

## GENESIS 41:1-44:17

### CAST

LIZ  
NELLIE  
PHARAOH  
DOCTOR  
CALLER  
CUPBEARER  
JOSEPH  
NARRATOR  
JACOB  
REUVEN  
SIMON  
LEVI  
JUDAH  
ISSACHAR  
GAD  
EGYPTIAN

**LIZ:** Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Liz Luxor here with tonight's top story, the mysterious nightmares of our great leader, the Pharaoh. We go now to the palace for a live interview with the king.

**NELLIE:** Thank you, Liz. Nellie Nile here with the great Pharaoh. Pharaoh, tell us about your dream.

**PHARAOH:** It was wild indeed. I saw these seven fat cows walking along the banks of the Nile.

**NELLIE:** Seven fat cows? Pardon me for laughing, but did you say cows?

**PHARAOH:** Yes, and these seven thin and very ugly cows came up out of the river and ate them. After eating, they still stayed skinny.

**NELLIE:** Fat cows? Thin cows? It's a puzzle. This is Nellie Nile. We'll be back with breaking news if the Pharaoh dreams again.

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**PHARAOH:** AAAAHHH!!!!

**DOCTOR:** There he goes again. The dream.

**PHARAOH:** AAAAHHH!

**DOCTOR:** Pharaoh, wake up!

**PHARAOH:** I must know what that dream means!

**CALLER:** Hear ye! Hear ye! Interpret the Pharaoh's dream and win a cruise for two up the Nile on a reed raft!

**CUPBEARER:** Pharaoh, I just remembered a Hebrew lad who was good at interpreting dreams.

**PHARAOH:** Bring him to me.

**JOSEPH:** Oh, great Pharaoh, I am here.

**PHARAOH:** Interpret this dream correctly and you're a free man.

**JOSEPH:** And if I'm wrong?

**PHARAOH:** You're not going to want to be wrong.

**JOSEPH:** It is not I but God who will interpret your dreams.

**PHARAOH:** I keep dreaming about these cows. And then I see these seven healthy ears of grain growing on this stalk. Then these seven sickly ears sprout on the same stalk and eat the good ears. What does it all mean?

**JOSEPH:** It means that you will have seven years of bumper crops, followed by seven years of famine.

**PHARAOH:** WOW! A regular Sigmund Freud!

**CUPBEARER:** Sigmund who?

**JOSEPH:** My suggestion is that you find a man of ability who is wise. Set him over Egypt. There must be planning and rationing.

**PHARAOH:** Joseph, how about you?

**JOSEPH:** I humbly, humbly accept, oh great Pharaoh.

**PHARAOH:** I am Pharaoh, yet without you, no one shall lift up a hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

**NARRATOR:** And Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the land, and dressed him in fine clothes. Joseph wore a gold chain around his neck, and another new coat.

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**NARRATOR:** Joseph was 30 years old when he entered Pharaoh's service. He was given Asenath as a wife and had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Joseph traveled throughout the land collecting food in large quantities.

**LIZ:** Extra, extra! Read all about it! Egypt experiences seven years of abundant harvests!

**JOSEPH:** Well, that's it. If my predictions are right, here comes starvation city.

**LIZ:** Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, Liz Luxor here with tonight's top story. As predicted by Egypt's number two man, Joseph, we continue to see famine throughout the region. Due to planning ahead, Egypt's population is surviving.

However, many surrounding nations are now turning to Joseph to request food.

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**JACOB:** My sons, we are starving. I want you to go to Egypt to buy some food.

