

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 23rd July 2023

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Hymns Psalm 45:1-7 2nd
Version T -Diademata, 32 T when I survey, 475, 50

Read: Genesis Text Genesis 41:56-57

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph Opened All the Store houses

At the age of 30 years old when Joseph commenced his public service to God by serving Pharaoh, as ruler in the land of Egypt, Joseph was faithful ruling over Pharaoh's house and Kingdom.

Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt labouring for the people, gathering in corn in preparation for the coming famine, so that the people of land and other nations who came seeking bread would live.

Verse 56 shows the grain gathered was placed in the, **Storehouses** meaning **granaries, barns, or warehouses**, and then be given out, in due time.

During the famine, there was dearth in the land, which then later impacted all Egypt, leaving the people of the land famished, in need of food.

The people came in great need seeking bread, and in answer scriptures teaches in **verse 56** "... **Joseph opened all the storehouses**.

The word **opened**, is a marvellous word packed with gospel nutrients to feast upon.

If you think of a shop, there are times the shop may be opened but the door is closed, and you have to open it to enter in, or if you go to the bigger stores, automatic doors open and close.

But here is the point, when **Joseph opened all the storehouses**, they remained opened fully and freely, for all to come, which included the Egyptians, representing the Gentile nations, or as the word Gentile means heathens worshipping their many gods,

but also in Genesis 42, Jacob's sons, Joseph's brothers, who are Jews, come to Joseph and to the storehouses to take of this provision.

What a picture of the gospel from the life of Joseph lifting our mind higher to think of the provision found in Jesus Christ for both Jew and Gentiles from all the nations of the world.

Christ is the Saviour of the world meaning, the world has only been given one Saviour, and all who are spiritually hungry and bankrupt, must come to Christ and they will receive the bread of life.

Jesus Christ is the sinners storehouse, He is full of truth, grace, mercy and peace.

All that sinners need for earthly completeness and eternal nourishment is found and supplied by Jesus Christ, the bread of life.

Joseph filled the storehouses full, for the purpose to provide and give out these good gifts, so that the people might eat and live.

with that in mind let us consider Joseph opened all the storehouses.

I FIRST, THE APPOINTMENT OF ALL THE STOREHOUSES.

When Joseph interpreted God's message revealed through Pharaoh's dream, what God was about to do, concerning a future famine.

Joseph had the foreknowledge that when the famine came, the people would be in want and need provision.

Therefore, the Sovereign decree of God in His works of providence, ordered King Pharaoh to authorise and appoint Joseph to make provision for people for their time of great danger.

During the seven years of plenty the people had gathered food in which they lacked nothing, however, that soon came to an end and the people found themselves in great need, and physically hungry.

They were now empty, and for the first time became anxious and concerned for their lives.

The impact of the famine caused to consider their ways.

In their deepest need the people were told to go unto Joseph, the reason being, during the seven years of plenty, Joseph set up storehouses throughout the land.

And this is amazing, because, while Joseph had made provision for the people, **he didn't open the storehouses until the people acknowledged their need for the bread.**

The storehouses were not opened until the people cried out for bread.

You see had Joseph opened the storehouses and gave during the years of plenty, then the people would have become careless, and wasteful of the supply, and taken Joseph's work for granted, they would have taken Joseph's provision without any need, and

thankfulness, and then continue without any concern of the coming famine.

It was only when the people cried for bread, and acknowledged their emptiness and realised the seriousness of the famine did they come to Joseph and then He opened all storehouses.

Therefore, men and woman here is another gospel truth that points to the sinners plight, and the Saviour's provision.

What was true of the famine and need physically, universally, was and is also true physically, spiritually and universally with Adam and Eve.

You see our first parents Adam and Eve enjoyed plenty, they never lacked, there was no feeling of need, or anxiousness because there was no sin, there was no famine.

Before the fall, Adam and Eve were satisfied with God.

