### Genesis

## Chapter 41

1It was a full 2 years later that PharaOh [likely AmenemHat 1] also had a dream:  
  
He dreamed that he was standing next to a river, 2then {Look!} he saw 7 fat and good-looking cows come up out of the water to feed at the river’s edge. 3And after that, 7 more cows, which were skinny and ugly, came up out of the river to feed along its banks.  
  
4Then the 7 skinny, ugly cows ate the 7 fat and good-looking cows… And that’s when PharaOh woke up.  
  
5Then he had another dream.  
  
{Look!} There were 7 large and good-looking [heads] of grain that grew on a single stalk. 6And {Look!} they were followed by [a stalk] with 7 thin and windblown [heads] that grew up alongside them.  
  
7Then the [stalk] with the 7 thin and windblown [heads] ate the ones with the 7 large, good-looking [heads]… And that’s when PharaOh woke up… And it was just a dream.  
  
  
8Well the next morning, he was deeply disturbed [by the dreams], so he sent for all the [dream] interpreters of Egypt and all the wise men. PharaOh told them of his dreams, but no one could tell him what they meant.  
  
9And that’s when PharaOh’s chief cupbearer told him:  
  
 ‘I just remembered something that I’m responsible for... 10[You were once] quite angry with your servants and you had us imprisoned in the house of the captain of the guard… Both the chief baker and me. 11Each of us had a dream in that same night (both him and me)… But we each had our own dream.  
  
 12‘And there was a young man with us, a Hebrew servant of the captain of the guard, to whom we told [our dreams], and he interpreted [them] to us.  
  
 13‘Well, everything that he said would happen, came true… I was restored to my office and [the baker] was hanged!’  
  
14So, PharaOh sent for JoSeph… They took him from the prison, shaved him and changed his clothes; then he went in to PharaOh.  
  
15And PharaOh said to JoSeph:  
  
 ‘I had a vision that no one can interpret, and I’ve heard that you’ve listened to dreams and interpreted them.’  
  
16But JoSeph answered PharaOh, saying:  
  
 ‘Without God, [I couldn’t] give a safe answer to PharaOh.’  
  
17Then PharaOh told JoSeph:  
  
 ‘In my dream, I was standing by the bank of the river. 18Then out of the river came 7 fat and good-looking cows that fed along the river’s edge. 19And after that, {Look!} 7 more cows came up out of the river that were evil, skinny, and ugly… I’ve never seen worse in the entire land of Egypt!  
  
 20‘Then the 7 skinny, ugly cows ate the 7 fat and good-looking cows… 21They swallowed them down whole; yet, I couldn’t see that they had gone into their stomachs, because they still looked as ugly as they did before.  
  
 ‘And after I woke up, I went to sleep again. 22Then I saw what looked like 7 large, good-looking [heads] of grain growing from a single stalk. 23And [after that, I saw] 7 more [heads] that were thin and windblown, coming up next to them. 24Then the 7 thin and wind-blown [heads] ate the 7 large, good-looking [heads].  
  
 ‘Now, I told all this to the [dream] interpreters, but none of them could explain it to me.’  
  
25So JoSeph told PharaOh:  
  
 ‘Both of your dreams are the same, for The God has shown PharaOh what He’s going to do!  
  
 26‘The 7 good-looking cows mean 7 years, and the 7 good-looking [grain heads] mean 7 years… So PharaOh’s dreams are both the same!  
  
 27‘Also, the 7 skinny cattle that came up after them mean 7 years, and the 7 thin and windblown [heads] mean 7 years… Therefore, there’ll be 7 years of famine.  
  
 28‘Now, what I’m telling PharaOh is that it’s God’s purpose to show you what He’s going to do... 29And look! 7 years are coming when there’ll be a great abundance throughout the land of Egypt; 30but these will be followed by 7 years of famine, which will be so bad that the abundance Egypt had will be forgotten, and famine will consume the land.  
  
 31‘Yes, the abundance in the land will be gone because of the famine that will follow, since it’s going to be an extremely bad time... 32And the fact that PharaOh saw the dream twice, proves that the things I’m telling you (which will come from The God) are true; for, God will cause it to happen very soon!  
  
 33‘Therefore, search for a wise and discerning man, and put him in charge over the land of Egypt. 34Also, PharaOh should appoint local governors over the land that must collect 1/5 of all the produce in the land of Egypt during the 7 abundant years.  
  
 35‘They must gather all the food that will come in during the 7 good years, and have all the grain gathered into the hands of PharaOh… And you must store the food in each city.  
  
 36‘This stored food will then [protect] the land during the 7 years of famine that are coming upon Egypt, so [the country] won’t be totally destroyed by the famine.’  
  
37Well, what [JoSeph] said appeared good to PharaOh and to all of his servants.  
38So [he] asked his servants:  
  
 ‘Where can we find such a man as this… Someone who has the Breath of God in him?’  
  
39Then PharaOh said to JoSeph:  
  
 ‘Since God has shown all of these things to you; is there a man who is wiser or more discerning than you?  
  
 40‘I’ll appoint you to be over my house, and then all of my people must do whatever you say… Only I will be greater than you on the throne.’  
  
41Then PharaOh told JoSeph:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Today, I’m putting you in charge of the entire land of Egypt.’  
  
42And at that, PharaOh took the ring off of his hand and put it on JoSeph’s hand, [he had him dressed in] a robe of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck... 43Then he mounted [JoSeph] on his second-best chariot and had a herald walk in front of him to proclaim that [JoSeph] had been appointed over the whole land of Egypt.  
  
44And PharaOh said to JoSeph:  
  
 ‘Although I am the PharaOh; nobody will lift his hand anywhere in the land of Egypt without [your permission].’  
  
45Thereafter, PharaOh started calling JoSeph, Zaphnath-Paaneah [meaning either, Revealer of Secrets, or Savior of the Age], and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Petephre, the priest of HelioPolis [Greek for City of the Sun], to be his wife.  
  
  
46Well, JoSeph was 30 years old when he stood before PharaOh, the king of Egypt.  
  
So thereafter, JoSeph left the presence of PharaOh and he traveled throughout the land of Egypt.  
  
47And After that, the land did in fact produce well during the 7 years of abundance… By the heaping handfuls! 48So, during those 7 years he gathered much food, because there was such abundance in the land, and he stored it away in each of the cities. He took the food that grew in the fields around each city and stored it in them.  
  
49So the grain that JoSeph stored away became like the sands of the seas… So much that it couldn’t be calculated.  
  
50Meanwhile, JoSeph had two sons born to him prior to the 7 years of famine, by Asenath (the daughter of Petephre, the priest of HelioPolis). 51And JoSeph named his firstborn ManasSeh [meaning, Forgotten], for he said:  
  
 ‘God has made me forget all my hard work, and even the house of my father.’  
  
52Then he named his second son Ephraim [meaning, Double Fruitfulness]; for he said:  
  
 ‘God has caused me to grow in the land where I was humiliated.’  
  
53Well, the 7 years of abundance in the land of Egypt soon passed, 54and then the 7 years of famine began, just as JoSeph had foretold. However, even though there was a famine throughout the entire [known] earth, there was still plenty [in Egypt]!  
  
55Then, when the people of Egypt finally got hungry, they called out to PharaOh for bread, and PharaOh said to [them]:  
  
 ‘Go to JoSeph and do whatever he tells you to do.’  
  
56Well, before long, the famine covered the entire land; so JoSeph opened all the granaries and sold [the stored grain] to the Egyptians.  
  
57Then [people from] all the regions roundabout started coming to Egypt to buy [food] from JoSeph, because the famine had become [so great].