

An illustration depicting the biblical story of Joseph interpreting a dream. On the left, Joseph, with a beard and wearing a white tunic, points upwards with his right hand. On the right, Pharaoh, wearing a blue and yellow striped headdress and a red cape, looks towards Joseph. In the center, a thought bubble shows a landscape with a blue river, green hills, and a herd of black and white cows grazing. The background features a yellow brick wall and red curtains.

The Beginning of God's Story

The King's Dream

Genesis 41:15-40

15 The king said to Joseph, "I have had a dream. But no one can explain its meaning to me. I have heard that you can explain a dream when someone tells it to you." **16** Joseph answered the king, "I am not able to explain the meaning of dreams. God will do this for the king." **17** Then the king said to Joseph, "In my dream I was standing on the bank of the Nile River. **18** I saw seven fat and beautiful cows. They came up out of the river and ate the grass. **19** Then I saw seven more cows come out of the river. They were thin and lean and ugly. They were the worst looking cows I have seen in all the land of Egypt. **20** And these thin and ugly cows ate the first seven fat cows. **21** But after they had eaten the seven cows, no one could tell they had eaten them. They just looked as thin and ugly as they did in the beginning. Then I woke up. **22** "I had another dream. I saw seven full and good heads of grain growing on one stalk. **23** Then seven more heads of grain sprang up after them. But these heads were thin and ugly. They were burned by the hot east wind. **24** Then the thin heads ate the seven good heads. I told this dream to the magicians. But no one could explain its meaning to me."

Genesis 41:15-40

25 Then Joseph said to the king, "Both of these dreams mean the same thing. God is telling you what he is about to do. **26** The seven good cows stand for seven years. And the seven good heads of grain stand for seven years. Both dreams mean the same thing. **27** The seven thin and ugly cows stand for seven years. And the seven thin heads of grain burned by the hot east wind stand for seven years of hunger. **28** This will happen as I told you. God is showing the king what he is about to do. **29** You will have seven years of good crops and plenty to eat in all the land of Egypt. **30** But after those seven years, there will come seven years of hunger. All the food that grew in the land of Egypt will be forgotten. The time of hunger will eat up the land. **31** People will forget what it was like to have plenty of food. This is because the hunger that follows will be so great. **32** You had two dreams which mean the same thing. This shows that God has firmly decided that this will happen. And he will make it happen soon.

Genesis 41:15-40

33 “So let the king choose a man who is very wise and understanding. Let the king set him over the land of Egypt. **34** And let the king also appoint officers over the land. They should take one-fifth of all the food that is grown during the seven good years. **35** They should gather all the food that is produced during the good years that are coming. Under the king’s authority they should store the grain in the cities and guard it. **36** That food should be saved for later. It will be used during the seven years of hunger that will come on the land of Egypt. Then the people in Egypt will not die during the seven years of hunger.” **37** This seemed like a very good idea to the king. All his officers agreed. **38** And the king asked them, “Can we find a better man than Joseph to take this job? God’s spirit is truly in him!” **39** So the king said to Joseph, “God has shown you all this. There is no one as wise and understanding as you are. **40** I will put you in charge of my palace. All the people will obey your orders. Only I will be greater than you.”



The King's Dream

- While Joseph was in Egypt, the king of Egypt had two dreams. One was about seven fat cows eaten by seven skinny cows, and the other being about seven good heads of grain eaten by seven bad heads of grain.
- One of the king's subjects knew Joseph, who had interpreted his dreams, and brought Joseph to the king.
- Joseph told the king that while he couldn't interpret the dreams, God, who can do anything, would interpret the dreams for him.
- God told Joseph that the dreams represented how there would be seven good years of food in Egypt followed by seven bad years.
- The king was so impressed by Joseph that he lifted Joseph out of chains and made him second in command of all of Egypt!

“I MYSELF CANNOT DO IT.”

JOSEPH REPLIED, “BUT
GOD WILL GIVE PHARAOH
A SOUND ANSWER.”

GENESIS 41:16



Reflection Questions

- **What happened in the two dreams the king of Egypt had?**
Seven skinny cows ate seven fat cows, and seven bad heads of grain ate seven good heads of grain.
- **Who interpreted the dreams?**
God interpreted the dreams and told Joseph, who shared it with the king!
- **What did the dreams mean?**
Egypt would have seven great years of food followed by seven bad years where there wouldn't be a lot of food.
- **How did the king respond?**
He was so impressed that he made Joseph second in command!

Challenge Question: How will you listen to God this week?