

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
GENESIS 40 - PRISONER'S DREAMS AND GOD'S INTERPRETATION
THROUGH JOSEPH, GENESIS 41 - JOSEPH IS PLACED IN CHARGE OF
EGYPT

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of Joseph and his life in Egypt. We will see how God through Joseph interprets four dreams and it is important to remember God is working out all the details of which, we will learn, you play a part in this great story.

Genesis 40

Say - Verses 1-23 is showing the wisdom of Joseph because of his relationship with God. Verses 1-3 are of Joseph's fellow prisoners and their dreams.

¹And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt (Remember God is working out all the details here). ²And Pharaoh was wroth against two of his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers.

³And he put them in ward (**prison**) in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound.

⁴And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them: and they continued a season in ward (Joseph is a very unique person because He has Godly traits and that is what we are to strive for. No never want to give up on God no matter the circumstances; we must serve Him first. God tells us, "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" Psalm 37:5.).

(Now God gives the butler and baker, now prisoners, a dream, a very important dream.) ⁵And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison.

⁶And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were sad (Joseph had a trait of Christ that we should ask for as well for he recognized or showed an outward concern for others for the butler and the baker were troubled by the dream. The Bible tells us, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" in other words, have an outward concern for others and their interests, Philipians 2:4.).

⁷And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly to day? ⁸And they said unto him, We have dreamed

a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you (This is a key verse for Joseph was inspired by God to say this and he becomes a prophet for God. Also realize the difference between a prophet of God and a false prophet. False prophets give their own human reasoning saying the Lord put it on my heart. But a prophet of God speaks what God reveals to them.).

Say - Verses 9-13 below are of the butler's dream and the interpretation.

⁹And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me; ¹⁰And in the vine were three branches: and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes: ¹¹And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand (This was a religious ceremony to the pagan Egyptian god, Horus.).

¹²And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days (When we walk with God as Joseph did, God will give wisdom to His people.):

¹³Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place (would restore the butler to his former office): and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.

Say- Verses 14-15 are of Joseph's request for release from prison.

¹⁴But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house: ¹⁵For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon (prison).

Say - Verses 16-22 is of the Baker's dream and the interpretation.

¹⁶When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white (meat baskets probably made of wicker) baskets on my head: ¹⁷And in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head.

¹⁸And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days (God is executing judgment on this person for whatever he had done.):

¹⁹Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.

²⁰And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief

baker among his servants. ²¹And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand: ²²But he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them.

Say - Joseph's request for release from prison was forgotten.

²³Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him (This shows how human nature works because it is absent of God's ways and His spirit; the Bible tells us, "That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph" Amos 6:6. However it was not up to Joseph when he was to be released from prison; it was up to God when He would release him from prison. .

Genesis 41 - Joseph is placed in charge of Egypt

Say - Verses 1- 32 are of two dreams of Pharaoh and the interpretation of God through Joseph. Also as we read of the dreams by Pharaoh, Bullinger's Companion Bible says that the cow was the emblem of Isis, the mother of Horus. In the Egyptian Book of the Dead, Osiris, Isis's brother, who became her husband and was considered the god of the dead is represented by a bull. This was the basis of Pharaoh's dream so it gave it great significance and mystery.

¹And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the (Nile) river (Pharaoh was the official title of the king of Egypt).

²And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine (COWS) and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow (in the bulrushes). ³And, behold, seven other kine (COWS) came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine (COW) upon the brink of the river. ⁴And the ill favoured and leanfleshed kine (COW) did eat up the seven well favoured and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke (see note above about the Egyptian false gods).

⁵And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank (fat) and good. ⁶And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them (To the Egyptians, evil came from the "east wind"). ⁷And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.

⁸And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh (This is all directed by God.).

⁹Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day:

¹⁰Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker: ¹¹And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream.

¹²And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret. ¹³And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.

