

Joseph Serves Pharaoh

Genesis 41

Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass. Seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows. The ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke. He fell asleep and dreamed a second time. Seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. After them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind. The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke.

In the morning, his spirit was troubled, and he sent for all the magicians¹ of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them. Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

After Pharaoh told Joseph his dreams, Joseph said, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what He is about to do. There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, but after them there will arise seven years of famine.² Let Pharaoh select a discerning³ and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh appoint overseers over the land during the seven plentiful years. Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain in the cities, and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve⁴ against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt."

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea. The seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

Explanatory Notes

¹These people did supernatural things with the help of Satan. ²General shortage of food. ³Showing understanding and insight. ⁴Storage.



Joseph stored up grain in great abundance.

For Reflection

1. What dreams did Pharaoh dream? How did Joseph interpret them?
2. Joseph told Pharaoh that God would give him an answer of peace. How does Jesus bring peace to all who love and trust in Him?
3. God blessed Joseph abundantly. How does God abundantly bless all believers in Christ Jesus?

Words to Remember

The LORD upholds the righteous. *Psalms 37:17*