

[24 : 22] And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God. And God will shortly bring it about. Now, therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man and set him over the land of Egypt.

Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years.

And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities and let them keep it.

That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.

This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, Can we find a man like this in whom is the Spirit of God?

[25 : 30] Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command.

Only as regards to the throne will I be greater than you. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh took his signatory from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck, and he made him ride in his second chariot.

And they called out before him, Bow the knee. Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without your consent, no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zathana-Panea, and he gave him in marriage Athena, the daughter of Potipharah, priest of On.

So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt. Amen. May the reading of God's word be blessed to those who have heard it.

[26 : 58] We'll now continue in praise by singing in Gaelic. We'll sing in Psalm 80, from the beginning of that psalm. The words in English are, He is Israel's shepherd, like a flock.

Thou that dost Joseph guide, shine forth, O thou that dost between the cherubims abide. In Ephraim and Benjamin, and in Manasseh's sight, O come for our salvation, stir up thy strength and might.

And we'll sing these words in Gaelic, and we'll remain seated for this singing. NINGNING!

..

NINGNING .

[29 : 27] .

And it's true, and it's true, and it's true.

We'll turn back to that chapter that we read together, Genesis 41, and we'll read at verse 25.

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, The dreams of Pharaoh are one. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

Last time we looked at Joseph, he was in prison. He had interpreted the dreams of the baker and the cup bearer.

[31 : 19] He was asked to be remembered. But still he remained there. And 13 years, he was a slave and a prisoner.

13 years, he was left not really knowing what God was going to do in his life. But even so, it was 13 years where Joseph trusted God, even in the worst of circumstances.

It might even have been 13 years where everyone else around him doubted the trust that he had in his God.

Maybe years where they asked him, Why on earth do you believe in this God? What has this God done for you? This is the God that has driven you from your family.

This is the God that has let you become a slave. This is the God that has left you here in prison.

Why would you trust this God?

[32 : 26] What has this God done for you? But he does not doubt in his God.

People may think that it is a punishment that he has come through all this in his life.

But it's not. This chapter makes it clear that it is God making preparations for Joseph for this moment.

For this chapter where in the mysterious way of God, he orchestrates everything now to turn on his head.

To turn Joseph's life upside down and to make these dreams that he had as a 17-year-old boy come true. All these years preparing for this moment.

[33 : 25] In which in the almost twinkling of an eye, in a short few hours, this world was turned completely upside down.

This is the pattern God uses in the Joseph story. But it is a pattern that God will ultimately use in our lives too.

Where he will turn everything upside down. In the twinkling of an eye, as is read often 1 Corinthians. In a moment. The twinkling of an eye.

When the last trumpet will sound. We shall all be changed. The question is, changed to what? Changed to where and who will we be with? When that great change, that life-changing moment comes to our door.

[34 : 27] As we look at this dream scene, I want to notice the change that God makes in Joseph's life. I want to notice the change that God makes in even Pharaoh's life.

And I want to consider the change that God can make in our life. If we trust and believe in Jesus Christ. And I want to do that by firstly looking at the confusion that we see in this passage as we read through it.

The confusion that is even evident in Joseph's life when we look at it from the surface. And then I want to see the clarity that Joseph brings into this situation of confusion.

And then consider the certainty of the words that Joseph spoke as they became true. The confusion, the clarity and the certainty.

So we'll begin with the confusion. And by means of background, when we look at Joseph, it's almost as if we've got the story in full now.

[35 : 38] But if we didn't have the story, if you're watching a series on telly and they leave you with a cliffhanger, you don't know the outcome.

You're wondering what's going to happen next. So you tune in to see what is next in the storyline. Joseph, the story of Joseph.

It can leave us with lots of questions and perplexing providences that we see him in if we did not know the full story.

I wonder, was Joseph questioning himself when he was experiencing all this? And when he was left for 13 years? But we don't have any record of him questioning.

