

Joseph 07 - Go to Joseph - Genesis 41:1-57 - 2017-06-04

Call to Worship: Psalm 100:1-4

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:19-34

Sermon: "Go to Joseph" Genesis 41:1-57

Benediction: Psalm 100:5

INTRODUCTION

Men and women, boys and girls, see how good these days are!

Physically, we live in houses and apartments safe from bad weather. We wear decent clothes and shoes. We have enough to eat, and even more than we need, even dessert lots of the time. God continues to send alternating sun and rain. Vegetables are growing in our gardens. Crops are growing in the farmers' fields. Grass is growing in the pastures, and the cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, chickens, and rabbits are thriving. The large drinking water reservoirs and the smaller livestock ponds are nearly full. Petroleum is pumped out of the ground by the millions of barrels, and is refined into plenty of diesel fuel and gasoline for our cars and trucks to take us and our produce wherever we need to go.

Spiritually, we have the gospel of forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ preached to us. We have the bible, and we have plenty of copies, and electronic versions, and we can read the bible, and we are teaching the small children to read, so they can soon read it. We have the assembly, the church, in which we worship God through Jesus Christ. We have the Lord's Prayer, so we can learn to pray, and learn how to pray, both in the assembly and in private at home.

But there is a day coming, when God will put an end to all of this. He is going to bring a great destruction on the world, worse than the flood of Noah's days. But He has told us ahead of time what He will do, and has appointed a Savior, His beloved Son, who will provide a great salvation in that day for all who have come to Him.

So, hear the next part of the history of Joseph, and learn of this destruction, and this Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ presented in type by Jacob's beloved son Joseph.

TEXT

Genesis 41:1-57

BODY

- I. God Reveals Through the Beloved Son that He Is About to Send Destruction Upon the Land (verses 1-32, especially 25, 28)
 - A. God reveals through Joseph that He is about to cause a pair of unusual events
 1. a time of great prosperity: seven years of great plenty
 2. a time of great destruction: seven years of severe famine
 - B. That God reveals He is about to do this teaches us some things about Him. Let's consider them in the language of our confession.
 1. God has the sovereignty over all His creatures, to do with us as He pleases
 - a) 2.2 Of God and of the Holy Trinity . . . He hath most sovereign dominion over all creatures, to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever himself pleaseth
 - b) this is Theology proper, the study of the being of God
 2. and, as Sovereign, He indeed has decreed in eternity everything that will happen; this is called God's Decree
 - a) 3.1 Of God's Decree God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass
 3. as I mentioned last week, God knows the future because He is the one who will cause the events of the future to happen the way they happen; this is called God's Providence
 - a) 5.1 Of God's Providence God the good Creator of all things, in his infinite power and wisdom doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, to the end for the which they were created, according unto his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will; to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy.
 4. what will happen will be caused by a certain weather pattern, but God will do it.
 - a) 5.2 Of God's Providence Although in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first cause, all things come to pass immutably and infallibly; so that there is not anything befalls any by chance, or without his providence; yet by the same providence he ordereth them to fall out according to the nature of second causes . . .
 - C. APPLICATION: You might have had thoughts about God that were not high enough, rightly to be thinking about God. So take what the bible says here, and adjust your thoughts about God to the highest thoughts, which are the only ones suitable for pondering Him rightly, so you can worship Him as He ought to be worshiped

1. as to His reign, His sovereignty, think of it not as limited in some way, but as absolute
 - a) He will send unusual weather for 14 years; who has told Him to do that? who can stop Him from doing it? He does with His creation whatever pleases Him
 - b) do any of the human beings involved get to choose whether there is a famine in their country?
 - c) praise Him for His absolute sovereignty over His creation
 2. as to His decree, think of it not as limited in some way, but as absolute
 - a) He will send unusual weather for 14 years, producing first unprecedented plenty, then unprecedented famine
 3. as to His providence, think of it not as limited in some way, but as absolute
 - a) what happens will be caused immediately by the sun, the clouds, the winds, the rains, and the Nile; but don't think that because something is not caused by God immediately, that it isn't caused by Him; if seven years of plenty are immediately caused by patterns of rain and sunshine, still He is the one who is doing these things
 - b) praise Him for His perfect providence
- D. APPLICATION: Be helped in dealing with grievous things in your life, knowing this about life: what happens is God's doing, and everything He does is right. With this understanding, you can think like Job:
1. Job 1:20-22 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. (21) And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." (22) In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.
 2. Job 2:9-10 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" (10) But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.
- E. APPLICATION: Think spiritually about this revelation from God
1. We live now in a time of blessed spiritual plenty: 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
 - a) there is plenty of longsuffering or patience from God
 - b) there is plenty of willingness in God that all should come to repentance
 2. There is coming a time of dreadful destruction:
 - a) to destroy the heavens and the earth 2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will

pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

- b) also to destroy ungodly men 2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
- 3. The destruction will be done by the Lord God.
 - a) God killed all but 8 people by a world-wide flood
 - b) don't think He doesn't do such things, and wouldn't do such a thing
 - c) the bible says, "God is love." Don't read that one verse and ignore everything else the bible says about God.
 - d) don't think sinners will be tormented in hell by the devil; no, the devil and sinners alike will be tormented in hell by God
 - e) Who, then, can stop it? Who can escape it on their own?

