

PATRIARCHS OF THE PROMISE

Lesson 14: Joseph rises to power

Genesis 41

Apr 27, 2025

Romans 8:28 (NASB95)

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Recap/Introduction

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- Last lesson:
 - Joseph was blessed by God in Potiphar's house
 - Joseph was locked in prison after being wrongly accused

Recap/Introduction

- Last lesson:
 - Joseph was blessed by God in Potiphar's house
 - Joseph was locked in prison after being wrongly accused
- This week's lesson:
 - Joseph is released from prison
 - Joseph prepares Egypt for the famine

Outline

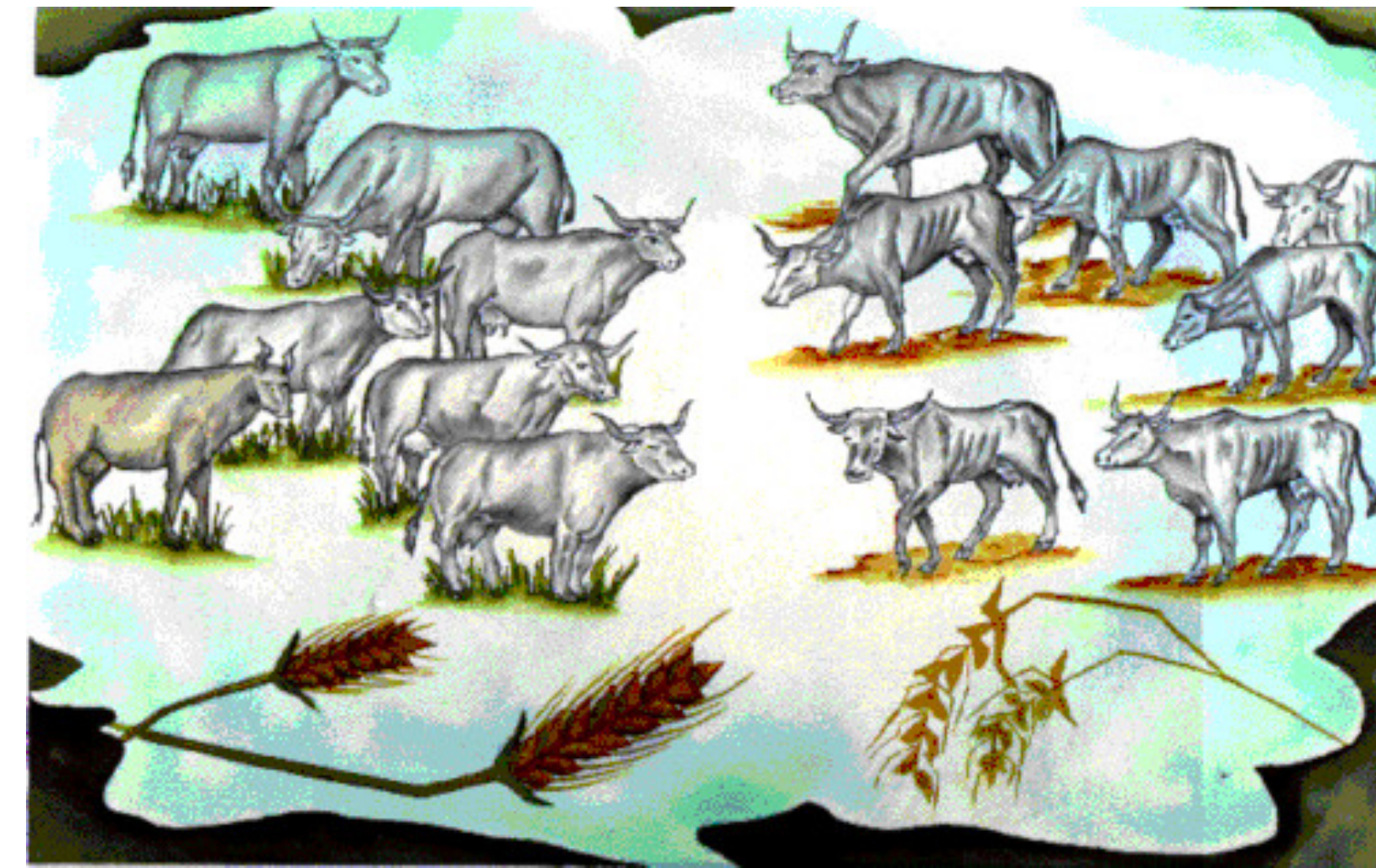
- **Pharaoh's dream - Genesis 41:1-36**
- **Dreams come to pass - Genesis 41:37-57**