Say - Notice in the following verses the total involvement of God in every detail. This is here to show that when we walk with God, He is involved in every thing we do and that is our goal as His people.

¹⁴Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself (a beard was a disgrace in Egypt), and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

¹⁵And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream (a significant dream), and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

¹⁶And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace (Never take the credit to ourselves for that is exalting ourselves. The Bible tells us, "...thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly" Matthew 6:4, 18.).

¹⁷And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the (Nile) river: ¹⁸And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fatfleshed and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow:

¹⁹And, behold, seven other kine (COWS) came up after them, poor and very ill favoured and leanfleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness: ²⁰And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat kine:

²¹And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill favoured, as at the beginning. So I awoke.

²²And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good: ²³And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them (like the cows):

²⁴And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears: and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.

²⁵And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do (Joseph, directed by God, told Pharaoh both dreams meant the same thing).

²⁶The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one.

²⁷And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine.

²⁸This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

²⁹Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:

³⁰And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land (7 years of great harvests and 7 years with no harvest because of the famine; famine means a scarcity of food and much hunger.);

³¹And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous (horrible).

³²And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice (to impress it upon the mind of Pharaoh); it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

³³Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

³⁴Let Pharaoh do this (take action), and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years (Produce was to be stored up instead of sold.).

³⁵And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

³⁶And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

³⁷And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants (all respected Joseph and found him favorable).

³⁸And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? (The Pharaoh was impressed with Joseph and admitted there was a True God.)

³⁹And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art (We want a man like you to handle this situation for God is behind you. All the blessings and credit goes to God):

⁴⁰Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou (Joseph was made ruler or chief of staff over Egypt which was an abrupt change from prison. God's timing is always correct.).

⁴¹And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. ⁴²And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand (The ring was used for signing documents), and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; ⁴³And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

⁴⁴And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁵And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah (Egyptian name which means "abundance of life" and "saviour of the land".); and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On (means "city of the sun"). And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt. (Do we see how Joseph rose from rags to riches, from prison to chief ruler of Egypt or from darkness to light?).

You will find the following verses from Psalm 105:16-22 very interesting,

¹⁶Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread.

¹⁷He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:

¹⁸Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron (put in prison):

¹⁹Until the time that his word came: the word (Jesus Christ) of the LORD tried him.

²⁰The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free.

²¹He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance (possessions):

²²To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators (elders) wisdom.

⁴⁶And Joseph was thirty years old (17 years old when brought to Egypt) when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt (Jesus was 30 years old when He began His ministry.). And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt (to survey the size of his land).

⁴⁷And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. ⁴⁸And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. ⁴⁹And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number (This shows the fertility of the land.).

⁵⁰And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. ⁵¹And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh (means "forget"): For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house (We will learn in our study Manasseh is the U. S. A. in our continued studies.).

⁵²And the name of the second called he Ephraim (means "to be fruitful"): For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction. (Joseph was at the top of the world for he had a wife, two children and lived in a palace. We will learn Ephraim is Britain in our continued studies.)

⁵³And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.

⁵⁴And the seven years of dearth (famine) began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread (Do we see how God through Joseph became the "life giver" of all nations for Joseph had put all the food in storage houses providing for this great calamity. Christ is the "life giver" or Creator of man physically and of the spiritual as in salvation.).

⁵⁵And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do (do physically and spiritually).

⁵⁶And the famine was over all the face of the earth (total famine, drought): and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt (God is not going to give it for free, we must hunger and thirst for it first just as in the spiritual.). ⁵⁷And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands (Canaan, Syria and Arabia).

MEMORY VERSE

And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city.... And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.

