**Joseph Opens the Storehouses**

*Genesis 41:56*

**Introduction**

1. After 7 years of plentiful harvest in Egypt, the Egyptians and surrounding countries became victims of a severe famine.
2. The Egyptians had wisely stored away grain during the years of plenty in preparation for such a famine.
3. **(vv. 56-57)** – Joseph, only second to Pharaoh in Egypt, opened the storehouses full of grain for the Egyptians, and for the surrounding countries.
   1. This was an incredible act of provision for the Egyptians, through the providence of God for the Israelites, and even to the surrounding nations.
   2. This was ultimately a product of God’s providence which was one of many events to fulfill the promise made to Abraham – ***“In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).***
4. Joseph Opens the Storehouses
5. The Prisoners’ Dreams
   1. Joseph rose to power in Potiphar’s house, then in the prison in which he was placed after being falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife.
   2. Pharaoh’s butler and baker were both put in prison – They ***“offended their lord, the king of Egypt” (40:1).***
   3. **Both had dreams, and were sad, for there was no interpreter.**
   4. Joseph interpreted their dreams – ***“Do not interpretations belong to God” (40:8b)?***
      1. **Baker’s dream interpretation** – He would be executed.
         1. Three baskets on head with baked goods for Pharaoh; birds ate them.
         2. Three days; Pharoah will hang you and birds will eat flesh.
      2. **Butler’s dream interpretation** – He would be restored to his previous position as Pharaoh’s butler.
         1. Vine with three branches bearing grapes; Pharoah’s cup in hand; pressed grapes into cup, gave to Pharaoh.
         2. Three days; Pharoah will restore you to place as butler.
         3. **(40:14-15)** – Joseph told the butler to remember him.
         4. **(40:23)** – The butler did not remember him.
6. Pharaoh’s Dreams
   1. **2 Years later – Pharaoh had two dreams, which Joseph would later note were concerning the same thing.**
      1. 7 fine and fat cows are eaten by 7 ugly and gaunt cows.
      2. 7 plump and good heads of grain devoured by 7 thin and blighted heads of grain.
   2. **(41:8)** – Pharaoh sought the interpretations, but none could interpret.
   3. **(41:9-13)** – The Butler remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.
   4. **Pharaoh called for Joseph, and Joseph interpreted Pharaoh’s dreams – 1 interpretation for both combined.**
      1. 7 cows and heads of grain are years – 7 plentiful years, 7 years of famine.
      2. The years of plenty would be forgotten when the years of famine arrived.
7. Joseph’s Rise to Power
   1. **(41:33-36)** – Joseph’s advice to Pharaoh.
   2. **(41:37-41)** – Pharaoh puts Joseph into a position of authority.
   3. **(41:47-49)** – Gathered ***“immeasurable”*** grain during the years of plenty.
   4. **(41:53-57)** – Egypt, under Joseph’s command, stored grain during the 7 plentiful years**. Then years of famine came, and Joseph opened the storehouses providing sustenance for Egypt, and all surrounding countries affected by the famine**.
8. God’s Provision for Israel **(Genesis 50:19-21, 24)**
   1. The famine brought the sons of Jacob, Joseph’s brothers who sold him as a slave, and eventually Jacob himself, and all their families to Egypt. (***By the providence of God through several events.***)
   2. **(50:19-21, 24)** – Joseph’s brothers were anticipating the evil Joseph would repay them after Jacob’s death, but Joseph explained that this was by the providence of God.
      1. The Israelites were brought into Egypt.
      2. **They would grow into a great nation in Egypt.**
      3. **God would eventually deliver them out of oppression, showing His power, and showing Himself to be their God.**
   3. All of this would ultimately lead to the Christ through the nation of Israel.
      1. ***“God meant it for good…to save many people alive” (v. 20)*** – likely not even Joseph could have fathomed the depth of such words.
      2. ***“In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).***
9. The Storehouses Were Opened by His Authority
10. Given Authority by Pharaoh
    1. **Genesis 41:39-41** – Pharaoh did not only choose Joseph to be the master over the storing and selling of grain, but of all of Egypt.
    2. **41:42-44** – Joseph was given royal garments (signs of authority) and taken through the streets of Egypt to have his authority shown.
       1. **V. 44** – His authority was all encompassing.
       2. **Every Egyptian was under the rule of Joseph and had to obey him.**