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

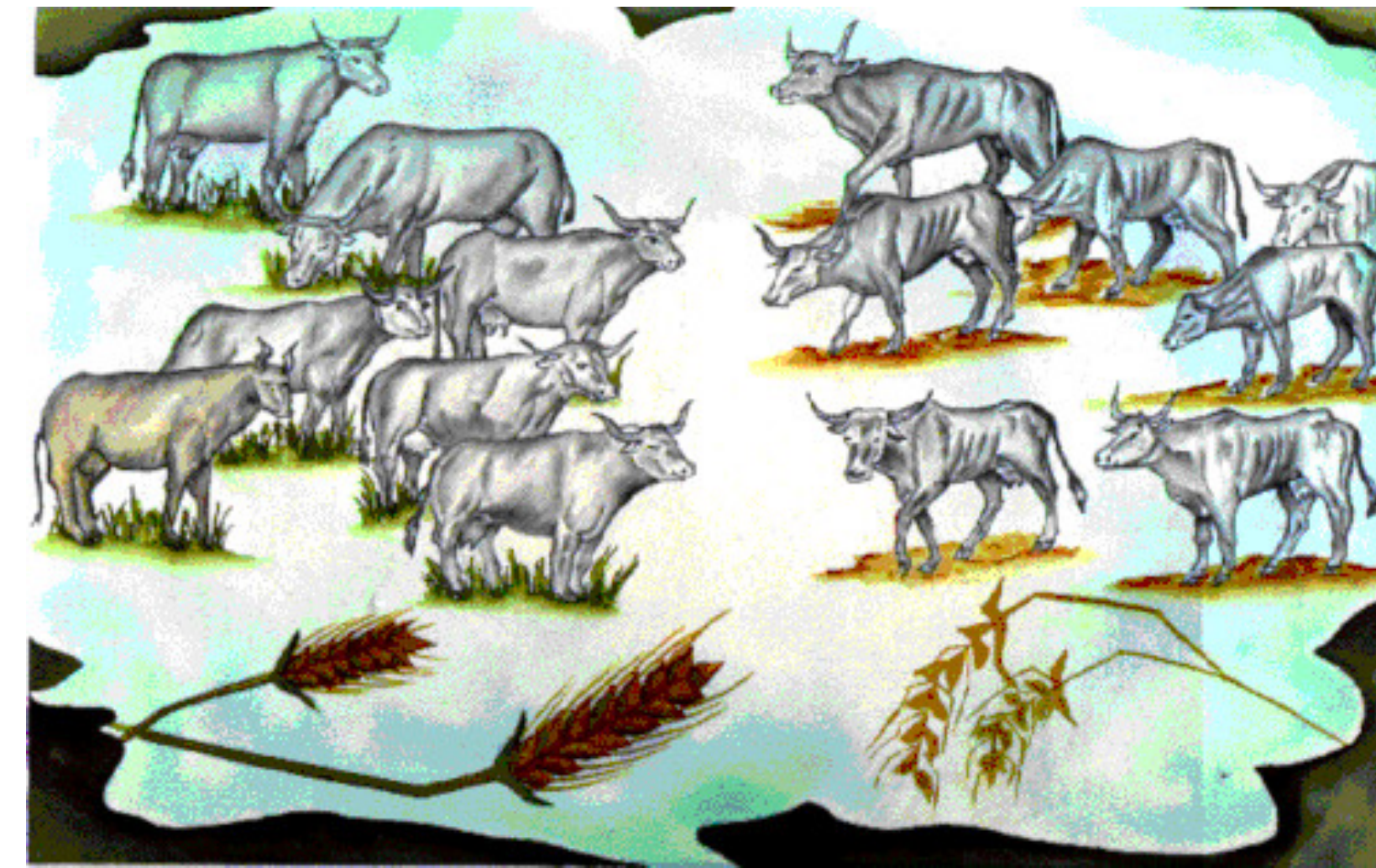


Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How long had Joseph been in prison?

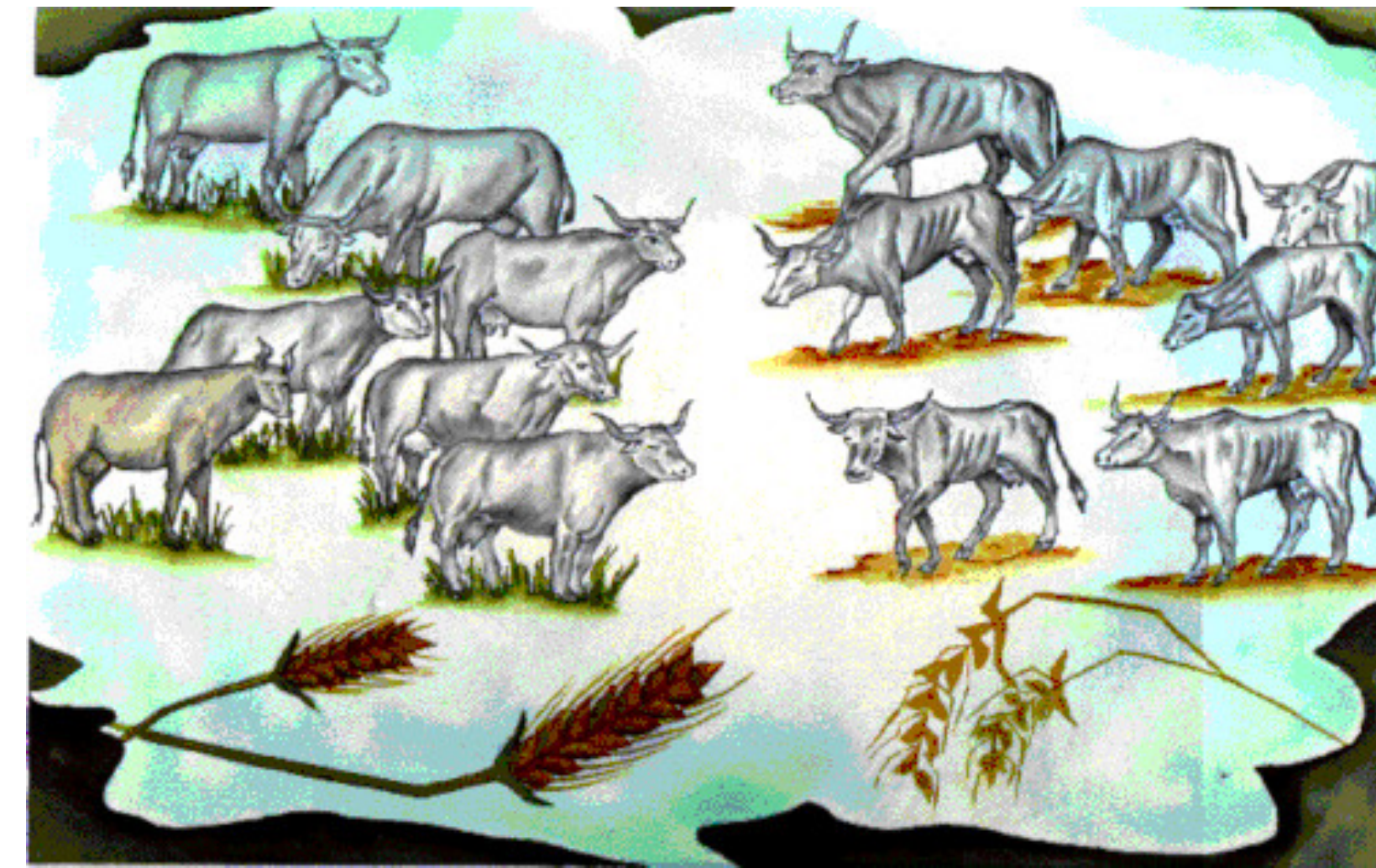


Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How long had Joseph been in prison?