GENESIS 41:48-49

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS AND YOUTH

THE PRISONER'S AND PHARAOH'S DREAM AND GOD'S
INTERPRETATION AND JOSEPH IS MADE RULER OF EGYPT

AS THIS STORY OF JOSEPH BEGINS, HE IS STILL IN PRISON AND THE KING OR PHARAOH OF EGYPT IS VERY UPSET WITH HIS BUTLER AND BAKER. IN FACT THE PHARAOH IS SO UPSET HE PUTS THEM BOTH IN PRISON. HOWEVER JOSEPH IS OVERSEER OF THE PRISONERS SO THEY ARE IN GOOD HANDS.

ONE NIGHT THE BAKER AND BUTLER BOTH HAD A DREAM IN PRISON. JOSEPH WAS AWARE THEY WERE NOT DOING TOO WELL FOR THEY WERE BOTH VERY SAD. JOSEPH HAD A TRAIT OF CHRIST, HE HAD GREAT CONCERN FOR OTHERS AND THEIR SITUATION AND WE SHOULD STRIVE FOR THIS TRAIT AS WELL.

JOSEPH ASKED THE BUTLER AND THE BAKER, "WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SAD?" THEY ANSWERED, "WE HAVE DREAMED A DREAM AND THERE IS NO INTERPRETATION OF IT." JOSEPH EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT "ALL INTERPRETATIONS BELONG TO GOD." "TELL YOUR DREAMS TO ME", JOSEPH SAID.

THE BUTLER SAID, "THERE WAS A VINE AND THE VINE HAD THREE BRANCHES AND IT BUDDED AND BLOSSOMED AND HAD CLUSTERS OF GRAPES ON IT". "PHARAOH'S CUP WAS IN MY HAND AND I TOOK THE GRAPES AND PRESSED THEM INTO PHARAOH'S CUP AND I GAVE THE CUP TO PHARAOH."

JOSEPH SAID, "THIS IS THE INTERPRETATION, THE THREE BRANCHES ARE THREE DAYS AND IN THREE DAYS THE PHARAOH WILL RESTORE THE BUTLER BACK TO HIS FORMER DUTIES."

AS JOSEPH SPOKE TO THE BUTLER HE ASKED THEM TO REMEMBER HIM AND SHOW KINDNESS TO HIM SO HE COULD BE RELEASED FROM PRISON FOR I HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG THAT I SHOULD HAVE TO LIVE IN THIS DUNGEON.

NOW WHEN THE CHIEF BAKER SAW THE INTERPRETATION WAS GOOD HE TOLD JOSEPH HIS DREAM. HE SAID, "I HAD THREE WHITE

MEAT BASKETS ON MY HEAD AND IN THE TOP BASKET WAS ALL SORTS OF MEAT FOR PHARAOH AND THE BIRDS ATE THE MEAT OUT OF THE BASKET ON MY HEAD."

GOD SHOWED JOSEPH WHAT THIS DREAM MEANT. JOSEPH SAID, "THE THREE BASKETS ARE THREE DAYS". IN THREE DAYS PHARAOH SHALL HANG THEE ON A TREE AND THE BIRDS SHALL COME AND EAT THE FLESH OFF OF YOU."

SOON THE THIRD DAY CAME AND IT WAS PHARAOH'S BIRTHDAY AND HE MADE A BIG FEAST FOR ALL HIS SERVANTS. HE RESTORED THE BUTLER TO HIS FORMER POSITION BUT HE HANGED THE CHIEF BAKER JUST AS THE DREAM FORETOLD.

HOWEVER THE BUTLER AND THE BAKER FORGOT ABOUT JOSEPH'S REQUEST TO BE RELEASED FROM PRISON. YOU SEE IT WAS NOT UP TO JOSEPH, IT WAS UP TO GOD WHEN HE WAS TO BE RELEASED FROM PRISON.