However, the moment Adam and Eve fell into sin, and all mankind having sinned and fallen in Adam in his transgression, felt the impact of a spiritual famine in their soul. There was misery, and fear.

For the first time, Adam and Eve felt a need they never had before. A hunger that desired to be filled.

Their body began to **physically** suffer pain, decay and corruption. **Spiritually** they were bankrupt of blessing.

Sin cost them everything.

Here is the amazing plan of redemption appointed.

The Lord Jesus Christ foreknew the fall of humanity into sin, and famine of soul by it, though He did not cause it, as God is not the author of sin.

Yet in the sovereign purpose of God, the fall was permitted, for His creation to see, God's eternal, infinite and unchanging perfections of holiness, justice, love, mercy faithfulness, goodness all in the person of His beloved son.

That means Christ's death was not accidental or in vain, rather, Jesus Christ as **Rev 13:8** teaches is the ***Lamb slain from the foundation of the world***. **Ephesians 1:4** teaches God has chosen us (believers) in Him (Christ) ***before the foundation of the world***.

God revealed His promised Redeemer to Adam and Eve after their fall into sin.

In their fallen state, they were taught redemption the forgiveness of sin by shedding of blood from a perfect sacrifice, accepted by God.

In their famine of soul, empty, poverty stricken and in need of spiritual life, the blessings of God in Christ was theirs by faith, they believed on the promise of a Saviour.

All they needed for life with God, as any sinner saved by grace, election, regeneration, union, redemption, justification, adoption, sanctification, to glorification flows from the riches of Christ's storehouse.

Believer, we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Christ is our appointed storehouse of blessings.

I FIRST, THE APPOINTMENT OF ALL THE STOREHOUSES.

II SECOND, THE ABUNDANCE IN ALL THE STOREHOUSES.

when Joseph went forth from Pharaoh and worked in the land, we read in verse 34 he was to take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.

The word **plenteous** means *abundance, the idea is to fill full.*

verse 47 *And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.* The word **handfuls** is another word meaning *abundance.*

In **verse 49**, ***And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.***

The corn that Joseph gathered was immeasurable, inexhaustible, immense, it was an abundance supply.

The amount of grain was as the sand of the sea, it couldn't be counted.

That's why Joseph kept giving and giving. There was enough, a sufficiency to meet the need giving life in the face of death.

Surely our minds are taken to the Lord Jesus Christ, our greater than Joseph, there is an abundance in who Christ is and His ministry.

God's divine power has given all things in Christ for life and eternity.

John 6:35 *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst*

The reason the Saviour could say such words, is because He is God, eternal, infinite and immutable, in His being. In Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

He alone satisfies the soul.

The Apostle Paul, taught in **Ephesians 2:4** “***God, who is rich in mercy....” verse 7 the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.***

The word exceeding, means to throw beyond the mark.

It is a Greek illustrative word, used in spear throwing.

During competitive games when the spear was thrown it's leaning was marked, however if someone else threw the spear beyond the mark, they surpassed anyone else.

Lift this word and its meaning higher to Jesus Christ, the storehouses of His grace, are abundant, exceeding, they surpass all else, they are extraordinary, outstanding, exceeding, because they are eternal.

The abundance supply in Christ, is infinite, immeasurable, inexhaustible, and immense.

see this in the garden of Eden, at the first transgression, in Christ there is all abundance, in surpassing the failure of Adam.

Christ went beyond the mark. Christ went beyond Adam, securing what Adam failed to secure, eternal life.

Christ's perfect obedience secured salvation for a multitude sinners, that no man can number.

Christ has surpassed Adam, He reversed the events of the fall of Adam and restored the blessing of God again to sinners who trust in Christ for salvation.

In Christ there is an abundance to save sinners, and satisfy believers.

There is amazing, and abounding grace in Christ that saves sinners, and His sufficiently supplies believers daily through life.

His eternal blessings surpass anything the world could temporarily offer.