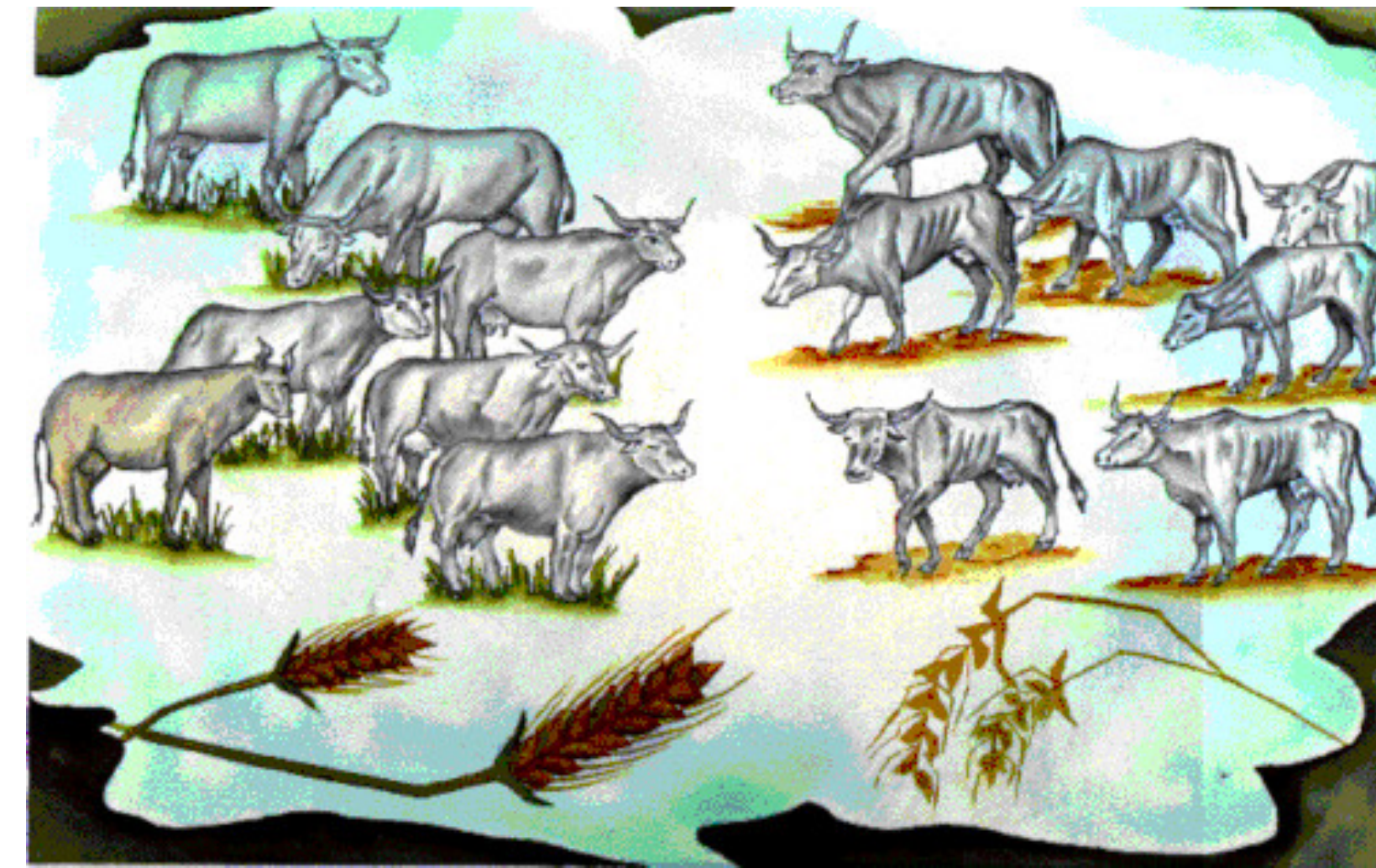
Now it happened at the end of **two full years** that Pharaoh had a dream, and behold, he was standing by the Nile.
(Genesis 41:1, NASB95, emphasis mine)

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How long had Joseph been in prison?

