

## Genesis<sup>1</sup> 41:1-37

**1** And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river. **2** And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine<sup>2</sup>, well-favored and fat-fleshed; and they fed in the reed-grass. **3** And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favored and lean-fleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river. **4** And the ill-favored and lean-fleshed kine did eat up the seven well-favored and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke. **5** And he slept and dreamed a second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good. **6** And, behold, seven ears, thin and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them. **7** And the thin ears swallowed up the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream. **8** And 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. **9** Then spoke the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying: 'I make mention of my faults this day: **10** Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in the ward of the house of the captain of the guard, me and the chief baker. **11** And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream. **12** And there was with us there a young man, a 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. **13** And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was: I was restored unto mine office, and he was hanged.' **14** Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon. And he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. **15** And Pharaoh said unto Joseph: 'I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it; and I have heard say of thee, that when thou hearest a dream thou canst interpret it.' **16** And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying: 'It is not in me; G-d will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.' **17** And Pharaoh spoke unto Joseph: 'In my dream, behold, I stood upon the brink of the river. **18** And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fat-fleshed and well-favored; and they fed in the reed-grass. **19** And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill-favored and lean-fleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness. **20** And the lean and ill-favored kine did eat up the first seven fat kine. **21** And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill-favored as at the beginning. So I awoke. **22** And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up upon one stalk, full and good. **23** And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them. **24** And the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. And I told it unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.' **25** And Joseph said unto Pharaoh: 'The dream of Pharaoh is one; what G-d is about to do He hath declared unto Pharaoh. **26** The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. **27** And the seven lean and ill-favored kine that came up after them are seven years, and also the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind; they shall

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<sup>1</sup> The source of this translation is: <http://www.mechon-mamre.org/e/et/et0141.htm>

<sup>2</sup> This word is often translated as "cattle" or "cow" in popular versions. The animal in question probably more closely resembled a water buffalo than one of the many kinds of domestic cattle raised in North America.

be seven years of famine. **28** That is the thing which I spoke unto Pharaoh: what G-d is about to do He hath shown unto Pharaoh. **29** Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt. **30** And 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; **31** and the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine which followeth; for it shall be very grievous. **32** And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice, it is because the thing is established by G-d, and G-d will shortly bring it to pass. **33** Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. **34** Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint overseers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven years of plenty. **35** And let them gather all the food of these good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. **36** And the food shall be for a 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.' **37** And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.