who knows what needs to be done** in order that guilty men and woman will be pardoned by God, and be saved from wrath to God.

Christ knows the plan of salvation, He is the way that leads to heaven. He understood, what needed to be done to honoured God.

Furthermore, **Christ did what needed to be done** to honour God, to satisfy His justice, to extinguish His wrath. He alone saves from wrath. He alone is the sinner's provision and provider. There is eternal life through Him.

Therefore, Christ was sent into this world, to teach sinners the way back to God from sin. He alone opened way back into fellowship with God by the sacrifice of Himself.

Upon Examination both Joseph and Jesus were men anointed and fulfilled their roles by the Spirit of God.

Pharaoh describes Joseph as ***a man in whom the Spirit of God is***, and so our Lord Jesus is described in **Luke 4:1** "***Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost...***"

Therefore, believer, scripture teaches in **Ephesians 5:18** "***be filled with the Spirit.***"

The point is your life, my life, our families, this church ministry in its attenders, members, Pastor, office bearers, preaching, prayers, praise, practises, pursuits and programs, must be known that the Spirit of God is upon.

Can it be said of your life and mine, there is a man a woman, a family **in whom the Spirit of God is**, a church ministry **full of the Holy Ghost**

May the Pharaoh's in London, see all others surrounding them as having no answer of peace, for their troubled soul, but look and see a difference in our lives, real spiritual power, and see Christ through our lives as their only peace, and safety from the wrath of God that awaits every unprepared and condemned sinner.

Joseph A Man In Whom The Spirit of God is.

I FIRST JOSEPH'S SPIRIT FILLED WISDOM

The very fact that Pharaoh told his councillors his dream and not one could give the answer to its meaning, and the same details were given to Joseph and he could give the interpretation, not only what the dream meant but also the message what must be done, Pharaoh seen in Joseph a man with spirit filled wisdom, and one who knows the times, he's a man in touch with God, the Spirit of God is upon him.

As the messenger of God, full of the Holy Spirit, Joseph communicated God's message, what God is about to do, he told what God has established will come to pass.

Pharaoh seen in Joseph something, he never seen anyone else even his councillors.

There is a clear picture of Jesus Christ, the messenger of God, preached the word of God in the fulness of the Spirit. Christ

delivered the word and will of God. When asked questions He answered by the word of God.

He preached what God will bring to pass. His whole life from birth to death, was lived by the Spirit upon Him.

The Lord Jesus said Himself in **Luke 4:18** ***“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor;...”***

When the Lord Jesus was in the temple at the age of 12, we read in **Luke 2:46-47** he was ***sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.***

In answering question, in **John 7:16** ***Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me.***

The word doctrine, means teaching, Christ taught the message of God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Upon hearing Christ those answer we read in **John 7:46** ***“The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.***

Read Christ’s sermons throughout the gospels, such as **Matthew 5-7, 10, 13, 18, 24 and 25** where He tells the message of God, and what God is about to do in future days. Read His parables, His tells what must be done and what He did to pardon sinners.

Hear Him warn people to flee the wrath to come, **Luke 13:3& 5** ***I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.***

Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God, and when He spoke it was the wisdom of God. **John 3:34** teaches ***He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him*** meaning His infilling was permanent. We need to be continually filled, but Christ was permanently filled with the Spirit. **John 1:32-33** tells of ***...the Spirit descending and remaining on Him.***

Therefore, believer, since we are indwelt and continually infilled by the Holy Spirit, we have the mind of the Spirit, to know the word of God, and to speak of Christ, therefore, the greatest words of wisdom you will ever memorise, share, quote, is not the words of men, but the word of God.

This church, city, and country need men and woman spirit filled to lead, to give the word of God, for salvation and living for Him.

Pray believer Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me, breath upon me and make me to be a well springing forth scripture. Rest upon this ministry. may Lord bless us with the Spirit's quacking power.

Pray God will raise up godly rulers to govern the land.

II SECOND, JOSEPH'S SPIRIT FILLED WORK.

When Joseph explained to Pharaoh of the work involved in preparing for the famine, there was specific instructions. Joseph didn't leave Pharaoh to fill in the gaps or come to his own conclusions.

Rather the work must be carried by the ***discreet and wise man, who is set over the land of Egypt.***

Since Pharaoh knew there was none within his kingdom who meet these qualities, Joseph was chosen, and selected, because he was the best, he was the only one who had ability and authority to save souls from perishing in the famine.

The Spirit of God worked through Joseph and rested upon him as he carried out his work over the land of Egypt, to save a people from death.

When it came to delivering sinners from God's wrath, there was none other chosen and selected, to save from wrath to come, only Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ had all authority and ability to do the work of God, because we read in **Acts 10:38** "***How God anointed***

Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

Christ was the discreet and wise man, one in whom the Spirit of God is. Christ is God's chosen, and selected provision to save sinners from perishing. Christ is the best that God could give to save fallen sinners, as there was no other suited and qualified to do what needed to be done to save from sin.

Joseph was the only provider, provision and protection from the famine. Joseph's work was limited for a time, though the benefits of his work reached to the first coming of Christ, who came the line of Judah spared in the famine.

Christ is the only provider, provision and protection from the wrath of God. Christ meets the need for time and eternally, the benefits of His work are everlasting.

Believer, you are selected and chosen by God in Christ for salvation and service. May the work you do for Christ in the power of the Spirit and the investment you make in the lives of others bring forth fruit for all eternity.

May heaven be populated with the fruit of your labour, with souls who acted upon your wise council from the word God.

Parents keep investing God's word in your family, children's ministry and those you witness to.

unbeliever, will you do what you know needs to be done to have sins forgiven? Call upon the Lord and be saved.

III JOSEPH'S SPIRIT FILLED WORTH.

It is interesting to think about that it was the Spirit of God who caused Pharaoh to see in Joseph all that he needed. Pharaoh seen in Joseph one worthy to rule and meet the need.

It is the Spirit's ministry to cause sinners in salvation and believers in service, to see Christ as worthy, all they need in found in Christ.