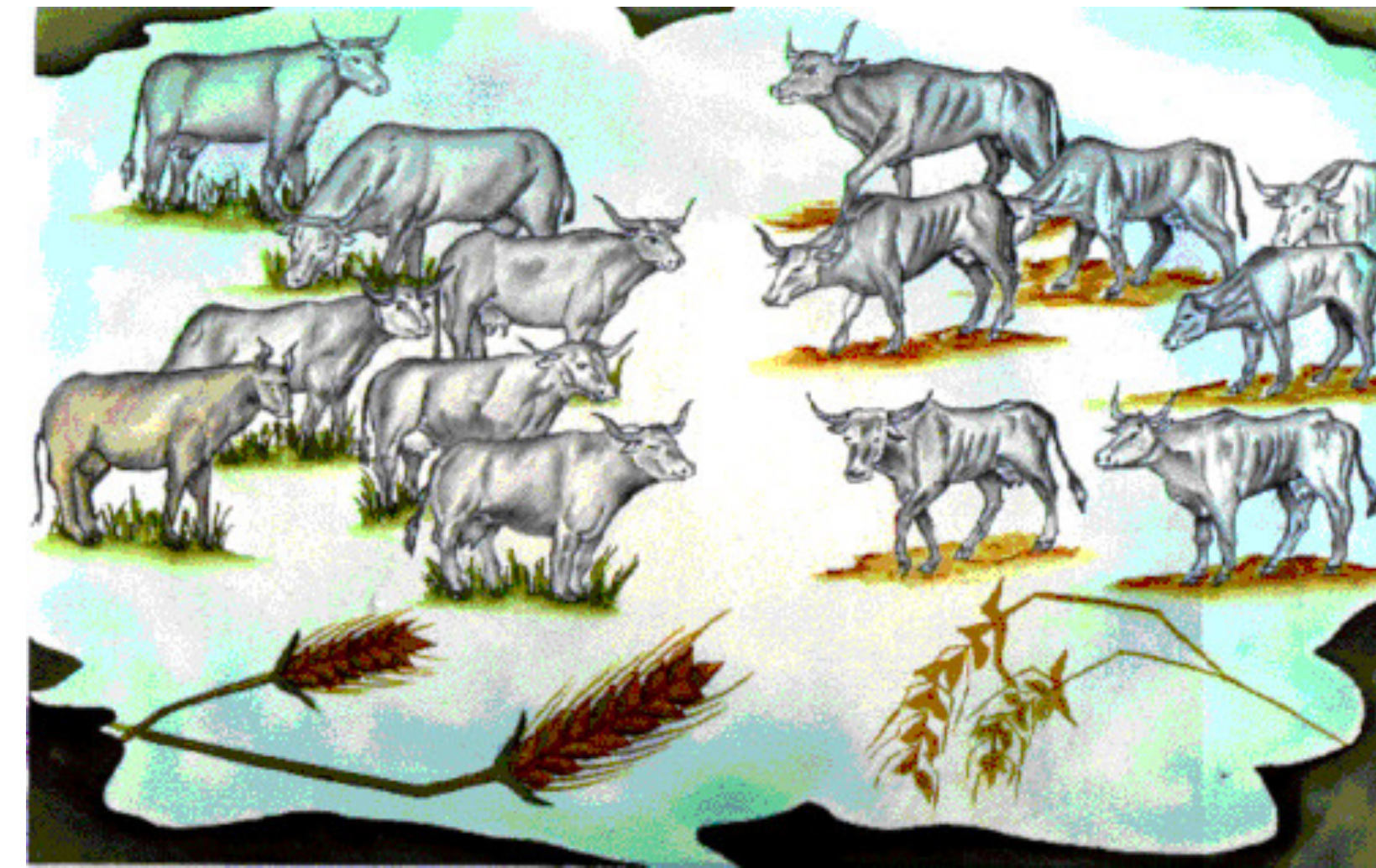


Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How long had Joseph been in prison?
- Pharaoh has two dreams



And lo, from the Nile there came up **seven cows, sleek and fat**; and they grazed in the marsh grass. 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. **The ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows.** Then Pharaoh awoke.

(Genesis 41:2-4, NASB95, emphasis mine)



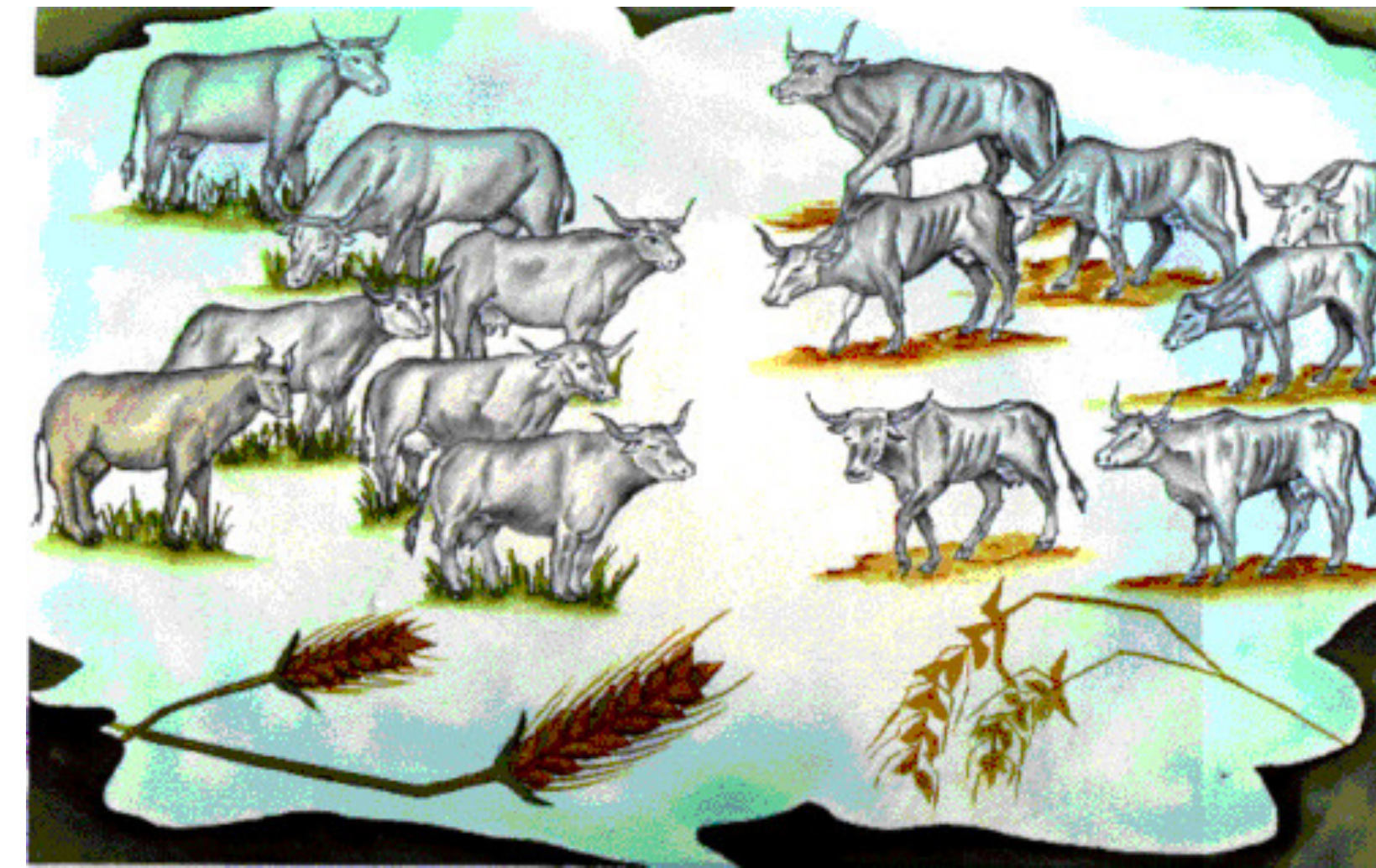
- **Pharaoh has two dreams**

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How long had Joseph been in prison?
- Pharaoh has two dreams



He fell asleep and dreamed a second time; and behold, **seven ears of grain** came up on a single stalk, plump and good. Then behold, **seven ears**, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them. The **thin ears** swallowed up the **seven plump and full ears**. Then Pharaoh awoke, and behold, *it was* a dream.

