

Prayer Meeting Address given by Mr Jabez Rutt at Lamberhurst on 12th March 2024

Reading: Genesis 41

We read here of Joseph, what a lovely character he was, what a gracious man he was, what a godly man he was, one of those outstanding people. We have them scattered throughout scripture like Joshua who led the children of Israel into the Promised Land, another very gracious man who had a tremendous influence on his day and generation. Now Joseph is a most beautiful type of our Lord Jesus Christ. Just as his father sent him down to his brethren and they took him and bound him and sold him as a slave into Egypt for twenty pieces of silver so our Lord Jesus Christ was sent of his Father, "God so loved the world he gave his only begotten Son." He was sold by Judas Iscariot for thirty pieces of silver. We see the beautiful parallels there are between Joseph and Christ. Joseph when he was a young man, had those visions and dreams that his brethren would all come and do obeisance unto him. One of the reasons his brethren hated him was because he said that they would come and bow down to him. The other reason was because he was the favourite of his father who made him a coat of many colours and therefore his brethren were very jealous of him. Surely the favourite of the eternal Father is his only begotten Son and it was in infinite love to the church that he sent his only begotten Son into the world to save sinners.

Joseph had those years of great affliction, great trial. I have been reading through the history of Joseph today, we won't look at it all, but when his brethren came to buy corn they were so guilty when he sent them back with food and told them they must bring his other brother down, they not realising that he knew the Hebrew language, they said to one another, this is because of our brother Joseph. We did not hear his anguish and his cries when we sold him as a slave into Egypt. They had a guilty conscience. But think of Christ, he came unto his own and his own received him not. You see what beautiful parallels there are between Joseph and our Lord Jesus Christ. He became a servant in Potiphar's house and everything he touched prospered. The Lord was with him and Potiphar perceived that the Lord was with him and put everything into his hand, then Potiphar's wife falsely accused him and he was sold.

How many times our Lord Jesus Christ was falsely accused. So Joseph is a beautiful type of Christ and because of that false accusation he was put into prison and again everything he touched the prison governor saw that whatever he did the Lord was with him. He put all the

prisoners in his hands so that he did not have to think about what was happening. Then the butler and baker of Pharaoh were cast into prison for some reason and Joseph interpreted their dreams. One dreamed he was the baker with the bread and the birds came and took it all away. The butler dreamed that he would again be squeezing the grapes into the cup for Pharaoh and Joseph right interpreted that the butler would be restored and the baker would be hung. Exactly as he said so it was performed. The Lord revealed things unto him, shewed him things. Then Pharaoh had this dream and none of the magicians or soothsayers could answer or speak of what that dream was. The butler said, I remember my faults this day there is a man that I was with in prison and he could interpret dreams. So immediately Pharaoh sent for him and he was taken from prison, he interprets the dream, we have just read of it and immediately he was elevated. He came from the prison and the same day he was made the first ruler in the kingdom under Pharaoh. What a tremendous thing! But look at all his travail and his sorrows and you look at Christ and all his travail and his sorrows, far greater. How he was taken by the hands of wicked men, falsely accused. He said he was the Son of God, that was one of their chief accusations. My beloved friends, he is the Son of God, he always has been.

It was verse 38 that seemed to stand out to me today, "And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find *such a one* as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God *is*?" What a wonderful thing, I have never particularly thought too much of that before but again what a beautiful type of Christ. Christ was anointed with the Spirit without measure, the spirit of wisdom, the spirit of understanding. So was Joseph, a man in whom the spirit of God is and that is very evident how that he was elevated. Think of Christ in his crucifixion and his death and then the commencement his exaltation. He rose from the dead, he swallowed up death in victory, he brought life and immortality to light. He hath destroyed death and him that had the power of death. Then he bodily ascended to heaven sits at the right hand of his eternal Father. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow." Then just as all the people came to Joseph when they had great need, so poor sinners are invited to go to Christ in their time of great need. My beloved friends, when the Lord's people have need his goodness will find out a way. Jacob and all his sons and their wives and their children were brought down from the

land of Canaan into the land of Egypt and the Lord appeared to Jacob and he said, "fear not to go down into Egypt:" for there he had prepared a place.

I have always rather liked the closing of the book of Genesis where it speaks of Joseph and his brethren when Jacob died and his brethren were very fearful that Joseph would actually turn against them. In chapter 50 of Genesis, the last chapter, verse 15, "And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him. And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil:" now the Lord's people are brought to see that, how that Christ was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, "and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of thy servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him. And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we *be* thy servants. And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for *am* I in the place of God? (*please note Pastor the correct wording in the Scriptures, " am I in the place of God" not "I am in the place of God."*) "For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Here Joseph is a beautiful type of Christ. "And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for *am* I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me;" so it was with Christ when he was crucified, "*but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." Now thinking here of Joseph as a type of Christ, "Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them." So you see, friends, what a beautiful type of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. But may the words of Pharaoh abide with us as we look at our Lord Jesus Christ. "And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find *such a one* as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God *is*?" May the Lord add his blessing to these few remarks that we have made.