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## 2.04 JOSEPH'S LIFE IN EGYPT, PART 2

### GENESIS 41

Joseph was doing very well in Egypt until he was falsely accused of a crime. Potiphar's wife told a lie about Joseph. Potiphar believed his wife and put Joseph in prison. While in prison, Joseph had a chance to help two other prisoners, a butler and a baker, understand the meaning of their dreams. Joseph trusted God to give him the correct meaning of each dream. He would be remembered at a later time because of this.

After two years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream. He was very troubled by his dream. He asked his magicians and wise men to tell him what it meant, but no one could help him.

Even though Joseph had asked the butler to remember him when the butler went back to work for Pharaoh, the king, the butler forgot. He forgot for two years. Now, he was remembering. The butler said to Pharaoh, "I'm sorry. I should have told you this before. When you put the baker and me in prison, we met a young Hebrew slave who was able to tell us what our dreams meant. And it turned out just as he said!" Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once. Joseph had his hair cut, put on clean clothes and was quickly brought out to Pharaoh.

"I dreamed a dream," said Pharaoh. "No one can tell me what it means. I've heard you can just listen to a dream and know what it means." "Not me," said Joseph. "But God can. God can cause your mind to rest." Then, Pharaoh began to speak to Joseph.

"I was standing by the Nile river. I saw seven healthy cows come out of the river and eat on the grass. Then there were seven ugly cows that came out. They were thin and sickly. Then in my dream, these ugly, thin cows ate up the seven healthy cows. But these cows still looked the same afterward. They were still thin and sickly.

"Then, I had another dream. Seven ears of grain appeared. They were healthy and strong. They were growing out of one stalk. Behind these healthy ears of grain were seven sad looking ears. They were thin and dried out. Then, the thin ears of grain swallowed up the healthy ears! I've told all this to the magicians, but they can't figure out what these dreams mean."

Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Both of these dreams mean the same thing. God is telling you what He is going to do. The seven healthy cows and the seven healthy ears of grain are seven years. It means the same in both dreams. The seven thin, ugly cows and the seven dried out ears of grain are also seven years. They mean the same, also.

"God is telling you what He is going to do. There will be seven years of good harvest. There will be lots of food. Everyone will have enough. Then, there will be seven years with no food. Nothing will grow. Everyone will be hungry. God gave you two dreams so you would know how important this is to understand."

Joseph went on to tell Pharaoh that he needed to look for a smart man to be in charge of the country. He needed someone to organize and make sure enough food was saved during the first seven years, so there would be plenty to eat during the next seven years when nothing would grow. Pharaoh then chose Joseph to be in charge of the whole land of Egypt!

## **2.04 JOSEPH'S LIFE IN EGYPT, PART 2 - TEACHER'S GUIDE**

### **GENESIS 41**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- 1) Joseph had told the butler and baker what their dreams meant. He asked the butler to remember him when he went back to work for Pharaoh—to tell Pharaoh he had done nothing wrong.
- 2) Pharaoh had a dream, and then another, that he didn't understand. His wise men and magicians could not figure out what these two dreams meant.
- 3) The first dream was about seven healthy cows and seven sickly cows. The sickly cows ate the healthy ones.
- 4) The second dream was about seven healthy ears of grain and seven thin, dry ears of grain. The dry ears ate the healthy ears.
- 5) Joseph said these dreams meant the same thing. There would be seven years where there would be plenty of food. Then, there would be seven years with no food.
- 6) Joseph told Pharaoh he needed to choose someone to be in charge of the country. There needed to be enough food saved the first seven years to be able to feed everyone during the next seven years. Pharaoh chose Joseph for the job.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

- 1) What did Joseph want the butler to do when he went back to work?
- 2) Who did Pharaoh ask first to help him understand his dreams?
- 3) What were Pharaoh's dreams about?
- 4) What did Joseph say the dreams meant?
- 5) Who did Pharaoh pick to be in charge of the country during this time?

#### **ANSWERS:**

- 1) Joseph wanted the butler to remember to tell Pharaoh about him in prison and how he had done nothing wrong.
- 2) Pharaoh first asked his wise men and magicians to help him understand his dreams.
- 3) Pharaoh's dreams were about seven healthy cows and seven sickly cows, then seven healthy ears of grain and seven dry ears of grain.
- 4) Joseph said these dreams meant the same thing: There would be seven years with plenty of food and seven years where there would be no food.
- 5) Pharaoh chose Joseph to be in charge of the country during this time.

If we put our trust in God, He will give us wisdom like Joseph for our future!