We don't have any record of his complaint against God. We don't have any record of his cry like David would often mention in the Psalms. Lord, why have you forgotten me?

[36 : 44] Why is the cupbearer not remembered to speak about me? Lord, what are you doing? What is happening? He silently trusts in God.

Because he trusts in a God that has a plan for his life. Year in, year out. For 13 long years.

In such perplexing providences. He trusts in God. And so that is true for the Christian as well. Even in our perplexing providences.

We should have that silent faith that holds on to God. Even when we have promises that God will not leave us nor forsake us.

And in the Joseph story it feels like he is getting hammered downward and downward and downward all the time. And it seems like the promise that he has of everyone bowing down to him. Is getting further and further and further away from ever becoming true.

[37 : 49] And yet he holds on. And so we, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, should hold on in our perplexing providences. Even when it seems like the truth of them being fulfilled seems further and further and further away from becoming true.

And as in the Joseph story, God is preparing Joseph. And maybe God is preparing us even this evening.

For the questions that we have and the perplexities of the situations that we are in. And we look at the Joseph story and we ask, well, what sort of training ground is this?

For a leader. That he would be taken from his family. That he would be left as a slave. That he would be condemned to prison for something that he didn't do.

He's ended up in the pit. Once by his brother. He's ended up in the pit. Twice by being put in prison. He's beginning at ground level.

[38 : 58] He's beginning with nothing. He's beginning at the bottom rung. And we see him work his way up even as a slave in Potiphar's house. He gets respected.

Potiphar leaves him in charge of all things. We see him even race up within the prison. The chief prisoner would leave him in charge of all the duties that had to be done.

He's going to be done. He's going to be done. He's going to be done. He's going to be done. He's going to be done. Learning how God would instruct him and guide him. Learning from these blows to trust in God every day, every month, every year.

He learns to honour God in all circumstances. And so God comes and honours him at the right time.

And the time that we read of in chapter 41 is that time that God has ordained to honour the man that has faithfully honoured him.

[40 : 05] But even there is a bit of confusion when we look at this passage. Joseph would have been going about his daily duties, if you can imagine.

He was in prison. That morning, he would have been going around there doing his daily tasks. But someone came in to summon him to come and see Pharaoh.

I wonder what he thought when he was washing and shaving himself and putting on clean clothes. What's going to happen to me?

Am I going to live? Am I going to die? Will I be a baker? Will I be a cup bearer? And though Joseph didn't know, he trusted in a God that did.

And what seems so confusing on the surface, I don't think Joseph was confused within himself.

What seems so perplexing on the outside.

[41 : 11] I believe Joseph was fully trusting in a God who could, as his word says, work all things together for good to those that are called according to his purposes.

And so he knew he was called according to God's purposes. And so he continued to trust in God. Even when on the surface, things seemed so perplexing.

But when we look at Pharaoh, there is a deeper confusion in his life. And the confusion that we see is presented to us.

By something that leaves him troubled. And we see that in the dreams. Verse 8, we didn't read it, tells us that Pharaoh was troubled by the dreams that he had experienced.

And when he woke in the morning, it's almost as if there was a matter of urgency about these dreams. He couldn't just forget about them and walk away.

[42 : 18] They were deep rooted within him. He couldn't put it off. He had to figure out what they meant. It's almost as if these dreams brought a deep distress in his life.

And we can see why. Because it seems that these dreams were so vivid. So when he woke, it says that in verse 7.

And Pharaoh awoke at the end. And behold, it was a dream. It was as if that dream was so real.

That when he awoke, he realized it was only a dream.

But Wenham tells us that the dreams of these Egyptians were considered to connect them with the gods that they believed. The gods of the Egyptian culture.

And the symbol of a cow was the symbol of the Egyptian goddess of fertility. And the dream that he had, it's not a nice dream, is it?

