

Genesis 41

Verses 1-8

Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and behold, he was standing by the Nile. ² And lo, from the Nile there came up seven cows, sleek and fat; and they grazed in the marsh grass. ³ Then behold, seven other cows came up after them from the Nile, ugly and gaunt, and they stood by the *other* cows on the bank of the Nile. ⁴ The ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows. Then Pharaoh awoke. ⁵ He fell asleep and dreamed a second time; and behold, seven ears of grain came up on a single stalk, plump and good. ⁶ Then behold, seven ears, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them. ⁷ The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears. Then Pharaoh awoke, and behold, *it was* a dream. ⁸ Now in the morning his spirit was troubled, so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream

This is two years after the dreams of the cupbearer and the baker

See chart 4105

Ch	Person	Event	Age	Year
37	Joseph	Sold to Ishmaelites	17	1728
40	Joseph	Cupbearer and Baker	28	1717
35	Isaac	Isaac dies	180	1716
41	Joseph	Pharaoh's dream	30	1715
41	Joseph	Years of plenty	31-37	1714 - 1708
41	Joseph	Manasseh and Ephraim born	31-37	1714 - 1708
41	Joseph	Years of famine	38-44	1707 - 1701
45	Joseph	5 years of famine left	40	1705
46	Benjamin	5 years of famine left	33	1705
47	Jacob	5 years of famine left	131	1705
49	Jacob	Jacob dies	147	1689
50	Joseph	Joseph dies	110	1635

² And lo, from the Nile there came up seven cows, sleek and fat; and they grazed in the marsh grass

This could have been any number of places along the Nile River but it was probably near the Kings palace

⁴ The ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows.

When cows eat other cows, you are having an unusual dream. Perhaps the king had too much to drink with his dinner. 😊

Kidding aside, we know this came from God

Then Pharaoh awoke. He fell asleep and dreamed a second time

Have you ever had an experienced like this, where the second dream begins where the first dream left off?

Seven ears of grain came up on a single stalk, plump and good

This is referring to wheat

The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears

The second dream has the same message as the first

He sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt

Every administration had its magicians and wise men

And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

God may have confused the minds of the magicians and the wise men because He wanted to elevate Joseph in the eyes of the king

Verses 9-13

⁹ Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, “I would make mention today of my *own* offenses. ¹⁰ Pharaoh was furious with his servants, and he put me in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, *both* me and the chief baker. ¹¹ Then we had a dream one night, he and I; each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his *own* dream. ¹² Now a Hebrew youth was there with us, a servant of the captain of the bodyguard, and we told him *the dreams*, and he interpreted our dreams for us. For each man he interpreted according to his *own* dream. ¹³ And just as he interpreted for us, so it happened; *Pharaoh* restored me in my office, but he hanged the chief baker.”

⁹ Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, “I would make mention today of my *own* offenses.

It took courage for the cupbearer to admit his wrong before the king

But his confession righted the ship at just the right time

Verses 14 - 24

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent *word* and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh. ¹⁵ Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” ¹⁶ Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, “It has nothing to do with me; God will give Pharaoh an answer for his own good.” ¹⁷ So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “In my dream, there I was, standing on the bank of the Nile; ¹⁸ and behold, seven cows, fat and fine-looking came up out of the Nile, and they grazed in the marsh grass. ¹⁹ Then behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and thin, such as I had never seen for ugliness in all the land of Egypt; ²⁰ and the thin and ugly cows ate the first seven fat cows. ²¹ Yet when they had devoured them, it could not be detected that they had devoured them, for they were just as ugly as before. Then I awoke. ²² I saw also in my dream, and behold, seven ears of grain, full and good, came up on a single stalk; ²³ and behold, seven ears, withered, thin, *and* scorched by the east wind sprouted up after them; ²⁴ and the thin ears swallowed the seven good ears. Then I told it to the soothsayer priests, but there was no one who could explain it to me.”

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent *word* and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh

Proper etiquette for anyone appearing before the king would have included shaving and wearing clean clothes

The rest of this paragraph is a repeat of facts stated in verses 1-8

Verses 25-32

²⁵ And Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s dreams are one *and the same*; God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do. ²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one *and the same*. ²⁷ The seven thin and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven thin ears scorched by the east wind will be seven years of famine. ²⁸ It is as I have spoken to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. ²⁹ Behold, seven years of great abundance are coming in all the land of Egypt; ³⁰ and after them seven years of famine will come, and all the abundance will be forgotten in the land of Egypt, and the famine will ravage the land. ³¹ So the abundance will be unknown in the land because of that subsequent famine; for it *will be very severe*. ³² Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, *it means* that the matter is confirmed by God, and God will quickly bring it about.

