

021 Pharaoh's Dream

MEMORY VERSE: The word of the LORD proved him true. Psalm 105:19

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 41

AIM: To teach that we should trust God even when things look discouraging.

One night, Pharaoh, King of Egypt, had a dream. It was very real to him. He was standing on the bank of the Nile River. In his dream, he saw seven cows come up out of the river to feed on the grass. Then seven more cows followed them out of the water, but they were very skinny and all their ribs stood out. As he watched, the skinny cows ate the fat cows, but they didn't get any fatter.

Pharaoh awoke feeling very troubled. But he soon fell asleep again and he had a second dream. This time he saw seven ripe healthy ears of corn growing on one stalk. Then he saw seven more ears of corn all shrivelled up by the wind. As with the cows, the thin ears of corn swallowed the seven fat ears but the first corn still looked thin.

Pharaoh woke up. He was bewildered. He called all his advisors together and told them about his dreams. But no one knew what they meant.

Suddenly the butler remembered his own dream of two years before. He went to Pharaoh and said, "When I was in prison, the chief baker and I both had strange dreams. A young man named Joseph, who was in prison at the same time, told us what our dreams meant, and he was right."

"Bring him to me at once," Pharaoh ordered.

A messenger was sent to the prison and Joseph was released. He was quickly dressed in clean clothes and ushered into the presence of the king. Pharaoh told the dreams to Joseph and said, "I have heard that you can tell me their meaning." "I can't," said Joseph. "God will give Pharaoh the meaning." Then Joseph said, "The two dreams are about the same thing. God is telling you what is going to happen, so that you can be prepared. The seven good cows and the seven good ears of corn represent seven years. There will be seven very good years of harvest, and there will be plenty for both cattle and men to eat. But, in the next seven years, there is going to be a dreadful famine. There will be no food. God gave you the dream twice so that you would know for sure that this is what will happen."

Joseph continued, "You must find a good, honest man and put him in charge of all Egypt to see that your orders are carried out. You should command that during the seven good years, one fifth of all the grain be stored in barns. That way there will be enough to eat when the seven years of famine come."

The king was pleased with Joseph and his wise advise. "You shall be that man," he announced. "Since it is through you that God has spoken, and since in all Egypt I know of no one wiser than you, I shall put you in charge. Everyone shall obey you, and only I shall be greater than you."

Then Pharaoh placed his own special ring on Joseph's finger as a sign of his authority, dressed him in fine clothes, placed the royal golden chain about his neck and gave Joseph a chariot that was next in rank to his own.

Joseph's brothers had sold him as a slave thinking to hurt and humble him. But now he was one of the most powerful men in the world, riding through Egypt's cities in the royal chariot!

Joseph never stopped trusting God through all the years of being a slave and prisoner. God had not forgotten him. God defeated the plots of Joseph's enemies and made everything turn in Joseph's favor. God had a plan for His people, and He used Joseph to bring glory to Himself.