[43 : 23] Of the nice cows being eaten up by the ugly cows. It's almost as if someone is trying to tell him something important here. What am I being told is the question.

What do the cows mean? What does the corn mean? So he addresses all his magicians. All those who advise him.

People who are considered to be wisdom priests. Who would understand all things and give him advice. But none of them could interpret what it meant.

He went through the whole country, verse 8 tells us. There was no one of all Egypt, of all its wise men, that could tell him what it meant.

This whole country, this whole government is confused. They do not have an answer. Pharaoh does not have peace in his heart. And we've got to ask, where will he find his clarity?

[44 : 33] All the wisdom of man could not help him. All the resources of his riches could not bring him peace. But the cupbearer speaks up. And the cupbearer tells him.

I know a man. I know a man that might be able to bring clarity to the situation. And so our second point of clarity comes from verse 25 onwards.

This is when Joseph comes into the presence of Pharaoh. This is the only hope that Pharaoh has of gaining clarity of this situation.

Will Joseph bring him clarity? Joseph comes into the presence of Pharaoh here. And the commentator Boyce says that there is a great temptation straight away thrown in his path.

In verse 15. In verse 15. He was thrown in his path. I'll get that right. In verse 15. Pharaoh said to Joseph.

[45 : 42] The clarity comes when Joseph interprets the doom. Sorry. Pharaoh. Joseph is brought in for the presence of Pharaoh in verse 15. And there is a great temptation there.

Boyce tells us. Pharaoh says to him. I have heard it said of you. But when you hear a dream. You can interpret it. Joseph's here. Having been trapped for 13 years. And now he's got the opportunity to be free before the king.

He's got this once in a lifetime moment to speak with Pharaoh. And he's saying. Pharaoh's saying to him. You are the man. Are you not the man?

Are you the guy that can help me? What does Pharaoh say? What does Joseph say? In verse 16. It is not in me.

[46 : 46] God will give Pharaoh a favourable answer. It is all of God. It has nothing to do with himself or his ability.

And the temptation here is for him to say. Yes it is. I can do it. I can help you. If he set me free. But no. Joseph will not dishonour God.

Joseph will not take the praise away from God's name. And he behaves as he did with the prisoners. Who acknowledge that God will interpret the dream. He is the same before this king that can set him free.

God will interpret your dream. It has nothing to do with me. And he in fact. He corrects fail.

He tells him. You're wrong. It is not me. It is God. And I don't think that's something. That should be taken lightly. But it highlights a point that.

[47 : 51] Briefly in passing. That those who speak for God. must always honour God. And not take the glory unto themselves. When the preacher preaches the word of God.

And people praise the preacher. When someone tells their testimony. And people praise the person for telling their testimony. We must be cautious of it.

That we do not fall into temptation. And receive the praise and glory. That is due to God. The God who has saved us.

And the God who blesses his word. And the gathering of his people. Joseph here. Joseph here. Is a spokesman of God. That honour God. And so he hears of Pharaoh's dream.

The ugly cows eating up the healthy ones. But they still remained as ugly as ever. The same is repeated with the ears of corn. What happens is.

[48 : 54] The bad eats up the good. The ugly eats up the attractive. And death eats up wealth. The easterly wind would kill the corn.

And the corn that was dead. Ate up the good corn. That would bring Egypt wealth. Joseph has a clear interpretation for Pharaoh.

Of what this dream means. And it is all summed up there in verse 29. There will come seven years of great plenty. Throughout the land of Egypt. But after them.

There will arise seven years of famine. And he goes on. To speak and emphasise. The severity of this famine. That will come. Because he is telling there.

What God will do. This is God's plan. And yes he will bring goodness. In your experience. But so he will bring. Hardships.

[49 : 56] He will bring a famine. The plenty will be forgotten. The famine. Famine will consume the land. The plenty will be unknown. It will be very severe.

And it will be something that will surely happen. Joseph brings clarity amidst the confusion of Pharaoh.

