

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Morning

Date 1st May 2020 Hymns Psalm 103v1-7 Kilmarnock 361, 570 Read: Genesis 37:37, Ch 39:1-3 - Text Genesis 39:1-2

Series: Joseph Title: The LORD was with Joseph in Egypt (1)

The last verse of Genesis 37 and then the details of chapter 39, show that Joseph is sold into Egypt, bought as a slave by an Egyptian, name Potiphar, a man who held high position in Pharaoh's army.

Egypt at that time was an advanced nation, and as the years progressed, so did the Egyptian way of life. Egypt was a place of resources, and store houses.

The riches of Egypt were indescribable, there was gold, great wealth.

ARCHITECTURALLY, they made progress, even after the death of Joseph, there were building programs by the Pharaoh at that time, as Exodus 1:11 "*treasure cities, (Pithom and Raamses,)*were built.

We get a sense from the time frame Moses lived, Hebrews 11:25 refers to "*the pleasures of sin...*" Verse 26 mentions *the treasures in Egypt*.

Educationally Acts 7:22 "*Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds*

Joseph is in Egypt, yet we read these wonderful words, Verse 2 & 3 "*and the LORD was with Joseph, the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.*

These words are truthful at all times however they bring much comfort to the life of Joseph because there is a change in his circumstance, he has been betrayed and sold into Egypt.

The point is Egypt was a testing, and challenging time for Joseph and other believers who dwelt there, however, there was a truth that remained the same, the LORD had not changed, even though Joseph's circumstance had changed.

You see, the holy Spirit uses the name LORD on purpose, which means Jehovah.

Jehovah is name or title God choose to reveal Himself as the eternal, self-existence, self-sufficient, infinite, and unchanging God in His Glorious person, His Redemptive purposes, His mighty power and exceeding precious promises.

When the LORD uses the name or title Jehovah, He is staying I will never go back on my word, and will do what I have promised to do, what I have started I will finished.

Make no mistake, Jehovah was with Joseph, Jehovah made all that He did to prosper, even in Egypt. It was the LORD alone who sustained Joseph and gave him favour in the sight of men.

Like his father Jacob, Joseph also had power with men because he first had power with God.

Therefore, Egypt in scripture is a type or picture of the world. believer what an encouragement that is to our hearts, as we lived in this world, with its temptations, trials and troubles.

With its agendas, accusations antagonists, and activities against God His word and His people. With its ever-changing treasures, and clinging pleasures, The Lord is with us, and He is able to make all that we do to prosper for His names sake.

We are enabled by the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit to please God, because the Lord is with us.

Lets consider more what this means the Lord was with Joseph and what it means for us.

I FIRST, THE PRESENCE HE ENJOYED

Verse 2 “*and the LORD was with Joseph...*” These words are also repeated in **verses 21 & 23**, though spoken of a different occasion.

Nevertheless, the truth is still the same and just as comforting to Joseph.

Joseph’s life is summed up in **Acts 7:9** “*And the patriarchs moved with envy sold Joseph into Egypt but God was with him.*”

In considering all that Joseph suffered by the hands of his brothers and sold into Egypt, to be forgotten and forsaken of men, one might conclude the Lord had left him.

However, we are looking at Joseph’s life with a heavenly view to learn that God directed Joseph’s steps, because God has a greater purpose for Joseph in mind, but to get to the place of exaltation he must first travel the path of humiliation. Before He is lifted up he must be kept low.

Yet the Holy Spirit wants us to learn, God was in control and He never took His view away from Joseph, because “*the LORD was with Joseph...*” even in Egypt.

Remember the Lord is **Omnipresent**. The word Omnipresent is made up of two words. The pre-fix **omni** means **all**, whereas the word **presence** means **to be present**. Putting the two words together we learn God is **omnipresent or God is everywhere present. He Omni-science, all knowing.**

in Hebron or Egypt, Joseph enjoyed the presence of the Lord, personally.

The Lord’s presence in Joseph’s life, made the difference for everyday, and in every trial. It is the presence of the Lord that will make the difference everyday in your life.

The Lord's hand was upon Joseph, and others could see the effects and blessings from it.

The fact that ***the LORD was with Joseph...*** in Egypt was the reason Joseph got through everyday, The Lord was His strength. in Potiphar house the Lord's presence Sustained Him.

while he was a slave, the Lord's presence, enabled him to perform his duties.

The fact that ***the LORD was with Joseph...*** meant Joseph knew the sufficiency of God's grace, every day and for anything he faced. Joseph had all the riches of God's grace at his use.

Joseph's brothers may have taken his coat, Potiphar may have taken his freedom, but nothing could separate Joseph from the love of God in Christ, nothing could separate him from the presence of the Lord, nothing to take away the joy of the Lord's presence.

In Potiphar's house more trials would come, In Egypt humanly speaking there was more against Joseph than for him. Snares were set to entangle him. Once again he would be betrayed.

but Christ as the captain of Joseph's salvation would lead Him through, upholding him by the power of His might.

Each one of God's people are called to bear their own crosses, face their own challenges, bear their own burdens, however the Lord is with us, and we enjoy His presence.

