

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 27th February 20221 Hymns Paraphrase 2 t Salzburg, 110, 97, 145 Read: Genesis 37:15-20 Text Genesis 37:18-19

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph Conspired against (1).

Joseph left Hebron for Shechem by the word and will of his father to seek the spiritual wellbeing of his brethren.

having arrived at Shechem, he was told by a certain man, who heard the brethren say they were going to Dothan.

As soon as Joseph heard these words he went after his brethren.

Such was his devotion to the father's will and burden for his brother's well being, Joseph never gave up or turned back, rather. He was committed to the task set before him.

In coming to Dothan we read at the end of **verse 18** **they conspired against him...**"

The word **conspired against** means **to plot against, deceitful, to be crafty**. Joseph's own brethren plotted against Him, they dealt deceitfully with him and were crafty towards him.

Once again, there is a clear view of the life of Jesus Christ as seen through the life of Joseph, for Christ Himself was conspired against, between political, religious and social groups, they plotted against the Christ of God, they dealt with Him deceitfully they were crafty in their ways towards the one who has the power of eternal life.

Yet we are astonished, He came to deliver all types of sinners from every political, religious or social standing who conspired against Him.

Child of God, we were once included in one of those groups, **Romans 5:10** “*when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.* **Galatians 2:20** *the son of God who loved me and gave Himself for us.*

What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Jesus what a wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord.

Today we want to look at the Conspiracy against Joseph, and then look beyond Joseph and see the conspiracy against our heavenly Joseph.

I FIRST, THE ANTAGONISM BEFORE THEIR CONSPIRACY AGAINST JOSEPH.

Verse 18 *and when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against Him to slay him.*

These words are striking, before Joseph even approached or came near unto them, and spoke a word to them, his brethren had already plotted against him.

They were antagonistic against his person.

Clearly, some time has past from when the brothers left Joseph's presence in Hebron, but their antagonism, the unrest and hostility remains, in fact their antagonism against Joseph is stronger than ever before, they rage against him.

All that takes places from **verse 18-22** occurs before Joseph even comes near to them, face to face. From **verses 18-22** they only see Joseph afar off, and while he is walking toward them, **verse 19** confirms *they said one to another.*

The brothers are quickly plotting, quick decisions must be made.

This is an emergency meeting to get answers to do away with Joseph.

Believer you may have, are or will experience such antagonism in your life, that when you are walking down the road, or into school, work, community collage, certain gatherings, even those you know well, when soon approaching, though still afar off, they can see you, and may plot against you, they act deceitfully towards you.

Before you have even spoken a word to them, they have taken council together against you, in various ways to make matters hard for you.

Their conspiracy and deceitful behaviour will unfold throughout the day, week or month.

Remember in the life of Daniel as he was about his work, he was faithful toward his employer who was a wicked, and godless man.

yet Daniel did his work, life his life to the glory of God. Daniel performed His work unto the Lord.

Daniel had a good testimony, the Lord blessed him, but other men who worked with Daniel, didn't like the fact that Daniel prospered, and that he worshipped Jehovah the only Living and True God.

that why they said in **Daniel 6:5** ***“Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.***

They attacked his service to God.

Daniel 6:6 ***“Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius,***

live forever. The phrase **assembled together**, is the word meaning **tumult, rage, unrest.**

They come before the King with an atmosphere of rage, hostile, in opposition, enough is enough with this Daniel. They plot against Daniel.

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

They plot deceitfully, exalting the king, playing mind games, convincing him, how to demonstrate his position and power in the Kingdom.

The phrase **consulted together**, means **to take counsel together**, in other words we all have come to the conclusion, we agree there is a problem and we agree to its solution, but we need to put it in such a way, for the King will only permit what exalts him.

while men are against Daniel worshiping and praying to God, God was for Him, and that's all that mattered. Daniel prayed as he continued to do.

The point is these men in Babylon were antagonistic against Daniel, as Joseph's brethren were against Him.

What is interesting to note, the phrases **assembled together**, meaning **tumult, uproar** is the closely connected the word **rage** in **Ps 2:1**. **Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against**

the LORD, and against his anointed Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”

We learn from the life of Christ His enemies devised craftiness in their plots against Him.

The words of **Psalm 2** are quoted in Peter’s sermon in **Acts 4**. What a lesson preaching is Biblically centred.