Amidst the confusion of this government. When no one else could give an answer. Joseph brings understanding. But he doesn't stop with the dream.

He also gives a solution. From verse 33 onwards. Of what this government should do. He advises him. To pick a man.

To take a fifth. From the population. Population of grain. Of grain. And what he says to Pharaoh. Is a warning.

[51 : 00] And it is a plan. That he. Pharaoh. Humbly. Receives. So how do we apply this. Confusion. And clarity.

That is going on here today. You look out over this world. What do you see? Do you see something that's orderly? Something that know.

People that know what they're doing. I think we look out over this world. And we see war. We see. Deceit. In the lives of people.

We see. People. Telling lies. We see. Immorality. In. Homes. And families. We see. Nations. That are. Confused. And turned upside down. We see. People. Who do not. Even. Know. Who they are. Themselves. And we've got to stand back.

[51 : 57] And go. Well. Aren't we all. Confused here. Aren't we. As a nation. And a people. Lost. And I believe.

It is partly. To do with our nation's. Rejection. Of God. But we have decided. Not to listen to God. And God has said. Okay. I will leave you to it. And what we see.

Is a people. That are confused. Confusion. Rules. When we. Remove. God. From our lives. And that is not just. On a national level.

That is on a personal. Level two. If we. Dismiss. God. We can become. Confused. We can become. Confused. By the perplexities. Of our experience. And we wonder. What has gone on. We even wonder. Who am I? And the Christian.

[52 : 54] Is not immune. From this. If the Christian. Is someone. That decides. To put down. Their Bible. And stop. Reading it. Because this is.

Where we find. Our clarity. It is. In the word of God. This is where. We must go. When we do not. Understand. What is going on. When we look out. Into this world. And we see it.

Upside down. We see it. Totally. Confused. We see. People. That are confused. We see. Families. That are dysfunctional. We wonder. What on earth.

Is going on. We open our Bibles. And we start. Reading about. People that are greedy. People that are sexually immoral.

People. That do not listen. To the word of God. Nations. Fighting against nations. And we see.

[53 : 48] And understand. What is going on. Sin. Is ruling. In the hearts. And lives. Of men. And so. We come to this word.

Again. And again. Day after day. As we should. To understand. What is going on. In our own lives. And to understand. What is going on. In this world. To make sense.

Of life. To make sense. Of death. This is. Our clarity. Amidst. Confusion. That can be deep.

Rooted. Within our hearts. We come. To the word. Of God. Who guides. And instructs. Us. But we also. Come to Christ.

That word. That was made. Flesh. For us. We look. To Christ. Who can speak. Confusion. Who can speak.

[54 : 45] Clarity. Into our confusion. A Christ. That makes. God's redeeming plan. Clear. A Christ. A Christ. That makes.

The love. Of God. Clear. A Christ. That makes. The payments. Of sin. Clear. A Christ. That makes. The sacrifices.

That the Old Testament. Had to fulfill. Clear. Clear. A Christ. A Christ. And a Christ. That makes. The resurrection. Clear. For all. Who believe. In him.

But the question. Is. Will we be. Like Pharaoh. And receive. The word. Of God. He was a king. Pharaoh. He was a leader. He had everything. He could have wanted. In this world. But he was wise. Enough. To confess. I need someone else. To help me here. Because he knew.

[55 : 40] His distress. Before the truth. Of God. He humbled himself. To be advised. By a prisoner.

The king. Was advised. By a prisoner. And not just. A prisoner. But he was actually. A native. Of another land. Joseph. Was a foreigner.

Coming into Egypt. Spirit. And Pharaoh. Humbled himself. To have him. Lead alongside him. That he would hear.

What this man says. Not because he was a prisoner. Not because. He was a foreigner. But because. He could not deny. Within this man.

Was the spirit. Of God. He knew. He could trust. In this man. And that he knew. He could rely. On this man. To lead things.