Just as Joseph filled the storehouses full so there would be no lack, so in Christ, there is no lack, no want to them that trust in Him, He continually fills the cup overflowing.

I FIRST, THE APPOINTMENT OF ALL THE STOREHOUSES.

II SECOND, THE ABUNDANCE IN ALL THE STOREHOUSES.

III THE ACCESSIBILITY OF ALL THE STOREHOUSES.

As Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh he travelled up and down the land, ***and he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.***

That means in all the cities there were storehouses established.

Joseph placed the storehouses throughout the land so that the storehouses where accessible, they could be reached from whatever distance people came, whether in Egypt or even other nations coming into Egyptian borders.

All the people needed was in reach. There was a place of provision for famished people to go.

Joseph opened all the storehouses.

Once again, we have Bible truth that points to Jesus Christ, who is accessible for men and woman to come unto in spiritual famine and danger.

All the physical provisions of Joseph's storehouses, pointed to one spiritual and eternal storehouse, the Lord Jesus Christ himself.

You see salvation is not coming to a place physically, or locationally, rather is coming to Christ Himself spiritually to receive Him by faith.

men and woman, Jew and Gentiles, rich and poor, from all nations, can come Christ and from whatever country they are in and however deep in sin they find themselves.

In great spiritual need seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near, for them that seek Him shall find Him.

In the spiritual bareness of Adam and Eve, Christ was accessible to them, He was put before them.

There were not without hope. Christ was provided for them to put away their sin.

in Joshua 20, for the manslayer in great need cities of refuge were accessible for him to run and find refuge.

So, it was with you believer, when you were without Christ, in due time, the exact time Christ died for you, the ungodly, He was accessible for you come freely and ask for forgiveness.

Just as Joseph's storehouses were in reach for needy souls to come, take and live, so Christ is accessible to you today, come, take and live.

IV FOURTH THE APPLICATION OF ALL THE STOREHOUSES.

Verses 56-57 “And the famine was over all the face of the earth: and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt. ⁵⁷ And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.

As there is no perfect type of Christ, for that reason there are some who feel the type or symbolism in Joseph breaks down at this point, because when the people came to Joseph, he sold them corn.

But, the gospel is without price without money, which is true.

However, I want you to see these words symbolically in another way, that keeps the type, in considering a full surrender in coming to Christ.

Remember when the people came to Pharaoh crying for bread what did He say to them, ***go unto Joseph and what he saith to you do.***

While the people felt their need physically, they still were rich in possessions of money, cattle land and servants, other backups.

In fact, we learn in **Genesis 47**, when the famine was at its strongest, **verse 15** the money faileth, but they still had their cattle, and then they had to part with their cattle in exchange for bread.

The point is this, to receive the bread, the people must be willing to part with possessions they depended upon or trusted in, such as riches, cattle, fields, servants, land, to fully trust in Joseph's work and work.

Chapters 42-47 Joseph's word is to give all to him.

But in surrendering all to Joseph, they never lost out because they received much more in return. They were blessed, they were saved from death by famine.

In **chapter 41** they received corn, **ch 47** seed which was sown and reaped bountifully.

so much so they said in **ch 47:25** *thou hast saved our lives, let us find grace in the sight of my Lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants.*

In the gospel, all who come in obedience to Christ's word, will surrender hindrances, idols they trust in, and certain sins in order to have sins forgiven,

Otherwise, they become, like the rich layer in **Matthew 19:22** who went away sorrowful unwilling to part with possessions, unwilling to put Christ first.

What about you today! will you come and buy! give to Christ your life and receive His garments of salvation.

Jesus Christ is the Word of God, the bread of life, who will save and feed your famished soul. Come to find grace in the sight of Christ today. There is grace to cover all your sins.

Believer there is grace to cleanse you from daily sin, and to empower you to service Him and walk before Him in righteousness and truth. The storehouses, of grace is open.