SOON AFTER TWO FULL YEARS, PHARAOH HAD A DREAM. PHARAOH DREAMED AS HE STOOD BY THE NILE RIVER SEVEN FAT COWS CAME OUT OF THE RIVER AND FED IN THE LUSH GREEN GRASS BY THE RIVER'S BANK. SOON SEVEN COWS CAME OUT OF THE NILE RIVER AND THEY WERE SICKLY AND VERY, VERY SKINNY. THEY STOOD BY THE HEALTHY FAT COWS IN THE GREEN GRASS AND ATE THE FAT COWS. PHARAOH WOKE UP BUT WAS TROUBLED BY THIS DREAM.

SOON PHARAOH FELL ASLEEP AGAIN AND DREAMED THERE WERE SEVEN EARS OF CORN WHICH CAME UP ON ONE STALK AND THEY WERE FAT AND VERY GOOD. SOON SEVEN THIN EARS BLASTED FROM THE EVIL EAST WIND SPRUNG UP AFTER THEM. THE EGYPTIANS THOUGHT THE EAST WIND WAS EVIL BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED IN SUPERSTITION.

THE SEVEN THIN EARS DEVoured THE SEVEN FAT AND VERY GOOD EARS OF CORN. PHARAOH AWOKE AND REALIZED IT WAS A DREAM BUT IN THE MORNING HE WAS STILL TROUBLED BY THESE DREAMS.

SOON THE CHIEF BUTLER TOLD PHARAOH THAT WHEN THEY WERE THROWN IN PRISON, THEY HAD A DREAM AND ONLY JOSEPH, A YOUNG HEBREW BOY, COULD INTERPRET THEIR DREAMS. PHARAOH SENT FOR JOSEPH AND THEY BROUGHT HIM OUT OF THE PRISON AND SHAVED HIM AND CHANGED HIS CLOTHES SO HE WOULD BE PRESENTABLE FOR THE PHARAOH.

SOON JOSEPH CAME AND STOOD BEFORE PHARAOH AND PHARAOH ASKED HIM "IF HE COULD INTERPRET DREAMS". PLEASE TELL ME WHAT MY DREAMS MEAN FOR THEY ARE STILL BOTHERING ME. JOSEPH TOLD HIM, "IT IS NOT ME BUT GOD WILL GIVE YOU THE ANSWERS."

PHARAOH TOLD HIS DREAMS TO JOSEPH OF THE FAT AND SKINNY, SICKLY COWS AND THE VERY GOOD CORN AND THE SICKLY CORN. JOSEPH SAID, "BOTH DREAMS ARE THE SAME; GOD IS SHOWING WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO DO TO EGYPT".

THE SEVEN FAT COWS AND SEVEN GOOD EARS OF CORN ARE SEVEN YEARS OF VERY GOOD HARVESTS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT; THERE WILL BE AN ABUNDANCE OF FOOD THROUGHOUT THE LAND AND YOU WILL NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO COUNT THE HARVEST THERE WILL BE SO MUCH PRODUCE.

BUT AFTER SEVEN GOOD YEARS OF HARVESTS THERE WILL BE SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE WHERE THERE WILL BE A SCARCITY OF GRAIN AND A LOT OF HUNGER THROUGHOUT THE LAND OF EGYPT. THE FAMINE SHALL BE VERY GRIEVOUS UPON THE LAND AND SHALL CAUSE A LOT OF SORROW TO MANY PEOPLE.

GOD GAVE YOU TWO DREAMS WHICH MEAN THE SAME THING TO IMPRESS UPON YOU THE GOOD AND BAD YEARS TO COME UPON EGYPT.

PHARAOH THOUGHT JOSEPH WAS A VERY WISE MAN AND MADE HIM RULER OVER ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT. PHARAOH SAID, TO ALL HIS SERVANTS, "CAN WE FIND SUCH A MAN IN WHOM THE SPIRIT OF THE GOD IS?" FINALLY PHARAOH RECOGNIZED THE TRUE GOD!

