



Genesis 41:25-40; 46; 50-52
Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. ²⁷ The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine. ²⁸ It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁹ There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, ³⁰ but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt.

Joseph said to Pharaoh: How did Joseph get an audience with one of the most powerful people in the world? 1. 13 years earlier, he was betrayed by his siblings and taken to Egypt as a captive and there, sold as a slave. 2. He was unjustly imprisoned when his owner believed an accusation from his wife about him. 3. In prison he interpreted a dream for a cupbearer of the Pharaoh. 4. Pharaoh has a disturbing dream that no one else can interpret and the cupbearer remembered Joseph and spoke up.
the dreams are one: There is one message from Pharaoh's two dreams. There will be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of severe famine.
God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do.: Joseph has remained a follower of the One God he learned about from Jacob, his father. He believes Pharaoh's dreams came from God and that his ability to interpret the dreams also comes from God. Why is God giving a dream about the upcoming 14 years to a man like the Pharaoh? What great plan is God working? We do know that 400 years later Israel has grown to millions of people in Egypt and needs rescue.

The famine will consume the land,³¹ and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe.³² And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.³³ Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.³⁴ 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.³⁵ 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.³⁶ 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."³⁷ This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?"³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are.⁴⁰ You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you."⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt

the thing is fixed by God and God will shortly bring it about: Joseph believes the next 14 years will be brought about by the power of God over nature. It's fixed and Joseph wants the Pharaoh to be warned.

let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man: Interestingly, the prisoner, dream interpreter, Joseph also shares some action plans with Pharaoh. He says, Pharaoh needs a wise and discerning man, empowered to gather and reserve food for the coming famine years.

food shall be a reserve... against the seven years of famine: This will take the power of Pharaoh to accomplish in the seven years of plenty. Joseph suggests that they save one-fifth of the produce.

This proposal pleased Pharaoh: Pharaoh, who must have been very disturbed by his dreams, is now convinced that Joseph's interpretation will come to pass. He even likes Joseph's action plan.

"Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?": Pharaoh answers his own question and chooses Joseph to be over his house and people and prepare them all for the coming famine. What a path Joseph has walked to become the #2 most powerful man in Egypt.

Joseph was thirty years old: Joseph arrived in Egypt 13 years earlier as a slave, sold into slavery by his brothers. He has been imprisoned for years, but now he is in direct service to the Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁵⁰ Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On, bore them to him.⁵¹ Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house."⁵² The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him."¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?"²⁰

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Before the year of famine came: Less than seven years on the job working for Pharaoh, Joseph has married and has two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house.: Joseph names his first son Manasseh meaning "God has made me forget". The name makes us ask the question why Joseph, when supreme in Egypt, sent no message to his father, who was living in a region distant only a few days' journey. He names his second son Ephraim (to be fruitful) because he is declaring that "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." Here is our first scriptural insight into the emotions and heart of Joseph. He has felt hardship, pain and unjust affliction. He sees that God has been at work through all the painful circumstances of his years and now at age 34-36 he is at peace, trusting in God.

"It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back: The brothers are concerned after the death of their father Jacob, that Joseph will now take revenge. It's hard for them to think that Joseph could forgive them of the horrible thing they had done.

please forgive the transgression: Did this message really come from Jacob? They did ask for forgiveness and then "fell down before him". Joseph's attitude is: I am not in the place of God, do not fear me.

you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good: Joseph sees the hand of God even in the evil they did to him. God wanted Joseph in Egypt to accomplish multi-generational good for Israel.