We read in **Matthew 26:3-4** “**Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, ⁴ And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.**” The word **subtlety** is the word **guile, crafty, deceit.**

These men represented the religious leaders (chief priests), civil leaders (elders), and the teachers (scribes) of the Old Testament Jewish law.

Together they constituted the Sanhedrin, that was the ruling body of the Jewish people. These men have spent their time plotting against Christ, apart from **Joseph of Arimathea**.

When Christ was crucified by the hands of wicked men, they thought they were in control, when in fact, the events of the cross, where all under God’s control for He delivered Christ into their hands, He spared Him not.

Christ in his humanity must suffer death by the hands of man but also God, to pay the price and penalty of sin.

God’s eternal plan of redemption to save sinners, will never be frustrated or defeated, Christ prayed in **John 17:4** “**I have glorified thee on earth, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**” Christ is continually gathering all who the father who given Him, and not one will be lost.

Learn from Joseph's life yeah Christ's life, God will for His own sovereign glory save or damn sinners but always bless His people.

They were antagonistic against his position.

When the brothers seen Joseph afar off, what do you think stood out, in that they conspired against him? **verse 23** ***“when Joseph was come unto hos brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours what was on him.***

They see the beautiful coat which was given to Him by his father. It stood out. Looking upon the coat that was on Joseph, the brothers raged, there was uproar among them

The coat symbolised position, power, praise, pre-eminence, the coat reminded Ruben of his sin, and blessings lost.

what took place to Joseph leads us to consider Christ, for when He started His publicly ministry, what stood out, the miracles that He did because He taught only God could do such. His position, Jesus the Son of God is God manifest in the flesh.

The end of **John 1:1** ***“in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,***

He performed His miracles and taught parables.

Nicodemus said to Christ in **John 3:2** ***“thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.***

Both **Matthew 9 & Mark 2** record the time when Christ healed the paralysed man both physically but above all spiritually, the Saviour said in **Matthew 9:2** ***“Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.”***

But the religious leaders said in **Mark 2:7** **Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?** The Saviour then said In **Mark 2:10** **“that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,** Since God can forgive sin, but Jesus can forgive sin then Jesus is God. Paul said in **Philippians 2:6** **“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:**

Christ was plotted against because of his position, He is the light of the world. Jesus our Emmanuel.

Therefore, believer since Jesus Christ is our glorious dress, we are positioned in Him, covered by Him, united to Him, we will know antagonism on the road to heaven.

The Apostle Paul said, in **2 Timothy 3:12** **“All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”**

Our position as the people of God, is spoken against. We are marked out, as we are not of the world, because the gospel light shines through our lives, as the light of the world. We live to glorify God.

Our lives stand out not only by what we say and do not say, but also, to please God by what we do and do not do, to grieve the Holy Spirit.

A light positioned in a dark place will always stand out. We are gospel light houses, to shine the path to souls in dark waters of the world, struggling under the waves of sin, leading safety to Jesus the haven of rest.

We are not trying to be better than anyone, or look down upon anyone, but we are living out, **Colossians 2:6** **“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:** The Lord will honour them that honour Him. You are not alone, you are on the Lord’s side, and if God be for us who can be against us, none shall conquer Him.

They were antagonistic against his proclamation.

When they seen Joseph afar off, notice **verse 19** “***they say one to another, Behold this dreamer cometh.***”

Not only did they view Joseph’s Coat but they remembered the dreams or the message he proclaimed.

Joseph declared the dreams, which were revelations of Divine truth. They pointed to His future exaltation.

Therefore, from this point onward whatever took place in Joseph life, he had a future word to hold unto you.

(Just as Simone in **Luke 2** who had the promise that he would not see death until he had seen the Lord’s Christ.)

It was Joseph’s proclamation of the future given by God, that kept him faithful during the years of adversity and trial.

He looked forward and upward. He knew a day would come when He would rule over His brethren and they would acknowledge it.

Therefore, Christ is exalted in heaven, yet His exaltation is not recognised but rejected in earth, but a day will come when our heavenly Joseph comes, His exaltation will be acknowledged and the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, he will make His enemies His footstool. **Philippians 2:9-11**

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

By our standing in Christ, what a day that will be for the believer, when God before all nations will publicly declare us

as His own. **Matthew 25:24** *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*”

Believer, as servants of the most high, keep proclaiming the gospel by your life and with your lips.

God will promote His people Glory, to the mansions prepared them. Wont it great to be there.

Will you?