

### Joseph in Prison (c. 1889–1886 BC)

Genesis 39:21–23

21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him kindness. He granted him favor in the sight of the prison warden.  
 22 The warden put all the prisoners under Joseph's care. He was in charge of whatever they were doing.  
 23 The warden did not concern himself with anything that was in Joseph's care because the LORD was with him and whatever he was doing the LORD was making successful.

### Joseph Interprets the Cupbearer's and Baker's Dreams (1888 BC)

Genesis 40

1 After these things happened, the cupbearer to the king of Egypt and the royal baker offended their master, the king of Egypt.  
 2 Pharaoh was enraged with his two officials, the cupbearer and the baker,  
 3 so he imprisoned them in the house of the captain of the guard in the same facility where Joseph was confined.  
 4 The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be their attendant, and he served them. They spent some time in custody.  
 5 Both of them, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream the same night. Each man's dream had its own meaning.  
 6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were looking depressed.  
 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officials, who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why do you look so sad today?"  
 8 They told him, "We both had dreams, but there is no one to interpret them." Joseph responded, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me."  
 9 So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph: "In my dream, there was a vine in front of me.  
 10 On the vine there were three branches. As it budded, its blossoms opened and its clusters ripened into grapes.  
 11 Now Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, so I took the grapes, squeezed them into his cup, and put the cup in Pharaoh's hand."  
 12 "This is its meaning," Joseph said to him. "The three branches represent three days.  
 13 In three more days Pharaoh will reinstate you and restore you to your office. You will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you did before when you were cupbearer.  
 14 But remember me when it goes well for you, and show me kindness. Make mention of me to Pharaoh and bring me out of this prison,  
 15 for I really was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews and I have done nothing wrong here for which they should put me in a dungeon."  
 16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation of the first dream was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also appeared in my dream and there were three baskets of white bread on my head.  
 17 In the top basket there were baked goods of every kind for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them from the basket that was on my head."  
 18 Joseph replied, "This is its meaning: The three baskets represent three days.  
 19 In three more days Pharaoh will decapitate you and impale you on a pole. Then the birds will eat your flesh from you."  
 20 On the third day it was Pharaoh's birthday, so he gave a feast for all his servants. He "lifted up" the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker in the midst of his servants.  
 21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his former position so that he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand,  
 22 but the chief baker he impaled, just as Joseph had predicted.  
 23 But the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph—he forgot him.

### Pharaoh Dreams of the Coming Famine (1886 BC)

Genesis 41:1–46

#### Pharaoh's Dream

1 At the end of two full years Pharaoh had a dream. As he was standing by the Nile,  
 2 seven fine-looking, fat cows were coming up out of the Nile, and they grazed in the reeds.  
 3 Then seven bad-looking, thin cows were coming up after them from the Nile, and they stood beside the other cows at the edge of the river.  
 4 The bad-looking, thin cows ate the seven fine-looking, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.  
 5 Then he fell asleep again and had a second dream: There were seven heads of grain growing on one stalk, healthy and good.  
 6 Then seven heads of grain, thin and burned by the east wind, were sprouting up after them.  
 7 The thin heads swallowed up the seven healthy and full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up and realized it was a dream.  
 8 In the morning he was troubled, so he called for all the diviner-priests of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

**The Cupbearer Remembers Joseph**

9 Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “Today I recall my failures.

10 Pharaoh was enraged with his servants, and he put me in prison in the house of the captain of the guards—me and the chief baker.

11 We each had a dream one night; each of us had a dream with its own meaning.

12 Now a young man, a Hebrew, a servant of the captain of the guards, was with us there. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted the meaning of each of our respective dreams for us.

13 It happened just as he had said to us—Pharaoh restored me to my office, but he impaled the baker.”

14 Then Pharaoh summoned Joseph. So they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; he shaved himself, changed his clothes, and came before Pharaoh.

**Joseph Explains Pharaoh’s Dream**

15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard about you, that you can interpret dreams.”

16 Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “It is not within my power, but God will speak concerning the welfare of Pharaoh.”

17 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “In my dream I was standing by the edge of the Nile.

18 Then seven fat and fine-looking cows were coming up out of the Nile, and they grazed in the reeds.

19 Then seven other cows came up after them; they were scrawny, very bad-looking, and lean. I had never seen such bad-looking cows as these in all the land of Egypt!

20 The lean, bad-looking cows ate up the seven fat cows.

21 When they had eaten them, no one would have known that they had done so, for they were just as bad-looking as before. Then I woke up.

22 I also saw in my dream seven heads of grain growing on one stalk, full and good.

23 Then seven heads of grain, withered and thin and burned with the east wind, were sprouting up after them.

24 The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads of grain. So I told all this to the diviner-priests, but no one could tell me its meaning.”

25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Both dreams of Pharaoh have the same meaning. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

26 The seven good cows represent seven years, and the seven good heads of grain represent seven years. Both dreams have the same meaning.

27 The seven lean, bad-looking cows that came up after them represent seven years, as do the seven empty heads of grain burned with the east wind. They represent seven years of famine.

28 This is just what I told Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.

29 Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the whole land of Egypt.

30 But seven years of famine will occur after them, and all the abundance will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will devastate the land.

31 The previous abundance of the land will not be remembered because of the famine that follows, for the famine will be very severe.

32 The dream was repeated to Pharaoh because the matter has been decreed by God, and God will make it happen soon.

**Joseph Suggests a Solution to the Famine**

33 “So now Pharaoh should look for a wise and discerning man and give him authority over all the land of Egypt.

34 Pharaoh should do this—he should appoint officials throughout the land to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.

35 They should gather all the excess food during these good years that are coming. By Pharaoh’s authority they should store up grain so the cities will have food, and they should preserve it.

36 This food should be held in storage for the land in preparation for the seven years of famine that will occur throughout the land of Egypt. In this way the land will survive the famine.”

**Pharaoh Appoints Joseph the Ruler of Egypt**

37 This advice made sense to Pharaoh and all his officials.

38 So Pharaoh asked his officials, “Can we find a man like Joseph, one in whom the Spirit of God is present?”

39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Because God has enabled you to know all this, there is no one as wise and discerning as you are!

40 You will oversee my household, and all my people will submit to your commands. Only I, the king, will be greater than you.

41 “See here,” Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I place you in authority over all the land of Egypt.”

42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his own hand and put it on Joseph’s. He clothed him with fine linen clothes and put a gold chain around his neck.

43 Pharaoh had him ride in the chariot used by his second-in-command, and they cried out before him, “Kneel down!” So he placed

him over all the land of Egypt.

44 Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your permission no one will move his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt."

45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah. He also gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. So Joseph took charge of all the land of Egypt.

46 Now Joseph was 30 years old when he began serving Pharaoh king of Egypt. Joseph was commissioned by Pharaoh and was in charge of all the land of Egypt.

### The Death of Isaac (1886 BC)

Genesis 35:28–29

28 Isaac lived to be 180 years old.

29 Then Isaac breathed his last and joined his ancestors. He died an old man who had lived a full life. His sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

### Seven Years of Plenty (1885–1879 BC)

Genesis 41:47–52

47 During the seven years of abundance the land produced large, bountiful harvests.

48 Joseph collected all the excess food in the land of Egypt during the seven years and stored it in the cities. In every city he put the food gathered from the fields around it.

49 Joseph stored up a vast amount of grain, like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring it because it was impossible to measure.

50 Two sons were born to Joseph before the famine came. Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, was their mother.

51 Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, saying, "Certainly God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's house."

52 He named the second child Ephraim, saying, "Certainly God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."

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