There is something comforting and assuring about these words. your place of employment, education or home, maybe a hard place to live for God.

Your boss may be a hard taskmaster. You may have been forsaken, betrayed and let down.

You may be far from where you want to be.

You may be in a position a situation that you would never have chosen for yourself.

However, in the worst of places, the hardest of situations, when all seems against you, you can relay on and enjoy the presence of the Lord, He is your working on your behalf.

Moses when called to Egypt to stand before Pharaoh and demand that He let God's people go, enjoyed the presence of the Lord. **Exodus 3:14** "***And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest..***

In **Deuteronomy 31:6** the Lord was with Joshua. **Judges 6:12 to Gideon** ***The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour*** David enjoyed the presence of the Lord, **1 Samuel 18:14** "... ***The LORD was with him.***

Think of the life of Christ, we read in **Acts 10:38** ***God was with Him.***

Believer, we have the same promise of the enjoyment of the Lord's presence for any situation.

Before the Saviour's ascension back to heaven, He said in **Matthew 28:20** "***I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.***" He also said through Paul in **Hebrews 13:5** "***...For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

These words are spoken of the Lord's people in any generation, even unto His Return when we shall be forever with Him.

The word **leave** means ***to loosen the grip, untie, release***. The idea of this word is to have a hold upon something but then you start to loosen your grip, and through weakness and time you give up and left go.

The word **forsake** means ***to depart from something, to loose, to abandon.***

Yet with Both expressions, the Lord assures He will never loosen His hold upon us, or let go, He will never abandon His people, His power never grows faint.

You are too precious to Him, you cost Christ too much. He paid the highest price for you His precious blood. He will not cast you aside, Rather, where Christ leads, His presence goes with us, before us and among side us.

His is with us in suffering, and sorrows and in every Egyptian experience, **Isa 43:3** ***“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.***

How true this was for Joseph in Egypt, How true this is for you in the world our Spiritual Egypt, we enjoy the presence of the Lord.

I FIRST, THE PRESENCE HE ENJOYED

II SECOND, THE PROSPERITY HE EXPERIENCED

Verse 2 ***“and the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man...”*** **verse 3** ***“the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.***

This clearly follows on the since the Lord was with Joseph then it was the Lord who prospered Joseph. The word **prosperous**, or **prosper** means ***successful*** or ***success***.

Joseph's prosperity at this time of his life was not earthly riches or fame, Keep in mind God views prosperity far differently than we do.

We define success or prosperity in life in terms of money, new cars, new houses, a good job, prestige, and earthly position.

Or in a church setting, more meetings, more programs, more numbers. And to a certain point there is nothing wrong with those,

but these do not define what is it to prosper in life or Church work.

To prosper in life and church ministry is to know the presence and blessing of God.

(in **Revelation 3:17**, The church at Laodicea thought they were prosperous because they had much in terms of material goods. They said, "*I am rich*", But God said they were "*poor*"

On the other hand, in **Rev 2:9** the church at Smyrna looked really desolate compared to the church at Laodicea. They were experiencing "poverty" but God said, "*Thou art rich*")

Joseph in slavery didn't own much for people to say his life in Egypt was a success, but he knew the favour and blessing of God upon his life. in service the Lord gave Joseph success. It was the Lord who helped him perform his duties, complete his tasks, and gain favour.

Think of others who prospered in God's work

Nehemiah prayed in **Nehemiah 1:11** "***prosper I pray thee thy servant this day..***" in other words Lord, cause they servant to have success in the work of God. Make all that I seek to do in your name, make it to prosper.

Joshua 1:8 "***this book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate thereon day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein, for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.***"

True prosperity is serving God in all seasons of life, when things are going well and not so well. It is knowing and doing the will of God from the heart wherever you are.

Prosperity is trusting God at all times, acknowledging the Lord in all your ways, and testifying whatever befalls me Jesus doeth all things well.

Joseph pleased the Lord and behaved himself in the place where God put him, doing what the Lord required of him to walk humbly with his God.

May I take to you a greater than Joseph the Lord Jesus Christ. Such language used of Christ the servant of God in **Isaiah 52:13** “**Behold, my servant shall deal prudently....**” The word **prudently** is also translated in the Bible margin as **prosperous**. The idea is of success, a wise walk, behaviour.

Christ knew the will of God for His life, and He did the will of God, this was the purpose He came down from heaven.

Notice also, the last words of **Isaiah 53:10** “**the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand**. All that Christ set out to do to satisfy divine justice, to honour God, in order to pay for the sins of all His people and secure their full deliverance, God made His work to prosper.

By His perfect obedience, Christ secured redemption for a multiple of sinners no man can number.

They are as the sand of sea spread among the nations. They are fruit of His labour in life and death. His death has put away all the sins of all His people.

Every sin has been put away. Cast behind His back, out of view. His death gives abundant life. He has empowered and enabled His Redeemed people to live in holiness and cleanness.

Next time we will consider.

THE PROMOTION HE EARNED

THE PRIVILAGES HE ENDOWED