(Genesis 41:5-7, NASB95, emphasis mine)



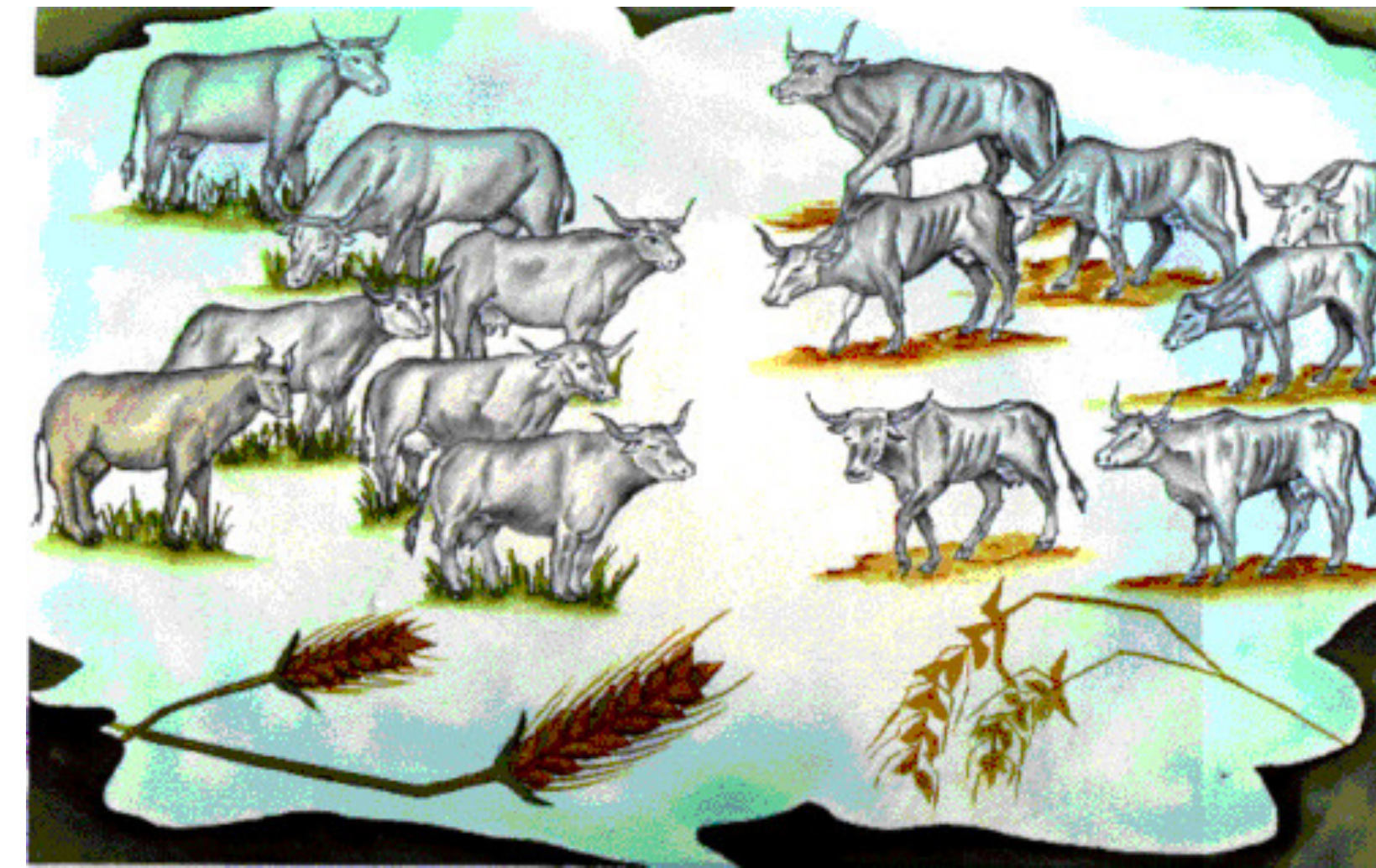
- **Pharaoh has two dreams**

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How long had Joseph been in prison?
- Pharaoh has two dreams

