

Genesis 41

King James Version (KJV)

41 And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river. (God sent Pharaoh that dream. HE will use it to free Joseph and to bless him afterwards)

²And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow. (Kine = cows)

³And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river.

⁴And the ill favoured and leanfleshed kine did eat up the seven well favoured and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke. (This is not natural - cows don't eat cows – there is a message in this dream)

⁵And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good.

⁶And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them. (An east wind was a dry wind. It came into Egypt from the Arabian Peninsula. It usually brought drought)

⁷And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream. (Corn does not eat corn; also 7 ears of corn on one stalk is too many; usually 3 or 4 ears per stalk)

(And again, 7 good followed by 7 bad; and the bad devour the good. There is a message in both of these dreams, but Pharaoh doesn't understand it)

⁸And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh. (God's intervention is needed. These "wise men" won't be able to help Pharaoh)

⁹Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day: (Finally, after 2 years, he remembered Joseph)

¹⁰ Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker:

¹¹ And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream.

¹² And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret.

¹³ And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged. (He thinks that it was Joseph who interpreted the dreams. It was God who did it for Joseph)

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. (He got cleaned up from being in the dungeon for years)

¹⁵ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. (Joseph can't do it, but God can)

¹⁶ And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace. (Joseph is a good, honest and humble man. He won't take credit for God's work)

¹⁷ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river:

¹⁸ And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fatfleshed and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow: (Healthy cows with plenty to eat)

¹⁹ And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill favoured and leanfleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness: (Starving cows with nothing to eat)

²⁰ And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat kine:

²¹ And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill favoured, as at the beginning. So I awoke. (It didn't fatten them up at all. They were beyond help)

²² And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good:

²³ And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them:

²⁴ And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears: and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.

²⁵ And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do. (God revealed the future to Pharaoh)

²⁶ The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. (Both dreams have the same meaning)

²⁷ And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine.

²⁸ This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

²⁹ Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:

³⁰ And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land; (There will be 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine)

NOTES: (In 1700 BC... a 7 year drought was documented in Egyptian history. During those famine years, the Nile did not overflow its banks to fertilize the land, like it used to do during every normal year)

(Also, this is what drove Joseph's brothers to sell him to the caravan. God wanted Joseph in Egypt, to do this work of saving Jacob's family. Egypt had the resources to make it through the drought if those resources were properly managed. Joseph could be that manager)

³¹ And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous.

³² And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass. (The two dreams are a second witness for each other)

³³ Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. (Good advice from God, through Joseph)

³⁴ Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years. (Collect 20% of all the grain that is harvested)

³⁵ And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. (Put the grain in Pharaoh's granaries in every city)

³⁶ And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

³⁷ And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. (The interpretation was good and the plan was smart – because it came from God)

³⁸ And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? (Pharaoh perceives that God is with Joseph – so he will appoint Joseph to his service – smart man)

³⁹ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: (It was God's wisdom, blessed unto Joseph)

⁴⁰ Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

⁴¹ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. (Joseph is second in command of all Egypt; only Pharaoh is greater than Joseph)

(God has promoted Joseph above all the people of Egypt)

⁴² And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; (The ring is the signet ring of Egypt. It is used to sign proclamations from the throne)

NOTE: (God is saving Egypt from the drought. HE is also saving Israel, because they will come to Egypt to buy grain during the famine. God chose Joseph to do all of that because He knew Joseph was faithful, loyal and honest)

⁴³ And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. (Joseph rode in one of Pharaoh's chariots)

⁴⁴ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

⁴⁵ And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

(On is in southern Egypt. The inhabitants of On were Hebrews called Shepherd Kings or Hicksos. They were Adamic peoples who kept the herds and flocks for Egypt. Egyptians didn't raise livestock. They considered shepherds to be below them)

(Joseph was marrying into Adamic people, as God had commanded all of Adam's descendants. From this union will come Ephraim and Manasseh)

(Zaphnathpaaneah = prince or savior of life; Joseph is acting as a type for Jesus)

NOTE: (Centuries later, when Joseph and Mary were escaping the murder edict of Herod, they traveled to On, to protect Jesus from Herod)

⁴⁶ And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. (This was 13 years after he was sold into slavery)

⁴⁷ And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. (The 7 years of plenty; divine intervention; God is seeing to it that they have sufficient excess to store into the granaries)

⁴⁸ And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. (Joseph was seeing to it that God's advice was being implemented)

⁴⁹ And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number. (He stored it all in granaries throughout Egypt, in every major city. There were so many surpluses that it was difficult to count it all)

⁵⁰ And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. (God is blessing Joseph with two sons)

⁵¹ And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. (Manasseh = forgetful)

⁵² And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction. (Ephraim = fruitful) (See Chapter 49- Many believe their progeny became the UK and the US. One is a kingdom of nations. The other is extremely fruitful, but forgetful)

NOTE: (Joseph, first born of Rachel, became the "first born" of Jacob in spirit. Unlike all the other patriarchs of the 12 tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh would become patriarch. Joseph's descendants would become two tribes, not one. That is the double portion of the first born. Levi would become the priest line to all tribes, as opposed to becoming a tribe with their own land allotments)

⁵³ And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended. (Approx 1708 BC)

⁵⁴ And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. (dearth = drought, famine, food shortages)

⁵⁵ And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto

Joseph; what he saith to you, do. (Joseph is in charge of food distribution – a type for savior. He was a type for Jesus; Joseph saved lives in Egypt, Jesus saves souls all over the world)

⁵⁶ And the famine was over all the face of the earth: and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.

⁵⁷ And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands. (That includes Jacob and Joseph's 11 brothers)