PHARAOH WANTED JOSEPH TO HANDLE ALL OF THE FUTURE YEARS TO COME, THE SEVEN GOOD YEARS OF ABUNDANT HARVESTS AND THE SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE AND HUNGER. I WILL ALSO SET YOU RULER OVER MY HOUSE AND OVER ALL THE PEOPLE OF EGYPT. WHAT AN ABRUPT CHANGE FOR JOSEPH JUST COMING OUT OF PRISON.

PHARAOH TOOK OFF HIS RING AND GAVE IT TO JOSEPH WHICH HE USED TO SIGN AGREEMENTS OR DOCUMENTS IN EGYPT. HE GAVE JOSEPH CLEAN NEW CLOTHES MADE OF THE FINEST LINEN AND A GOLD CHAIN WAS PLACED AROUND HIS NECK.

JUST THINK, WHEN JOSEPH CAME TO EGYPT, HE WAS SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD; NOW JOSEPH WAS MUCH OLDER. PHARAOH ALSO GAVE JOSEPH A HORSE-DRAWN CHARIOT AND JOSEPH WENT OUT TO SURVEY ALL THE LAND WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER HIM.

THE SEVEN GOOD YEARS BROUGHT FOOD IN GREAT ABUNDANCE JUST AS THE DREAM HAD FORETOLD. JOSEPH GATHERED UP CORN AS THE "SAND OF THE SEA" AND THERE WAS SO MUCH HE COULD NOT NUMBER THE BAGS OF CORN AND GRAIN. JOSEPH STORED ALL THE FOOD IN THE CITIES FOR FUTURE USE AND DID NOT SELL THE PRODUCE.

BEFORE THE YEARS OF FAMINE CAME, JOSEPH MARRIED. GOD GAVE JOSEPH AND HIS WIFE TWO SONS. HE NAMED THE FIRST SON MANASSEH WHICH MEANS "FORGET" FOR MANASSEH MADE JOSEPH FORGET ALL THE TOIL OF HIS LIFE IN EGYPT.

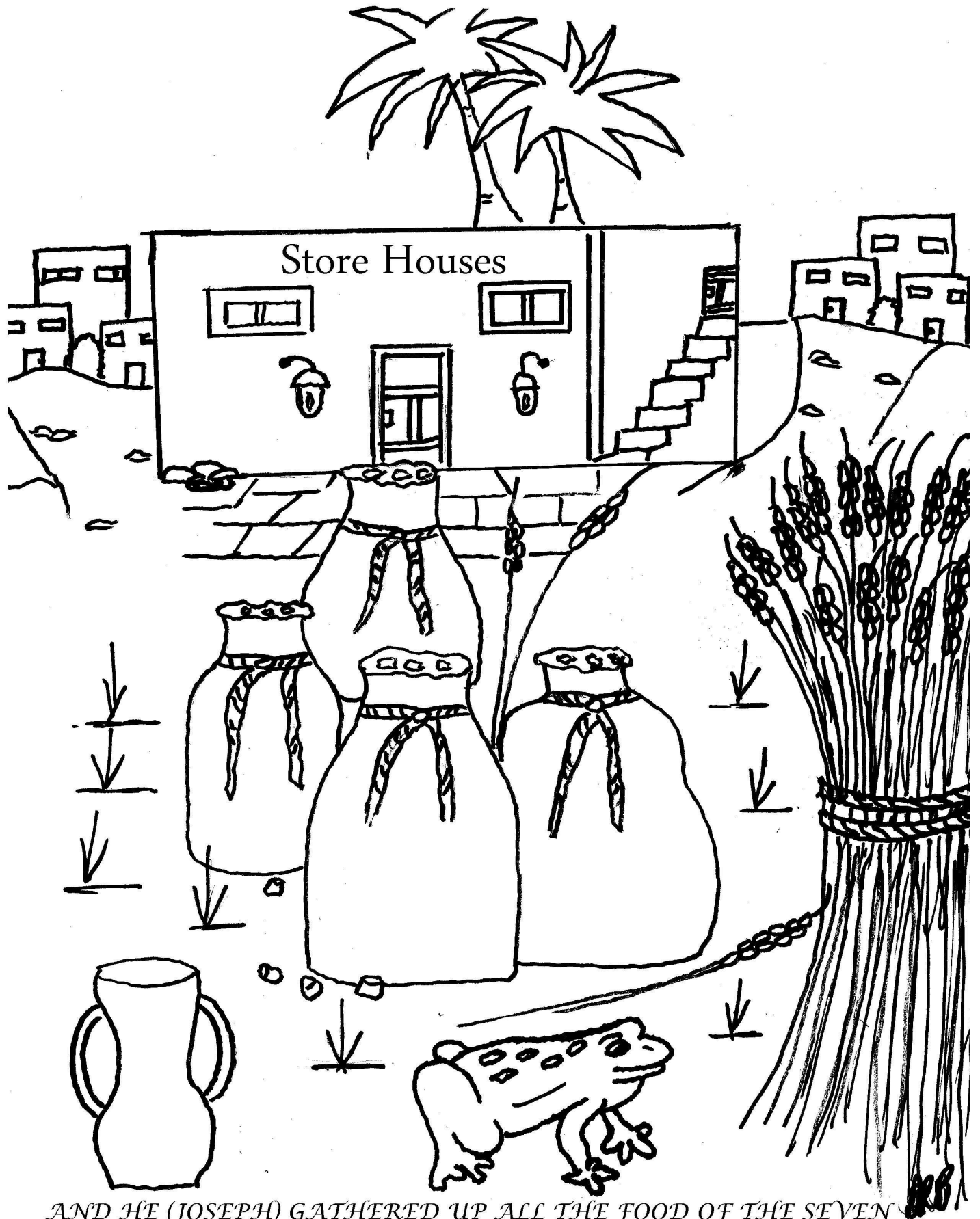
THE SECOND SON WAS NAMED EPHRAIM WHICH MEANS "TO BE FRUITFUL" "FOR GOD HAS CAUSED ME TO BE FRUITFUL IN THE LAND OF MY AFFLICTION".