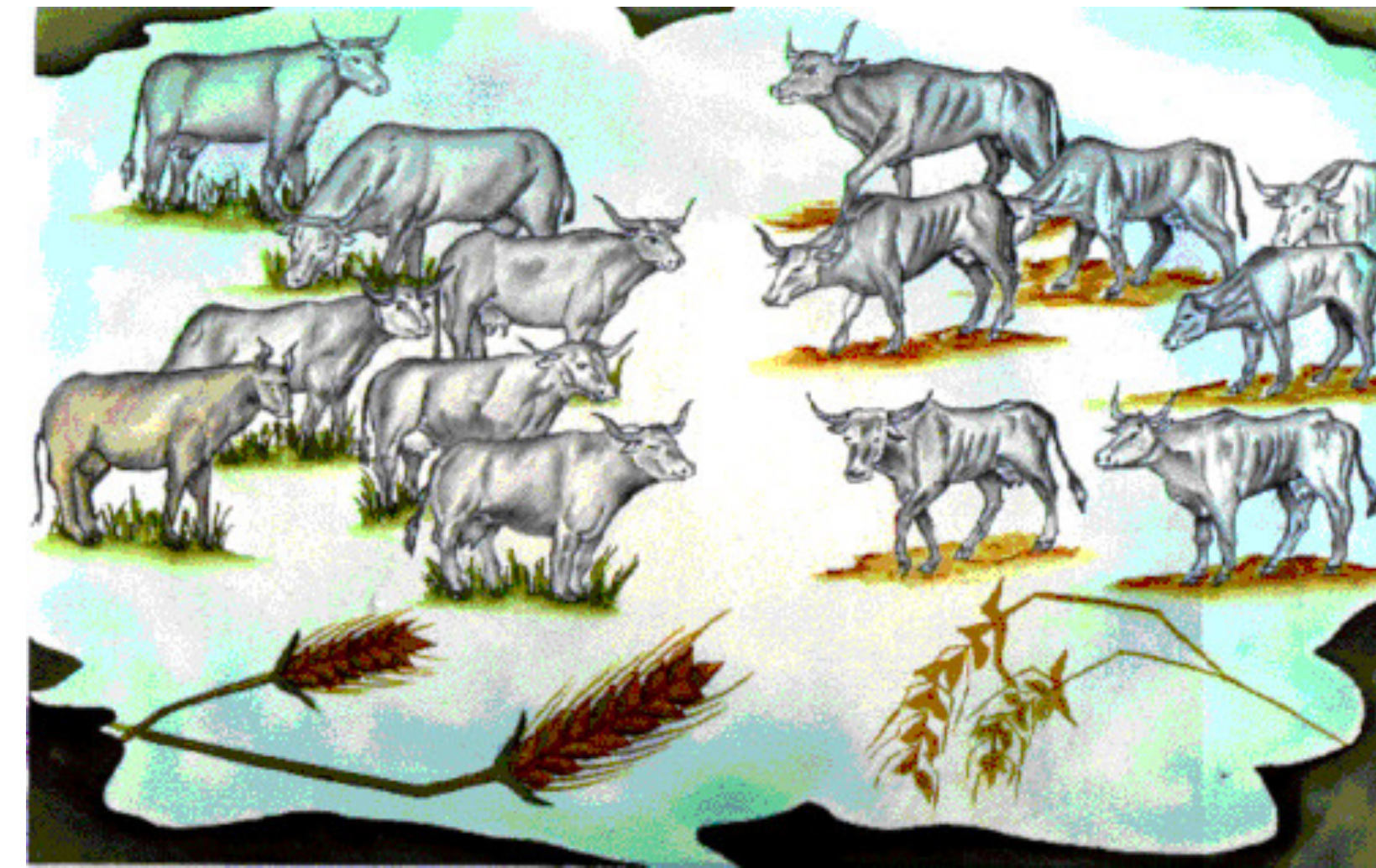


Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How long had Joseph been in prison?
- Pharaoh has two dreams
- How did Pharaoh react to having those dreams?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36



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.

(Genesis 41:8, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- How did Pharaoh react to having those dreams?

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Who was responsible for bringing Joseph back into the picture? What did he remember?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE



- Who was responsible for bringing Joseph back into the picture? What did he remember?

Then the **chief cupbearer** spoke to Pharaoh, saying, “I would make mention today of my *own* offenses. 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.
(Genesis 41:9-10, NASB95, emphasis mine)

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Who was responsible for bringing Joseph back into the picture? What did he remember?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE



- Who was responsible for bringing Joseph back into the picture? What did he remember?

We had a dream on the same night, he and I; each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his *own* dream. Now a Hebrew youth *was* with us there, a servant of the captain of the bodyguard, and we related *them* to him, and he interpreted our dreams for us. To each one he interpreted according to his *own* dream.
(Genesis 41:11-12, NASB95)

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Who was responsible for bringing Joseph back into the picture? What did he remember?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Who was responsible for bringing Joseph back into the picture? What did he remember?

And just as he interpreted for us, so it happened; he restored me in my office, but he hanged him.”
(Genesis 41:13, NASB95)



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Who was responsible for bringing Joseph back into the picture? What did he remember?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Who was responsible for bringing Joseph back into the picture? What did he remember?
- How did Joseph respond when asked if He could interpret dreams?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36



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.” Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.” (Genesis 41:15-16, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- How did Joseph respond when asked if He could interpret dreams?

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Were the dreams distinct from one another?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE



- Were the dreams distinct from one another?

Now Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s dreams are *one and the same*; God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do.
(Genesis 41:25, NASB95, emphasis mine)

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Were the dreams distinct from one another?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Were the dreams distinct from one another?

The seven good cows are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are *one and the same*.
(Genesis 41:26, NASB95, emphasis mine)



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Were the dreams distinct from one another?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Were the dreams distinct from one another?
- What did the fat cows and fat ears of grain represent? What did the skinny cows and ears of grain represent?



Pharaoh's dream



The seven lean 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**.

(Genesis 41:27, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- What did the fat cows and fat ears of grain represent? What did the skinny cows and ears of grain represent?

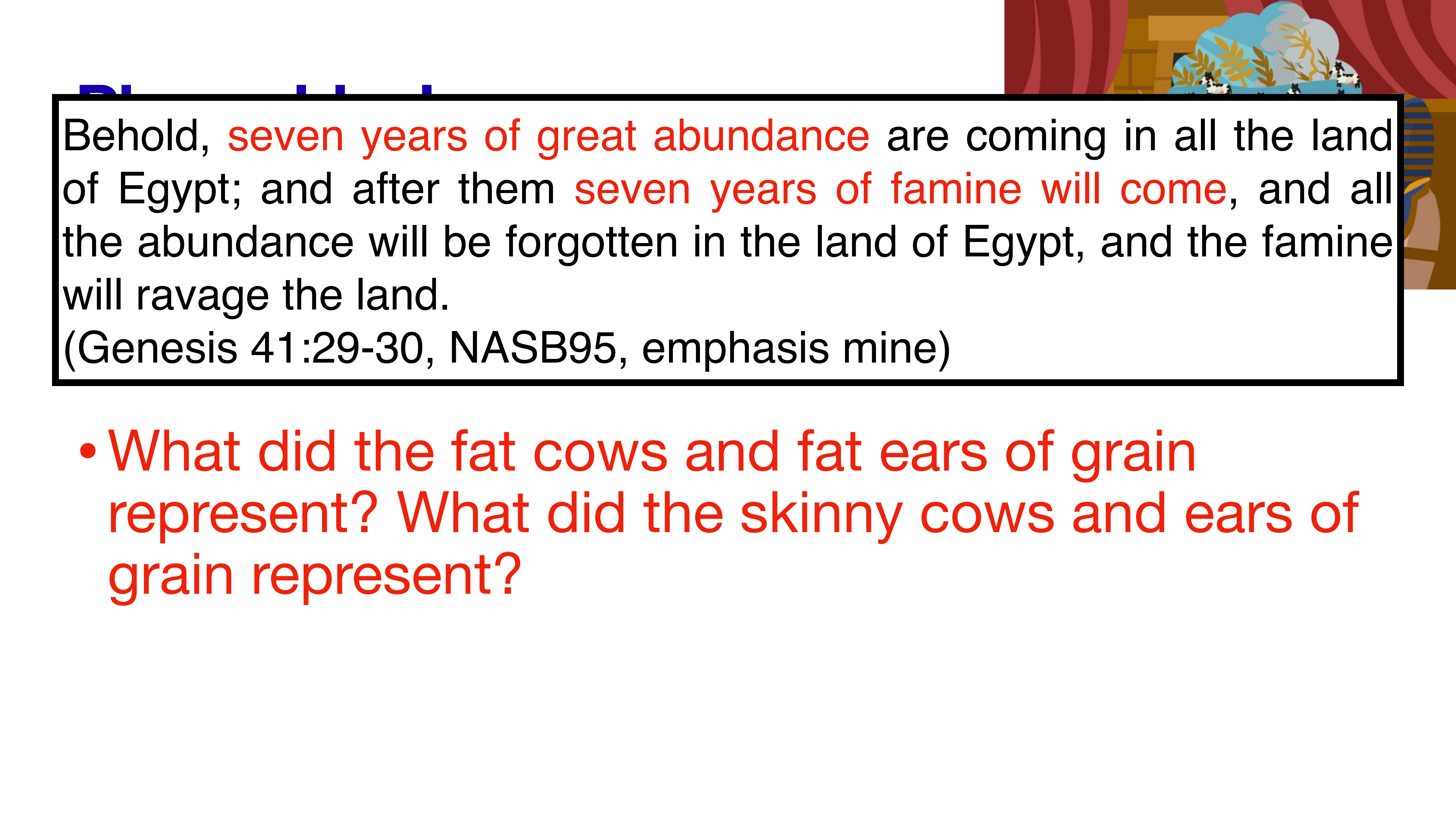
Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Were the dreams distinct from one another?
- What did the fat cows and fat ears of grain represent? What did the skinny cows and ears of grain represent?