[56 : 39] Pharaoh gave up. Control. Of his life. To be led. By someone else. We have control.

Of our lives. We like to rule. We like to be. Our own king. But our lives. Can leave us. So confused. If we try. And rule them ourselves. We will be full. Of worries. Anxiety. And fear. That can fill us. With distresses. We will be worried. For what the future. Will bring. And so. We should come. To the source. Of clarity. Which is. The word of God. We also confess.

That we need someone. To guide us. And instruct us. And so. We come. To the good. Counsel. Of Jesus Christ. To bring clarity. In our own.

[57 : 36] Confusion. But this. Clarity. Also. Comes. With certainty. That's our last point. The certainty. Of God's word.

The certainty. Of this. Past. Certainty. In this passage. Is what we see here. In the dream. Being doubled. Joseph. Says. That this. Is something. That is sure.

To take place. But Pharaoh. Is certain. That Joseph. Is the man. To lead the nation. There is no other person.

That has explained this. To me. There is no other person. That has brought clarity. In my life. And so you. Must lead me. There is none. So discerning. And as wise.

As you are. As it says. In verse 40. And listening. To Joseph. To Joseph. Brought. Salvation. To Egypt. Joseph.

[58 : 31] Provided. A plan. For the future. That would save. A nation. There doesn't seem. To be any opposition. Or rejection. To it. Which I think. Is amazing.

Because. There is a stranger. Coming in. Coming into leadership. All of a sudden. No one knows him. And straight away. He imposes. A 20% tax. On everyone. Because of a dream.

But strangely enough. People. Listen to him. And trust him. And believe in him. And I believe.

This is because. All saw. That the spirit of God. Was in this man. They had confidence. In him.

When they were seeing. The grain. Piling up. Seven years worth.

No one could count it. No one could number it. Doesn't record anyone. Saying. What on earth is going on? Is this all going to go to ruin? What if it.

[59 : 28] What if this famine. Doesn't come? No one doubts him. People trust him. For seven years. People trusted him. The nation trusted in this one man.

To bring salvation. Joseph trusted in his God. To bring him salvation. To bring him out of the pit. And so. We must trust.

In Jesus Christ. To bring us salvation. We must trust. In the one man. In the one world. That can bring salvation to us.

Even when there may seem to be years. Where we do not have an answer. Of how he will do that. To trust in him. And believe in him. To have confidence in this word.

As a sure word. That will take place. Joseph had a plan. For the nation. And it was a plan.

[60 : 25] That was certain. But what if they never listened. To the plan. Joseph told them. To gather. To gather. Your grain. Come with your.

Fifth. Of your produce. What if they didn't listen. And it's something. That the kids in here. Could answer.

If they didn't bring. Their grain. If they didn't believe. In the word. Of Joseph. If they didn't store up. Any food. And the famine came.

If the cupboards. In their house. Started. Running down. And they knew. They needed food. They knew. They were starting. To feel hungry. A child.

Could tell you. You would need. To go and get food. It's a simple truth. Faith. That.

[61 : 32] There is a plan. And you. May. See. Even yourself.

That something. Is coming. That death. Is coming. On the horizon. You may think. It's so far away. But when it gets.

Closer. And closer. Where do you go? If you're hungry. You would have gone to Joseph.

To get food. In that day. If you. See death. Come. If God.

Opens your eyes. To understand. Where you are. Without Christ. If you're trusting. In yourself. And not in Christ.

[62 : 32] If you are trusting. In your own crops. And not relying. On Joseph. You would soon. Eat up. All the goodness. Of your land. And you would be left.

With nothing. And so. People would tell you. Go to Joseph. Go to Joseph.

And get food. Because he. Has it. In abundance. And if the man. Would not go. To get food. From Joseph. People would call him.

A fool. There's food there. From that man. Go and get it. God's word.

Gives us a plan. Of what God. Will do. And it is. A certain plan. That will take place. And we.

