
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Gen. 41:1-44	Pharaoh's dreams; Yoseph appointed to be 2 nd in command
Tuesday:	Gen. 41:45-57	Yoseph marries and has 2 sons during the 7 years of plenty; The 7 years of scarcity begins
Wednesday:	Gen. 42	Yoseph's 10 brothers appear before him in Mitsrayim
Thursday:	Gen. 43	Ya'aqob sends his sons back to Mitsrayim with Binyamin
Friday:	Gen. 44:1-17	The incident of the 'stolen' cup

Many events have happened to Yoseph since he was taken to Mitsrayim (Egypt) and sold to Potiphar. In a nutshell, he became prosperous in Potiphar's home, but then was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, that ended up with Yoseph being thrown in jail. While in prison, he interpreted the cupbearer and baker's dreams, which came to pass. Although he requested the cupbearer to please remember him to Pharaoh, it appeared he was forgotten. Then, 2 years later, Pharaoh had 2 disturbing dreams. This week, we will continue covering the story of Yoseph. In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, Yoseph is brought before Pharaoh to interpret his 2 dreams. Now, let's read Gen. 41.

PARSHA POINTS

- Pharaoh's first dream (41:1-4):
 - He was standing by the river
 - He saw 7 (**sheva**) fine-looking, fat cows (**pa'roht**) coming up out of the river and feeding among the reeds
 - Then he saw 7 ugly and lean cows also coming out of the river
 - The 7 ugly and lean cows devoured the 7 fine-looking and fat cows
- Pharaoh awoke from his 1st dream
- Pharaoh's 2nd dream (41:5-7):
 - He saw 7 plump and 'good' heads of grain (**shibbolim**) coming up on one stalk
 - After them, he saw 7 lean (empty) heads of grain coming up, looking scorched by the east wind
 - The 7 lean heads swallowed the 7 plump and 'complete' heads
- Pharaoh awoke from his 2nd dream



- Deeply puzzled by the 2 (**shtayim**) dreams, Pharaoh sent for his magicians (**chartom**) and wise men to interpret them. But no one could tell him the meaning - 41:8
- The cupbearer then informed Pharaoh that during his time in prison, a Hebrew youth (a servant of Potiphar, captain of the guard) accurately interpreted both his dream and the baker's dream as well - 41:9-13
- Pharaoh hurriedly sent for Yoseph to come before him and interpret his dreams - 41:14-15
- Yoseph declared to Pharaoh that it was NOT him, but Elohim who would answer Pharaoh's dream - 41:16
- Pharaoh related both of his dreams to Yoseph, and Yoseph explained them - 41:17-25
- Yoseph told Pharaoh that (41:25-27):



- the 2 dreams were actually 1
- Elohim had shown Pharaoh what He was going to do
- the 7 fat cows and the 7 good heads represented 7 years of plentiful food
- the 7 lean cows and the 7 empty heads represented 7 years of scarcity (**ra'av**) of food



- Yoseph (41:28-36):

- repeated that Elohim had shown Pharaoh what He was about to do
- explained to Pharaoh that the dream was repeated twice by Elohim because it would surely happen, and that Elohim was hastening to do it
- advised Pharaoh to set up a wise and discerning man, assisted by overseers, to take up and put aside 1/5th of all Mitsrayim's grain during the 7 years of plenty
- counseled Pharaoh to store this extra grain in his cities, in preparation for the 7 years of scarcity of food, so that his people could survive those difficult years

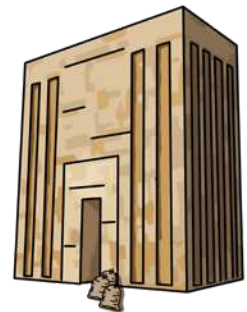


- Pharaoh (41:37-45):

- and his servants saw Yoseph's words as good
- remarks to his servants, "Could we find another like him, a man in whom is the Spirit of Elohim?"
- told Yoseph that no one was as discerning and as wise as him
- placed Yoseph over his house (**bayith**) and all the land of Mitsrayim, 2nd in authority only to Pharaoh himself.
- gave to Yoseph his seal-ring, fine linen garments and a gold chain for his neck
- provided Yoseph with his 2nd chariot, and as he rode in it, the Mitsrians honored him by bowing their knees
- assured Yoseph that his command was to be over everyone in the land
- changed Yoseph's name to Zaphnath-Pa'neah (meaning, 'he who reveals what is hidden')
- gave to him Asenath, daughter (**bat**) of a priest, (meaning, 'belonging to Neith' {goddess of wisdom}) to be his wife (**i'sha**)



- Yoseph (41:46-52):
 - was 30 (**shloshim**) years old when he became 2nd in command over all Mitsrayim
 - gathered up grain in every city during the 7 years of plenty-compared to the sand of the sea, which could NOT be counted
 - fathered 2 sons (**banim**) during these 7 years
 - named his 1st son Menashsheh (meaning, 'for Elohim had made me forget all my toil and all my father's house')
 - named his 2nd son Ephrayim (meaning, 'for Elohim has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction')
- Just as Yoseph had foretold, the 7 years of plenty ended and the 7 years of scarcity began - 41:53-54
- The Mitsrites hungered and began to buy food from Yoseph - food which had been put away in the storehouses - 41:54-56
- The scarcity of food was so severe in the entire region that many outside of Mitsrayim also came to Yoseph to buy grain - 41:57



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Discuss the parallelisms between Yoseph's story and Yeshua's life:
 - Yeshua is the bread of life (John 6:35); and all the world came to Yoseph for grain
 - Yoseph started his position at 30; Yeshua started his ministry at 30 (Luke 3:23)
- What if the chief cupbearer had remembered Yoseph prior to the dreams that happened 2 years after he was released? Would Yoseph still be brought in to Pharaoh? (40:14, 23; 41:1)
- Even though Yoseph had a life filled with false accusations and mistreatment, he still had a deep relationship with Yahweh and gave all glory to Elohim when he spoke to Pharaoh. How do you think you would feel after all this time if you were Yoseph? Would you boldly mention Yahweh to a pagan leader? (41:16, 25, 28, 32)
- Yoseph's wife is the daughter of a pagan priest of On. Do you think that she ever converted, or do you think Yoseph might have been influenced by her lifestyle? (41:45)
- Discuss who Menashsheh and Ephrayim are. Find Scriptural support. (48:1-20)
- The number 7 is repeated throughout this parsha. Research the meaning or significance of the number. For example: Elohim created our world in 7 days (Gen. 1), 7 annual High Sabbaths (Lev. 23), book of Revelation's symbolism using the number 7 (Rev. 1:20), etc.