Behold, **seven years of great abundance** are coming in all the land of Egypt; 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.

(Genesis 41:29-30, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- **What did the fat cows and fat ears of grain represent? What did the skinny cows and ears of grain represent?**

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- Were the dreams distinct from one another?
- What did the fat cows and fat ears of grain represent? What did the skinny cows and ears of grain represent?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE



- Were the dreams distinct from one another?
- What did the fat cows and fat ears of grain represent? What did the skinny cows and ears of grain represent?
- What does it mean that the dream was repeated?

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE



- Were the dreams distinct from one another?

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

(Genesis 41:32, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- **What does it mean that the dream was repeated?**

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How was the famine described in v30-31?

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How was the famine described in v30-31?

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

(Genesis 41:30-31, NASB95, emphasis mine)

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How was the famine described in v30-31?

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How was the famine described in v30-31?
- What did Joseph do after he offered the interpretation?

Pharaoh's dream

Now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth *of the produce* of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance. (Genesis 41:33-34, NASB95)

- What did Joseph do after he offered the interpretation?

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

OBSERVE

- How was the famine described in v30-31?
- What did Joseph do after he offered the interpretation?

Then let them gather 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 let them guard it. Let the food become 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."

(Genesis 41:35-36, NASB95)

- What did Joseph do after he offered the interpretation?

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET

- Why did God give Pharaoh the dreams?



Pharaoh's dream

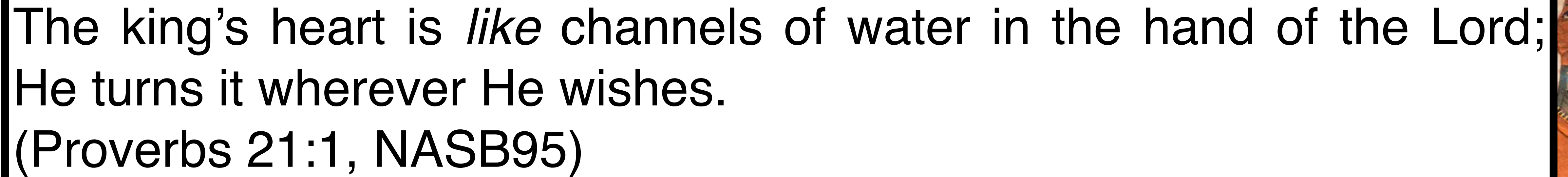
Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET

- Why did God give Pharaoh the dreams?

- Bring Joseph out of prison
- God's sovereignty over Pharaoh





The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the Lord;
He turns it wherever He wishes.
(Proverbs 21:1, NASB95)

- Why did God give Pharaoh the dreams?

- Bring Joseph out of prison
- God's sovereignty over Pharaoh

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET

- Why did God give Pharaoh the dreams?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET

- Why did God give Pharaoh the dreams?
- What was the spiritual significance of the Nile for the Egyptians?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET

- Why did God

The Nile was a sacred river that represented the cycle of life with its annual flooding providing the fertility of the valley

- What was the spiritual significance of the Nile for the Egyptians?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET



- Why did God give Pharaoh the dreams?
- What was the spiritual significance of the Nile for the Egyptians?

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET



- Why did God give Pharaoh the dreams?
- What was the spiritual significance of the Nile for the Egyptians?
- How did the Egyptians view Pharaoh?

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET



- Why did God give Pharaoh the dreams?
- What was the spirit of the Nile for the Egyptians?

He was acknowledged as a god (or at least a son of the gods)
- How did the Egyptians view Pharaoh?

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET

- Why does Joseph say “God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer” (v16)?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET



- Why does Joseph say “God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer” (v16)?

Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; **God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.**”

(Genesis 41:16, NASB95, emphasis mine)

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET

- Why does Joseph say
Pharaoh a favorable

Answer of peace (shalom)
- For the welfare of Pharaoh

Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; **God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.**"

(Genesis 41:16, NASB95, emphasis mine)



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET

- Why does Joseph say “God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer” (v16)?
- Why could Joseph interpret Pharaoh's when the royal magicians could not?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET

Then Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell *it* to me, please.”
(Genesis 40:8b, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- Why could Joseph interpret Pharaoh's when the royal magicians could not?



Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

INTERPRET

- Why does Joseph say “God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer” (v16)?
- Why could Joseph interpret Pharaoh's when the royal magicians could not?

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, “I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone, Causing the omens of boasters to fail, **Making fools out of diviners**, Causing wise men to draw back And turning their knowledge into foolishness,

(Isaiah 44:24-25, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- **Why could Joseph interpret Pharaoh’s when the royal magicians could not?**

Pharaoh's dream

Genesis 41:1-36

APPLY

- How do you respond when you're waiting on God, like Joseph in prison?
- When people praise your success, character, or gifts, do you see those moments as opportunities to glorify God?