[63 : 29] Must trust. In Jesus Christ. Christ. That has provided. For us. We must come.

To Christ. Who will feed us. That requires. Action. From each. And every one of us. To come.

To him. We heard of that. In the morning. We have free will. To choose. If we will come. Or not.

God. And so. The preacher. The Christian.

Tells each and every one. Who sees death coming. Who sees the famine coming. To run to Christ.

To go to Christ.

Pharaoh's dream. Revealed what was going to happen. But there was a warning to it. And so.

God's. Word. Reveals.

[64 : 28] A plan. Of salvation. In Jesus Christ. But it reveals. A warning. As well. It's almost as if.

We have famine. Coming on the horizon. It's almost as if. God's grace. Will one day. Cease. And judgment. Will come. Upon us.

It's almost as if. Things that are evil. Will swallow up. All that is good. If we do not. Follow the plan.

If we do not. Trust in the man. If we do not. Give ourselves. To Christ. Does it trouble your soul?

Does it give you. Restless nights. To think. That you could be. Left in hell. Then we say.

[65 : 29] Come to Christ. And be fed. Come. To this word. That will bring. Clarity. In confusion. And like Pharaoh. Could not leave it.

It is a matter of urgency. For each of us. To resolve. Love. Because God's plan. Is sure. And certain. Who did Joseph feed?

He fed the nations. He fed the world. He fed his brother. That wanted to kill him. That sold him into slavery.

I believe. I believe. Joseph fed the cup bearer. But forgot all about him. I believe. Joseph. Fed Potiphar. But sent him to prison.

And would rather listen to the world. Than to truth. And Christ's love is the same for you. If you come to him. He will feed you. From the storehouses.

[66 : 33] Of his grace. Regardless of. How you have treated him. In the past. If you come to him. And ask him to feed you.

And I believe. That he will. I believe. That Christ. Will feed you. So if you feel yourself.

Confused. If you feel this. Look out in this world. And you see confusion. Rain. Come to the word of God. And I pray. That the word of God.

Will bring clarity. To you. And may the certainty. Of his judgment. The certainty of hell. The certainty of his salvation.

In Jesus Christ. Send you running. To him. Giving up. Your rule. And saying. I will have that man.

[67 : 36] To rule. Over me. Pharaoh. Told the Egyptians. To go. To Joseph. In verse. Fifty. Five.

And so. I say. To each and every one. Of us. Go to Christ. Go to Christ. God. He has the storehouses.

Of his love. There for you. If you will only come. And he. Will bring certainty. Into your life.

Certainty. That you can trust him. Like Joseph. A certainty. That you can rely on. God. Even when things.

Seem perplexing. On the surface. You know. There is a God. Who works all things. For good. To those who are called. According to his purpose.

[68 : 34] I pray these thoughts. Would be blessed to us. We conclude by. Singing. In. The hymn. In Christ alone.

As Egypt was. Sent. To Joseph. As their saviour. So we. Come to Christ. As our saviour. In Christ alone.

My hope is found. He is my life. My strength. My son. This cornerstone. This solid ground. Firm.

Through the day. fiercest drought and storm. We'll stand to sing these words to God's praise.

Amen. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are still, when strivings see.

My comfort, my all in all, here in the realm of Christ I stand.

[70 : 15] Amen.

He commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand. Till he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I stand.

Amen. We conclude in a word of prayer. Our Lord and our God, we pray that you would give each and every one of us here a certainty in Christ and Christ alone.

And that each of us may be able to cry out from the depths of our hearts, I know that my Redeemer lives like Job. May we come to your throne of grace.

[73 : 09] And that we may be given a heart to tell them about the love that Jesus Christ has for them. That he will save them from their sins. And that he will give them a certain and sure hope for all eternity.

May we come to your throne of grace, asking that you would keep us and feed us daily, we pray in Jesus name.

Amen.