

Joseph was the first son born to Jacob by Rachel who had been barren up to this point (*Gen. 30:22-24*). Rachel name him “Joseph” which means “God shall add.” She believed God would give her other children. By this time Joseph had been sold into slavery by his brothers who resented Jacob's love for Joseph (*Gen. 37:3-4*) and the dreams Joseph had where God revealed that they would bow to and serve Joseph (*Gen. 37: 5-8*). In God's providence, Joseph wound up in prison in Egypt, where he met Pharaoh's chief butler and interpreted his dream. Later, when Pharaoh had a dream which no one could interpret (*41:1-8*), the butler remembered Joseph (*Gen. 41:9-13*). Pharaoh called on Joseph to interpret his dream (*Gen. 41:14-27*). God revealed to Joseph that there would be seven years of plenty in the land followed by seven years of famine (*Gen. 41:28-32*). God had also revealed the solution. Pharaoh should appoint a man, “discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt” (*Gen. 41:33-38*). Pharaoh appointed Joseph to be the ruler over Egypt, second only to himself (*Gen. 41:39-45*). Joseph began storing up provisions during the seven years of plenty (*Gen. 41:46-49*), so that the people could survive the seven years of famine (*Gen. 41:53-57*). There are so many lessons to be learned from this story:

(1) The sovereign providence and divine purpose of God in the life of Joseph, bringing him from a Hebrew shepherd boy to the throne of Egypt. God ruled and overruled all events, all creatures, and all their actions to accomplish His will and purpose toward Joseph (*Gen. 45:5; Gen. 50:20*), and, ultimately to fulfill His promise and accomplish His purpose to save His chosen people from their sins in and by the Lord Jesus Christ (*Isa. 46:9-11; Acts 4:26-28; John 6:37-39*).

(2) The sovereignty of God not only over men, but over the weather, crops, heathen nations, and even over men's dreams. God rules, controls, and steers the course of the world and all human beings upon it for His glory and the good of His people (*Rom. 8:28*). This is a mind-boggling truth that causes much angst and unbelief among the heathen, but it is a comfort and joy for the people of God.

(3) The faithfulness, power, and grace of God in keeping His servant, Joseph, faithful in the midst of the greatest trials and adversity, and in the worst environments in which any person could be. Joseph walked with God and maintained a strong testimony to truth and grace. Even in a heathen nation, Joseph glorified God and God blessed him. We know this was not because of any goodness or power in Joseph. He, like us, was a sinner saved by grace through the righteousness of the promised Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. So, Joseph's story is a testimony to the preserving grace and power of God, not only to save His people from sin, but also to keep them unto the end (*Jude 24-25*).

Joseph is a wonderful type of the Lord Jesus Christ. This entire story is given and revealed to praise, exalt, and reveal our Lord Jesus Christ in His redemptive work (*Luke 24:27, 44-45*). During the seven years of famine, Joseph supervised the crops and filled the storehouses of Egypt. When the famine was over the land, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold unto all who had need (*Gen. 41:56*).

**(Gen. 41:33)** - Joseph was the only fit man - “discreet and wise” - to accomplish the task at hand. “Discreet” has to do with knowledge, intelligence, and understanding, mainly in discernment - knowing the right thing to do to bring about a good result. “Wise” has to do with cunning and skillfulness to use knowledge in the right way. Joseph prophesied of the famine. No one else knew about it. Joseph planned the crops and the storehouses (*41:35-36*). Joseph gathered the corn and stored it up (*41:49*). What a great picture of our Lord and Savior! He is the only fit and qualified Person to save us from our sins. He is God manifest in the flesh (*Matt.*

1:21,23). He foreknew the fall and famine of human nature in sin and death (*Rom. 5:12,19*). He purposed and planned the everlasting covenant of mercy whereby a people would be saved from Adam's race (*Heb. 13:20-21*). He came to earth in the likeness of human flesh and obeyed unto death, even the death of the cross, in order that His people might have a perfect righteousness before God's law and stand justified in God's sight. He filled the storehouse of salvation with grace and mercy for all He would bring to eat. He is the only one who has the capacity to contain all the fulness of God, the only one who has the wisdom to distribute the fulness of God, and the only one who has the eternal fulness in Himself to continue to be our fulness and keep us throughout eternity in His grace and fulness (*John 1:14-16; Col. 2:9-10; 2 Tim. 1:12; Phil. 3:20-21*).

**(Gen. 41:39-45,55)** - Joseph opened the storehouses by royal authority. Pharaoh gave all things (all authority and all the food) into the hands of Joseph (*41:41, 44-45*). When people came to Pharaoh, he sent them to Joseph. By God's royal decree and design, all things pertaining to life, salvation, mercy, and heaven have been given into the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ (*John 3:35-36; John 17:2-3; Eph. 1:3-4; Col. 1:14-19; Col. 2:9-10*). Before the foundation of the world, God the Father appointed His Son to be the Surety of His chosen people. Their whole salvation was (and is) conditioned on Christ and not on themselves. Like Joseph, Christ willingly agreed to do what was (and is) necessary to save His people from their sins. As our Surety, He came to this world and united with human flesh (body and soul) without sin. He was "*made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law*" (*Gal. 4:4*). He became our Substitute to die in our place and establish a perfect righteousness whereby God could justify us and from which He gives us the abundance of eternal life and glory. Pharaoh gave Joseph and Egyptian name - "*Zaphnathpaaneah*" - which means "one to whom hidden things are revealed." All the treasures of God's wisdom are hidden in and revealed to us by Christ (*Col. 2:2-3*).

**(Gen. 41:56-57)** - Joseph opened the storehouses! Joseph filled the storehouses in order that the people might eat and live. This is why Christ became our Surety, Substitute, sin-bearer and sin-offering. It is that sinners might feed upon Him, the Bread of life, and be saved (*John 6:32-35,47-51*). Joseph had plenty and was delighted to distribute it. Our Lord is plenteous in and delights to show mercy. His chief glory is His goodness (*Exo. 33:18-19*). He says, "*Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come to the waters*" (*Isa. 55:1; John 7:37-38*). Joseph opened the storehouses when the people cried for bread. Christ opens the storehouse of spiritual food when He brings us to see our need of Him and His righteousness (*Matt. 5:6; Rom. 10:13; Gal. 1:15*). Joseph opened all the storehouses, "*and sold unto the Egyptians*" (*41:56*). Salvation by God's grace is not for sale. If it were, we would be lost forever, for we are spiritually bankrupt. But there is a redemption price which Christ paid for us by His blood. Therefore, the Gospel call is, "*Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price*" (*Isa. 55:1*).

Joseph opened the storehouses to all who came for food from all nations (*41:57*). Christ opens the storehouses of God's grace to Jew and Gentile, male and female, bond and free - "*Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely*" (*Rev. 22:17*). He said, "*Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*" (*Matt. 11:28*). And just as Joseph was able to give all the food needed to all who came to him, Christ is "*able to save to the uttermost all who come to God by Him*" (*Heb. 7:25*). Christ is the only Storehouse of God's grace (*1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 1:19*). Christ saves all who come to Him seeking salvation God's way (*John 6:37*). A truly seeking sinner is never turned away because that seeking sinner is the work of God's power and grace (*Eph. 2:8-10*).