God reveals through the beloved son that He is about to send destruction upon the land

II. God Sets the Beloved Son Over the Land to Save the People from the Coming Destruction (33-45)

- A. God speaks to Pharaoh through Joseph, telling Pharaoh to set a discerning and wise man over the land of Egypt to do what is needed to save the people from the coming destruction
- B. God causes Pharaoh to speak to Joseph and of Joseph
 - 1. verses 39-40
 - 2. verse 38
 - 3. verse 43 "Bow the knee"
- C. APPLICATION: Be reminded that God causes all men, even the highest kings to do His bidding regarding His people.
 - 1. whether He makes them throw His people into the fiery furnace or the lions' den or the pit or the prison
 - 2. or whether He makes them set them to rule whole kingdoms
 - 3. therefore pray for all those in authority, for God has their hearts in His hand, to do with as He pleases
 - 4. therefore take heart when you find yourself in lions' den or pit; you are there by God's providence; He is in control; while in the prison, sing hymns at midnight and prove yourself faithful in your work
- D. APPLICATION: Think of our Lord Jesus Christ in light of what this history teaches us.
 - 1. why was Christ sent so low? it was so He could be raised up as the ruler who would save many from the coming destruction

2. where did Christ go when He was raised up? He went to be seated at the right hand of God the Father, from where He rules all things, and is lower than only God the Father Himself
3. what does God say about Him?
 - a) this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, listen to Him
 - b) every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

God reveals through the beloved son that He is about to send destruction upon the land
 God sets the beloved son over the land to save the people from the coming destruction

III. The Beloved Son God Sets Over the Land Provides Abundantly for the People's Salvation from the Coming Destruction (46-52, especially 49)

- A. Joseph collects the grain until there is so much that he stops counting it because it is without number; it is immeasurable; learn something from that strange statement
 1. it is like Joseph to count it, but not like him to stop counting it
 2. it is not literally true that the grain was without number or immeasurable; that is figurative, not literally true
 3. Joseph did not stop counting because he *could* not count it, or because he did not *want* to count it. What's left? It must have been because he did not *need* to count it. God provided such an abundance that it became evident there was no need to count it.
- B. Those who come to Joseph will have enough grain to last through the entire famine
 1. enough for all who come
 2. enough for the whole seven years of famine
- C. APPLICATION: Think spiritually about this, about how our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ provides full salvation.
 1. forgiveness of sins with God
 2. cleansing from sin in His own blood
 3. sure hope of resurrection when He comes back
 4. eternal life
 5. for all who come
 6. for all eternity

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- IV. To Obtain That Salvation from the Coming Destruction, God Commands All Men to Go to the Beloved Son He Has Appointed (53-57, especially 55)
- A. Pharoah told all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do.”
 - 1. so they came to Joseph
 - 2. Joseph opened the storehouses
 - 3. Joseph sold grain to the Egyptians
 - 4. all countries came to Joseph for grain
 - B. APPLICATION: Think spiritually about what this tells us of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 1. God commands all men everywhere to repent of sins, and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation from the coming destruction at the day of final judgment
 - 2. Jesus Christ sells to people without money! Isaiah 55:1-3 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. (2) Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. (3) Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you-- The sure mercies of David.
 - 3. All those who come to Him He will in no wise cast out. He has an abundant supply of forgiveness. He has full pardon for all sinners to come to Him. He is the bread from heaven. Where else could someone go? He has eternal life, and the power to give it to all who come to Him.
 - 4. Forgiveness of sins in His name is preached to all nations

CONCLUSION

God reveals through the beloved son that He is about to send destruction upon the land
God sets the beloved son over the land to save the people from the coming destruction
The beloved son God sets over the land provides abundantly for the people’s salvation from the coming destruction

To obtain that salvation from the coming destruction, God commands all men to go to the beloved son He has appointed

George Lawson *The Life of Joseph:*

Happy will we be if we are thoroughly convinced that we must have recourse to the great Prophet for that instruction in the mind of God which we so greatly need for the prevention of infinitely greater evils than a famine of seven years could produce. When we are deeply convinced that it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps, and that Christ alone can give us

the light of life, we will seek the true wisdom where it is to be found, and will not be disappointed.

Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: (2) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Lawson:

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Will not our folly be a thousand times less worthy of excuse if we disregard the many admonitions of the Bible so often sounded in our ears by the ministers of the Word?

JRY:

7 years = perfect time set by God

What He is about to do + God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace

verse 49 The salvation God provides is a full salvation

-full remission

-for all who will come to Joseph

note in verse 28 what HE is about to do. There are going to be 14 unusual years of weather, and it will be because God does it.

To believe the word of Joseph, and to do what he commands, is the only way to be saved from the famine. This must be done while there is abundance instead of famine.

Likewise, to believe the word of Jesus, and to do what He commands, is the only way to be saved from eternal death. This must be done while there is life instead of death.

What grace from God that there is a time of plentiful gospel preaching of forgiveness before the time comes when there will be none of it!