SOON THE SEVEN YEARS OF GOOD ABUNDANT HARVESTS ENDED AND WERE REPLACED WITH SEVEN YEARS OF A GREAT FAMINE WHICH SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE LAND OF EGYPT AND SURROUNDING AREAS. THERE WAS NO FOOD FOR MANY PEOPLE.

SOON JOSEPH OPENED ALL THE STOREHOUSES WHERE HE HAD STORED THE CORN AND WHEAT FROM THE GOOD HARVESTS AND BEGAN TO SELL TO THE EGYPTIANS. MANY OTHER COUNTRIES CAME INTO EGYPT TO JOSEPH TO BUY CORN AND GRAIN FOR THE FAMINE WAS THROUGHOUT NOT ONLY EGYPT BUT CANAAN, SYRIA AND ARABIA.

DO WE SEE HOW JOSEPH ROSE FROM RAGS TO RICHES, FROM PRISON TO THE CHIEF RULER OF EGYPT OR FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT?

WE CAN SEE BY THIS STORY, JOSEPH NEVER GAVE UP ON GOD; JOSEPH TRUSTED GOD AND WE MUST ALSO. JUST AS GOD TOLD JOSEPH, HE TELLS HIS PEOPLE TODAY, "COMMIT THY WAYS UNTO THE LORD, TRUST IN HIM AND HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS" PSALM 37:5. I HOPE WE NEVER FORGET THIS PROMISE FROM GOD THEN WE WILL BE LIKE JOSEPH.



AND HE (JOSEPH) GATHERED UP ALL THE FOOD OF THE SEVEN YEARS... AND LAYED UP THE FOOD IN THE CITIES... AND JOSEPH GATHERED CORN AS THE SAND OF THE SEA VERY MUCH UNTIL HE LEFT NUMBERING FOR IT WAS WITHOUT NUMBER.

GENESIS 41:48-49