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Pharaoh commends Joseph and made him a ruler of Egypt



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Pharaoh commends Joseph and made him a ruler of Egypt

Then Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is a **divine spirit**?” So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so **discerning and wise** as you are.

(Genesis 41:38-39, NASB95, emphasis mine)



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Pharaoh commends Joseph and made him a ruler of Egypt



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Pharaoh commends Joseph and made him a ruler of Egypt

You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you.” Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.”

(Genesis 41:40-41, NASB95)



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Pharaoh commends Joseph and made him a ruler of Egypt



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Pharaoh commends Joseph and made him a ruler of Egypt
- How was Joseph rewarded by Pharaoh?



Dreams come to pass



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. He had him ride in his **second chariot**; and they proclaimed before him, "Bow the knee!" And he set him over all the land of Egypt.

(Genesis 41:42-43, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- **How was Joseph rewarded by Pharaoh?**

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Pharaoh commends Joseph and made him a ruler of Egypt
- How was Joseph rewarded by Pharaoh?



Dreams come to pass



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.” Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, as **his wife**. And Joseph went forth over the land of Egypt. (Genesis 41:44-45, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- **How was Joseph rewarded by Pharaoh?**

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Pharaoh commends Joseph and made him a ruler of Egypt
- How was Joseph rewarded by Pharaoh?



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Pharaoh commends Joseph and made him a ruler of Egypt
- How was Joseph rewarded by Pharaoh?
- How old was Joseph?



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE



Now Joseph was **thirty years old** when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.
(Genesis 41:46, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- **How old was Joseph?**

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Seven years of plenty



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Seven years of plenty



During the **seven years of plenty** the land brought forth abundantly. So he gathered all the food of *these* seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt and placed the food in the cities; he placed in every city the food from its own surrounding fields. Thus Joseph stored up grain in **great abundance like the sand of the sea**, until he stopped measuring *it*, for it was beyond measure. (Genesis 41:47-49, NASB95, emphasis mine)

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Seven years of plenty



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Seven years of plenty
- What happened in Joseph's life during the seven years of plenty?



Now before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore to him. Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, “For,” *he said*, “God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.” He named the second Ephraim, “For,” *he said*, “God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”
(Genesis 41:50-52, NASB95)

- What happened in Joseph’s life during the seven years of plenty?

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Seven years of famine



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Seven years of famine



When the seven years of plenty which had been in the land of Egypt came to an end, 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. So when all the land of Egypt was famished, 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.” (Genesis 41:53-55, NASB95, emphasis mine)

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Seven years of famine



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

OBSERVE

- Seven years of famine
- How did Joseph meet the needs of the people?



When the famine was *spread* over all the face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. *The people of all the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph*, because the famine was severe in all the earth.

(Genesis 41:56-57, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- How did Joseph meet the needs of the people?

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

INTERPRET



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

INTERPRET

- Why did Pharaoh find Joseph's plan so pleasing?



Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

INTERPRET

- Why did Pharaoh find Joseph's plan so pleasing?



- Practical wisdom in the plan
- Visible divine authority
- God's sovereignty over Pharaoh

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since **God** has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are.
(Genesis 41:39, NASB95, emphasis mine)

• Why did Pharaoh find Joseph’s plan so pleasing?

- Practical wisdom in the plan
- Visible divine authority
- God’s sovereignty over Pharaoh

Dreams come to pass

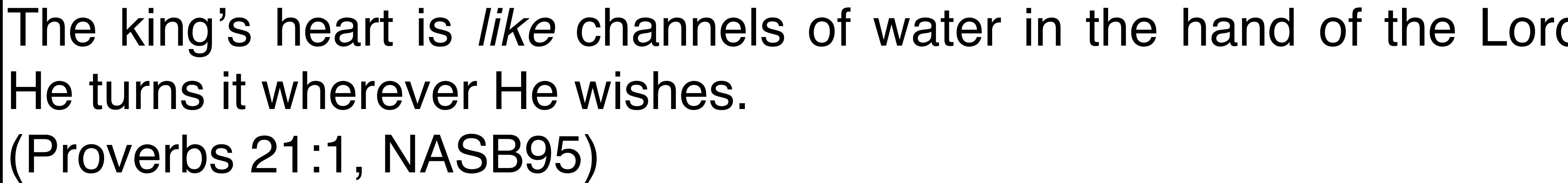
Genesis 41:37-57

INTERPRET

- Why did Pharaoh find Joseph's plan so pleasing?



- Practical wisdom in the plan
- Visible divine authority
- God's sovereignty over Pharaoh



The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the Lord;
He turns it wherever He wishes.
(Proverbs 21:1, NASB95)

- Why did Pharaoh find Joseph's plan so pleasing?

- Practical wisdom in the plan
- Visible divine authority
- God's sovereignty over Pharaoh


Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

INTERPRET



- Why did Pharaoh find Joseph's plan so pleasing?
- Pharaoh commends Joseph: How does this compare to the description of Daniel in Daniel 4:8-9, 5:10-12?



But finally Daniel came in before me, whose name is Belteshazzar according to the name of my god, and in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and I related the dream to him, *saying*, ‘O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, since I know that a **spirit of the holy gods** is in you and no mystery baffles you, tell *me* the visions of my dream which I have seen, along with its interpretation.

(Daniel 4:8-9, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- **Pharaoh commends Joseph: How does this compare to the description of Daniel in Daniel 4:8-9, 5:10-12?**

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

INTERPRET

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

INTERPRET

- How did the names of Joseph's sons relate to his experiences?

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

INTERPRET

- How did the names of Joseph's sons relate to his experiences?

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

(Genesis 41:51-52, NASB95)

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

INTERPRET

- How did the names of Joseph's sons relate to his experiences?
- Why did God bless Egypt?

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

INTERPRET

- How did the names of Joseph's sons relate to his experiences?
- Why did God bless Egypt?

For His glory and the good of His people

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”
(Genesis 12:3, NASB95)

relate

- Why did God bless Egypt?

For His glory and the good of His people

Dreams come to pass

Genesis 41:37-57

APPLY

- As we consider Joseph's life, can we look at what happened to him and say that everyone who faithfully follows God will receive the same type of exaltation?
- How should what we have read give us hope in God?