God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do

This was valuable knowledge that the king had received from God

As time passes we will see a number of kings receiving a message from God

Some for good and others in the form of a judgment

Behold, seven years of great abundance are coming in all the land of Egypt; and after them seven years of famine will come

The king now knows what the next 14 years will bring

Without this knowledge, Egypt and other nations would have starved to death

God could have simply stopped the famine but He had another purpose in mind

So the abundance will be unknown in the land because of that subsequent famine; for it *will be very severe*.

God was warning the king not to waste any of the grain during the good years

Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, *it means* that the matter is confirmed by God, and God will quickly bring it about.

Did your mother ever say to you; don't make me tell you twice

Verses 33-36

³³ So now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and appoint him over the land of Egypt. ³⁴ Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him take a fifth *of the produce* of the land of Egypt as a *tax* in the seven years of abundance. ³⁵ Then have them collect all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh's authority, and have them guard *it*. ³⁶ Let the food be *used* as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine."

³³ So now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and appoint him over the land of Egypt.

Joseph was humble and didn't assume it would be him

³⁴ Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him take a fifth *of the produce* of the land of Egypt as a *tax* in the seven years of abundance. Then have them collect all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh's authority, and have them guard *it*.

This was a 20% tax for the 7 good years

Plus any food that was not used from each good year would be collected and stored in the cities and it would be guarded

The king would become very rich under Joseph

Verses 37-45

³⁷ Now the proposal seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants. ³⁸ Then Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom there is a divine spirit?” ³⁹ So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you are. ⁴⁰ You shall be in charge of my house, and all my people shall be obedient to you; only *regarding* the throne will I be greater than you.” ⁴¹ Pharaoh also said to Joseph, “See, I have placed you over all the land of Egypt.” ⁴² Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put the gold necklace around his neck. ⁴³ And he had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed ahead of him, “Bow the knee!” And he placed him over all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁴ Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “*Though* I am Pharaoh, yet without your permission no one shall raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.” ⁴⁵ Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On, to *be his wife*. And Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

³⁹ So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you are.

You have to give the king some credit for believing that this message came from God

And this message had not come to pass yet

Is that not a good indication of faith?

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “*Though* I am Pharaoh, yet without your permission no one shall raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

Joseph was given complete control over Egypt with one exception

And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah

This new name most likely means Salvation of the World

And he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On, to *be his wife*.

Joseph married the daughter of a pagan priest who was named after one of the pagan goddesses of Egypt.

Priest of On

On is a city named Heliopolis, 7 miles northeast of Cairo, it was a center of worship for the sun-god Re

See Map 4110



Verses 46-53

⁴⁶ Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁷ During the seven years of plenty the land produced abundantly. ⁴⁸ So he collected all the food of *these* seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt and put the food in the cities; he put in every city the food from its own surrounding fields. ⁴⁹ Joseph stored up grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring *it*, for it was beyond measure. ⁵⁰ Now before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara, priest of On, bore to him. ⁵¹ Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh; "For," *he said*, "God has made me forget all my trouble and all of my father's household." ⁵² And he named the second Ephraim; "For," *he said*, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Now Joseph was 30 years old when he stood in the presence of the king of Egypt

Joseph was 17 when he was sold into slavery and he is now 30 years old

See chart 4115

Joseph			
Ch	Age	Year	Event
37	17	1728	sold into slavery
39			in charge of Potiphars house
39			put in prison
39			in charge of the prison
40	28	1717	Cupbearer and Baker
41	30	1715	Before the King

years as a slave	13	age 17 to 30
years in prison	??	not sure

And Joseph laid up grain as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left off numbering; for it was without number

See Video 4120 8.5 Grain stored by Joseph

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.5.html>

The 7 years of great crops was between 1714 and 1708bc

See Pic 4125 Grain storage area



Now before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara, priest of On, bore to him.

