

Genesis 41 shape and keywords

THE DREAM

After two whole **years**, **Pharaoh dreamed**, **behold**, he was standing on **the Nile**, and **behold**, there **came up** out of **the Nile seven** beautiful-looking and fat-of-flesh **cows**, and they grazed in the reed grass. **Behold, seven** other **cows, evil-looking** and **thin-of-flesh, came up** out of **the Nile** after them, and stood by the other **cows** on the bank of **the Nile**. The **evil-looking** and **thin cows** ate up the **seven** beautiful-looking and fat **cows**. And **Pharaoh** awoke. Then he fell asleep and **dreamed** a second time; and **behold, seven ears of grain** of grain, fat and good, **came up** on one stalk. **Behold seven ears of grain, thin** and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them. The **thin ears of grain** swallowed up the **seven** plump and full **ears of grain**. **Pharaoh** awoke, and **behold**, it was a **dream**.

FINDING JOSEPH

In the morning his spirit was troubled; so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. **Pharaoh** told them his **dreams**, but there was no one who could **interpret** them to **Pharaoh**. Then the cupbearer officer said to **Pharaoh**, "I remember my faults today. Once **Pharaoh** was angry with his slaves and put me and the baker officer in custody in the house of the guard officer. We **dreamed** a **dream** in one night, he and I, each having a **dream** with its own **interpretation**. A young Hebrew was there with us, a slave of the of the guard officer. When we told him, he **interpreted** our **dreams** to us, giving an **interpretation** to each according to his **dream**. As he **interpreted** to us so it turned out; I was returned to my office, and the baker was hanged."

PHARAOH TELLS THE DREAMS TO JOSEPH

Then **Pharaoh** sent for **Joseph**, and he was hurriedly brought out of the pit. When he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before **Pharaoh**. And **Pharaoh** said to **Joseph**, "I have **dreamed** a **dream**, and there is no one who can **interpret** it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a **dream** you can **interpret** it." **Joseph** answered **Pharaoh**, "It is not I; **God's** answer to **Pharaoh** is *shalom*." Then **Pharaoh** said to **Joseph**, "In my **dream, behold**, I was standing on the lip of **the Nile**; and **behold, seven cows**, fat-of-flesh and beautiful-looking, **came up** out of **the Nile** and fed in the reed grass. **Behold, seven** other **cows came up** after them, poor, very **evil-looking**, and **thin**. Never had I seen such ugly ones in **all the land of Egypt**. The **thin** and **evil-looking cows** ate up the first **seven** fat **cows**, but when they had eaten them no one would have known that they had done so, for they were still as ugly as before. Then I awoke. I fell asleep a second time and I saw in my **dream behold seven ears of grain** of grain, full and good, **came up** on one stalk, and **behold, seven ears of grain**, withered, **thin**, and blighted by the east wind, sprouting after them; and the **thin ears of grain** swallowed up the **seven** good **ears of grain**. But when I told it to the magicians, there was no one who could explain it to me." [7 "beholds" in pharaoh's and Joseph's dream-speech]

JOSEPH TELLS THE DREAMS TO PHARAOH

Then **Joseph** said to **Pharaoh**, "**Pharaoh's dreams** are one; **God** *has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do*. The **seven** good **cows** are **seven years**, and the **seven** good **ears of grain** are **seven years**; **behold**, the **dreams** are one. The **seven** lean and **evil-looking cows** that **came up** after them are **seven years**, as are the **seven** empty **ears of grain** blighted by the east wind. They are **seven years** of **famine**. It is as I told **Pharaoh**; **God** *has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do*. **Behold** there will come **seven years** of great **plenty** throughout **all the land of Egypt**. After them there will arise **seven years** of **famine**, and all the **plenty** will be forgotten in **the land of Egypt**; the **famine** will consume the land. The **plenty** will no longer be known in the land because of the **famine** that will follow, for it will be very grievous. And the doubling of **Pharaoh's dream** means that *the thing is on God's firm footing, and God will shortly bring it about*. [7 "seven years" in Joseph's speech]

JOSEPH'S PROPOSAL

Now therefore let **Pharaoh** select a man who is discerning and wise and set him over **the land of Egypt**. Let **Pharaoh** proceed to appoint overseers over the land and organize the **plenty** of **the land of Egypt** during the **seven** plenteous **years**. Let them gather all the food of these good **years** that are coming and lay up grain under the hand of **Pharaoh** for food in the cities and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve for the land against the **seven years** of **famine** that are to befall **the land of Egypt**., so that the land may not perish through the **famine**."

PHARAOH RAISES UP JOSEPH

The word was good in the eyes of **Pharaoh** and all his slaves. **Pharaoh** said to his slaves, "Can we find anyone else like this--one in whom is the spirit of **God**?" So **Pharaoh** said to **Joseph**, "Since **God** has given you to know all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command; only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you." And **Pharaoh** said to **Joseph**, "See, I have set you over **all the land of Egypt**." Removing his signet ring from his hand, **Pharaoh** put it on **Joseph**'s hand; he arrayed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command; and they cried out to his face, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over **all the land of Egypt**.. Moreover **Pharaoh** said to **Joseph**, "I am **Pharaoh**, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in **all the land of Egypt**." **Pharaoh** gave **Joseph** the name Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, as his wife. Thus **Joseph** gained authority over **the land of Egypt**. **Joseph** was thirty **years** old when he stood before **Pharaoh** king of Egypt. And **Joseph** went out from the face of **Pharaoh** and went through **all the land of Egypt**..

SEVEN YEARS OF PLENTY

During the **seven** plenteous **years** the land produced **plenty**. He gathered up all the food of the **seven years** when there was **plenty** in **the land of Egypt** and stored up food in the cities; he stored up in every city the food from the fields around it. So **Joseph** stored up grain in such abundance--like the sand of the sea--that he stopped measuring it; it was beyond measure.

JOSEPH'S TWO SONS

Before the **years** of **famine** came, **Joseph** had two sons, whom Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him. **Joseph** named the firstborn Manasseh, "For," he said, "**God** has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." The second he named Ephraim, "For **God** has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortunes."

SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE

The **seven years** of **plenty** that prevailed in **the land of Egypt** came to an end; and the **seven years** of **famine** began to come, just as **Joseph** had said. There was **famine** in **all the land**, but in **all the land of Egypt** there was bread. When **all the land of Egypt** was famished, the people cried to **Pharaoh** for bread. **Pharaoh** said to all the Egyptians, "Go to **Joseph**; what he says to you, do." And since the **famine** had spread over the face of **all the land**, **Joseph** opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians, for the **famine** was severe in **the land of Egypt**. Moreover, **all the land** came to **Joseph** in Egypt to buy grain, because the **famine** became severe in **all the land**.