    3. **NOTE: Joseph was humbled (sold to slavery, prisoner) and then exalted (none greater, save Pharoah).**
11. The Only Authority to Open the Storehouses
    1. **41:55** – When the famine came, the people quickly felt its fury, and turned to Pharaoh for sustenance.
       1. Pharaoh directed them to Joseph.
       2. **Pharaoh was only to be approached through Joseph – All the grain in the storehouses belonged to Pharaoh but was inaccessible except through Joseph.**
    2. **41:33, 36, 38** – Joseph was the architect of the storehouses, and the process of storage.
       1. He was the man fit to open the storehouses.
       2. **This was all by his plan (of course inspired of God), and it was he that would execute it when it was the right time.**
12. Jesus Given Authority by God
    1. **Matthew 28:18** – Jesus’ authority was given, as was Joseph’s, and was not limited. (ALL, IN HEAVEN AND EARTH)
       1. **His humility was rewarded with exaltation and dominion** – **Philippians 2:8-11**
    2. ***“All should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him” (John 5:23)***.
    3. **John 5:30; 7:14-18** – Jesus’ authority was not independent of God’s.
       1. His word was God’s will, and He only spoke according to that which would bring God glory.
       2. *The same was with Joseph and Pharaoh – what Joseph said was Pharaoh’s command, and all were expected to obey him.*
    4. ***There are implications following this principle in salvation. 🡪***
13. The Only Authority to Open the Storehouses of God’s Grace
    1. **John 5:20-21, 24-26, 37-40** – in explaining His authority, and the Father’s testimony of such, Jesus told the Jews that they cannot have life because they reject Him.
       1. **(vv. 20-21, 24-26)** – Jesus has the authority ***(“My word”)*** for resurrection to life – spiritual, then bodily **(vv. 28-29).**
       2. **(v. 39-40)** – God pointed the way to Jesus in the OT, but when He came they rejected Him – He was the only One God gave the authority to for granting life.
       3. **John 6:66-69** – some reject the testimony pointing to Jesus, and therefore reject eternal life. Others see Him as the exclusive way. (**cf. John 14:6**)
    2. **Matthew 11:25-30** – Jesus will take the burden of sin away from our lives, but we must willingly take His yoke.
       1. **(vv. 25-26)** – after speaking woes to those who rejected Him – those with pride rejected Jesus.
       2. **(v. 27)** – The only knowledge of the Father and of salvation comes through knowing Jesus.
       3. **(vv. 28-30)** – Jesus offers an easy yoke of rest from the burden of sin.
          1. **Yoke** – a symbol of subjection and service.
          2. **Jesus is saying we MUST DO AS HE SAYS!**
          3. **Luke 6:46** – some do not, and therefore will not be saved.
    3. **Mark 16:15-16** – Jesus clearly laid down the conditions of salvation.
14. The Storehouses Were Opened to All Who Would Come
15. The Provision Was Not Only for the Egyptians
    1. **Genesis 41:56-57** – The storehouses were not only filled during the years of plenty for the Egyptians, but for the surrounding nations. (By God’s providence specifically for the house of Jacob.)
    2. Joseph’s wisdom provided for all people affected by the famine. All they had to do was COME.
       1. There was plenty – **Genesis 41:47-49 – *“brought forth abundantly…very much grain…it was immeasurable”***
          1. God’s grace and mercy is abundant **– Psalm 103:8, 17-18; 1 Timothy 1:14-15**
       2. They had to come and buy – **Genesis 41:57**
          1. God invites us to come and buy – **Isaiah 55:1-7**
          2. **Matthew 11:28; Revelation 22:17** – come whoever desires.
16. Jesus’ Death, and the Gospel Call are for All Men
    1. **1 John 2:2** – Jesus’ death serves as the propitiation by His blood for ALL MEN.
    2. **John 3:16** – God’s love was for the whole world, and the provision of GRACE WAS FOR WHOEVER.
    3. **Romans 1:16-17** – The gospel is God’s power to salvation for anybody (Jew or Gentile) who would believe and obey it.
    4. **Acts 2:38-39** – promise to as many as the Lord shall call.
       1. **Matthew 22:14** – many called, few chosen.
       2. Stresses that the fault lies with the refusal of man, not God’s negligence.
       3. Those who didn’t travel to Egypt and appeal to Joseph weren’t fed. Those who don’t submit to Jesus in an appeal for a good conscience won’t be saved (**Romans 10:13; Acts 22:16;** **1 Peter 3:21**).

**Conclusion**

1. Joseph opened the storehouses providing sustenance for all of Egypt, Israel, and surrounding nations.
2. **Jesus opened the storehouses of God’s grace for all the world.**
3. **Do you desire salvation? You must appeal to Jesus!**