See chart 4130

Ch	Person	Event	Age	Year
37	Joseph	Sold to Ishmaelites	17	1728
40	Joseph	Cupbearer and Baker	28	1717
35	Isaac	Isaac dies	180	1716
41	Joseph	Pharaoh's dream	30	1715
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50	Joseph	Joseph dies	110	1635

⁵¹ Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh; “For,” *he said*, “God has made me forget all my trouble and all of my father’s household.” ⁵² And he named the second Ephraim; “For,” *he said*, “God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

The first-born was Manasseh meaning:

God has made me forget all my toil, and my father's house

The years serving in Potiphar’s house, those spent as a slave, and the years in charge of the prison had been difficult years

Having his own family helped him forget his family in Canaan

The second he called Ephraim meaning:

For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction

From slave to second in command of all of Egypt, and finding a wife and having 2 kids qualifies as being quite fruitful

Verses 54-57

⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said, then there was famine in all the lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

⁵⁵ So when all the land of Egypt suffered famine, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, you shall do.” ⁵⁶ When the famine was *spread* over the entire face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. ⁵⁷ Then *the people of* all the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the earth.

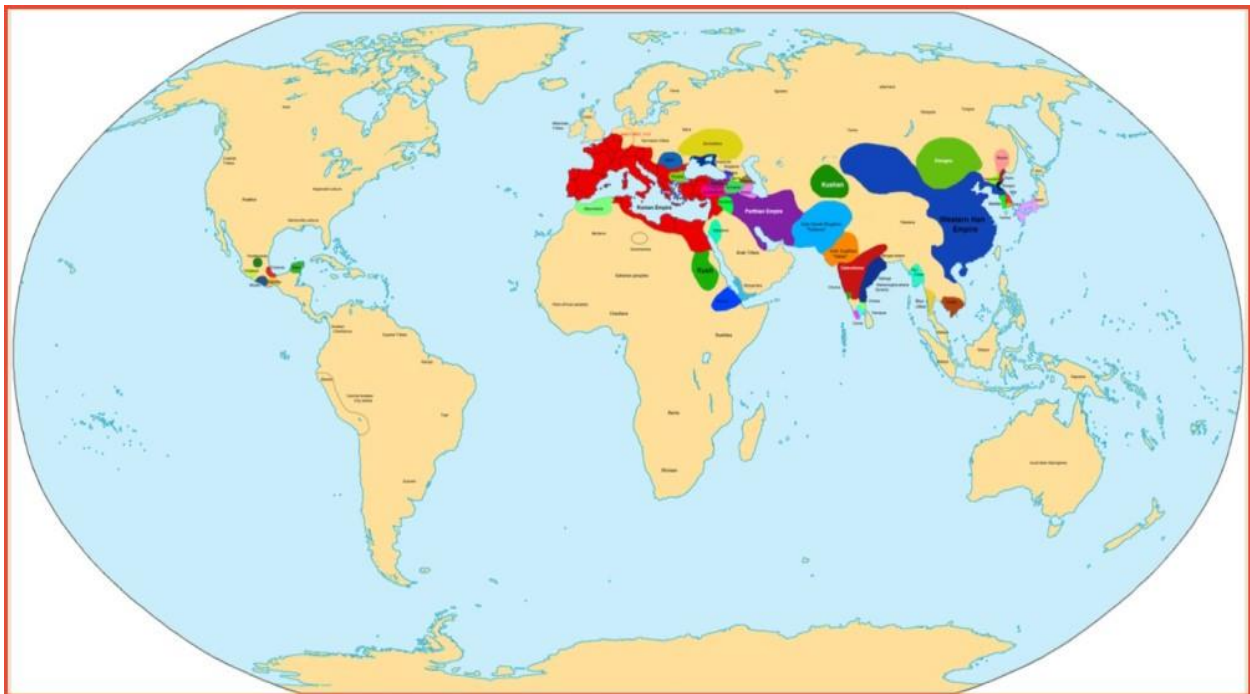
Then there was famine in all the lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

In 1700 BC what part of the earth was populated?

We don't know with certainty, because the bible doesn't tell us

But the following is an educated guess from historians and archeology

See Map 4135



The global flood took place in 3098 BC and 8 people survived

By 1700 BC, mankind had spread from the Middle East to Eastern Asia and Western Europe in just 1,600 years

Of course they were spurred on by God at the tower of Babel in 2700 BC

See Genesis 11

⁵⁶ **When the famine was *spread* over the entire face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.**

Is there any evidence that this account is trustworthy?

Well, for those who don't believe the bible is the Word of God, maybe they will be convinced by some current findings of Archeology

See Video 4140 8.6 Egyptian famine and Archeology

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.6.html>

Then *the people of all the earth* came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the earth.

This was a worldwide famine and God used Egypt under the control of Joseph to save the world from starvation

If the map above is correct, some of the nation's coming to Egypt had to travel very long distances to buy food

From Rome to Egypt is 1500 miles

From China to Egypt is 4300 miles