**REUVEN:** Aren't there any other alternatives?

**JACOB:** Only Egypt has food. Go or we die.

**REUVEN:** I'll get the brothers ready to go.

**NARRATOR:** Thus the sons of Israel were among those who came to seek rations, for the famine extended to Canaan.

**SIMON:** Who is this guy that we have to talk to?

**LEVI:** His name is *Tzafnat-panayach*. It's Egyptian.

**REUVEN:** Come on. It's our turn to talk to Pharaoh's Number Two.

**JOSEPH:** *(In a whisper.)* Oh, my God!

**SIMON:** Excuse us, is something wrong, Sir?

**NARRATOR:** The brothers did not recognize Joseph, and so he acted as a stranger to them.

**JOSEPH:** Where are you from?

**JUDAH:** Canaan.

**JOSEPH:** I think you're spies.

**ISSACHAR:** Spies? Have the desert winds dried your mind?

**JOSEPH:** What?!

**ISSACHAR:** I mean, you are mistaken. We are twelve sons of a certain man in Canaan.

**JOSEPH:** Perhaps Canaan is teaching new math in their school system because I only count ten of you.

**REUVEN:** One is no more.

**JOSEPH:** I'm sorry. Losing a brother is terrible. You must have loved him dearly.

**REUVEN:** The other son is with our father.

**JOSEPH:** Spies! You're all spies. I will put you to a test. Bring back the other son or you shall never see my face again.

**REUVEN:** Benjamin is our youngest brother. Our father will not let him go.

**JOSEPH:** One of your brothers will stay with us, and the rest may return to Canaan. If you don't return, I'll know you are spies.

**REUVEN:** I told you this would happen.

**GAD:** What are you talking about, Reuven?

**REUVEN:** We should never have hurt Joseph. We're being punished for what we did to him. I told you guys to leave him alone.

**SIMON:** Quiet — suppose the Egyptian understands us?

**JUDAH:** No chance. He's been using an interpreter to talk to us.

**JOSEPH:** Enough talk! Take that man as prisoner. The rest of you may fill your sacks and return to your father.

**SIMON:** Me? Why me? I'm innocent! I've been a good person, except for the time I helped throw my brother into the pit. And there was that time I attacked Shechem . . . Oh, and . . . Hey, brothers, don't leave me here!

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**JACOB:** My sons, you return from Egypt with food. Wonderful!

**REUVEN:** Father, we have this problem. The King's Number Two Man is holding Simon captive and won't let him go unless we return with Benjamin to show him proof that we are not spies.

**JACOB:** I've lost Joseph. I've lost Simon. And now you want me to lose Benjamin? Never!

**NARRATOR:** But the famine grew more severe.

**JUDAH:** Father, I must take Benjamin. You can hold me responsible for anything that happens.

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**NARRATOR:** And so the brothers returned to Egypt. They presented gifts to Joseph, and showed him Benjamin. Joseph prepared a feast for them. While they ate, Joseph had his silver cup put in Benjamin's sack of food.

**JOSEPH:** So, how is your father?

**LEVI:** He's probably getting pretty hungry. We've got to be heading home. Thanks for getting things cleared up. It's good to see Simon again.

**NARRATOR:** And the brothers packed their animals and started off for Canaan when suddenly . . .

**JUDAH:** Hey, look. Here come the Egyptians. What could they want?

**EGYPTIAN:** Stop!

**SIMON:** That doesn't sound too friendly to me.

**EGYPTIAN:** So this is how you repay Egypt's generosity?

**REUVEN:** What did we do wrong?

**EGYPTIAN:** You stole the silver cup of our master!

**ISSACHAR:** We did not! You can kill anyone of us who you find with stolen possessions.

**EGYPTIAN:** Are you that sure of your innocence?

**SIMON:** Yes we are. You can kill whoever stole it.

**EGYPTIAN:** Nothing so far. We only have one more sack to check. This one.

**REUVEN:** You see? We wouldn't do anything dishonest.

**SIMON:** What did I tell you? If you had found the cup, we would have happily turned over the culprit. You could have killed him in any way you liked.

**EGYPTIAN:** Sir! We have found the cup in this sack.

**JUDAH:** In Benjamin's sack?

**SIMON:** Killed? Did I say killed? Death is so severe — and so messy!

**REUVEN:** Oh, no! Not Benjamin!

**NARRATOR:** And the brothers returned to Joseph's house, and they fell on their knees before him.

**JOSEPH:** Benjamin will remain with me as my servant and slave. The rest of you are free to return to your father in Canaan.

**JUDAH:** Master, we are all guilty. We'll all be slaves. If only we could prove our innocence.

**JOSEPH:** Very nice. Very sweet. However, Benjamin stays and you go. Good-bye, *shalom, bon jour, sayonara*.