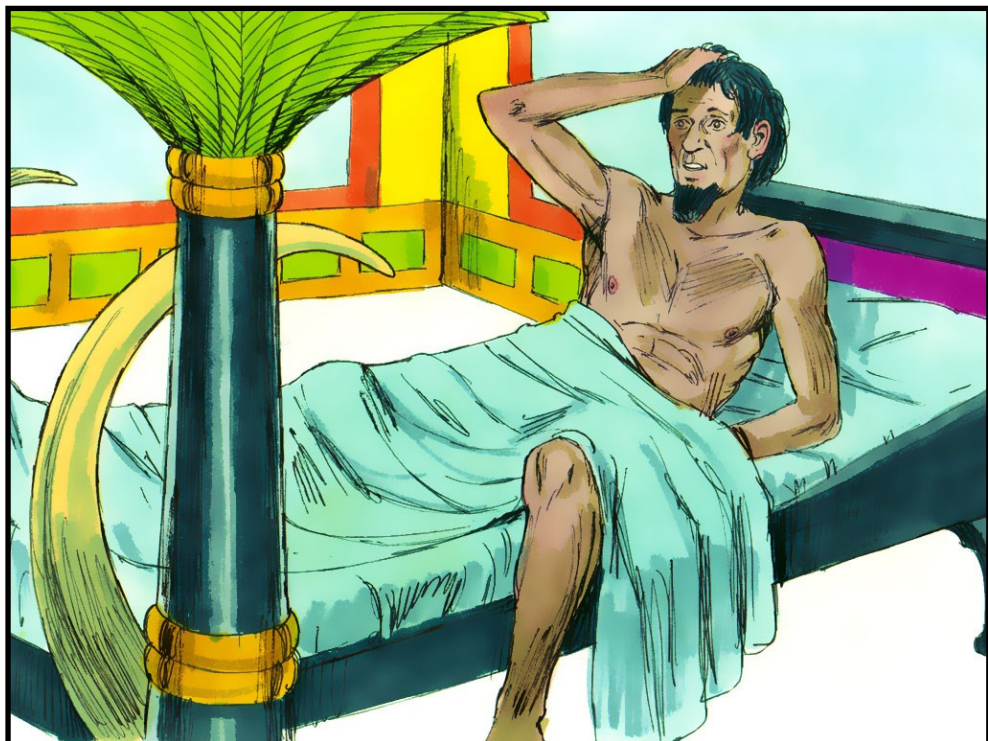


An illustration featuring a close-up of a man's face on the right side, looking towards the left. He has a yellow and blue headdress. On the left side, there is a herd of oxen, some white and some red, standing in a field. The background is a bright yellow sky.

**Story 18:**  
**Joseph Interprets  
Pharaoh's Dreams**  
**Genesis 41**

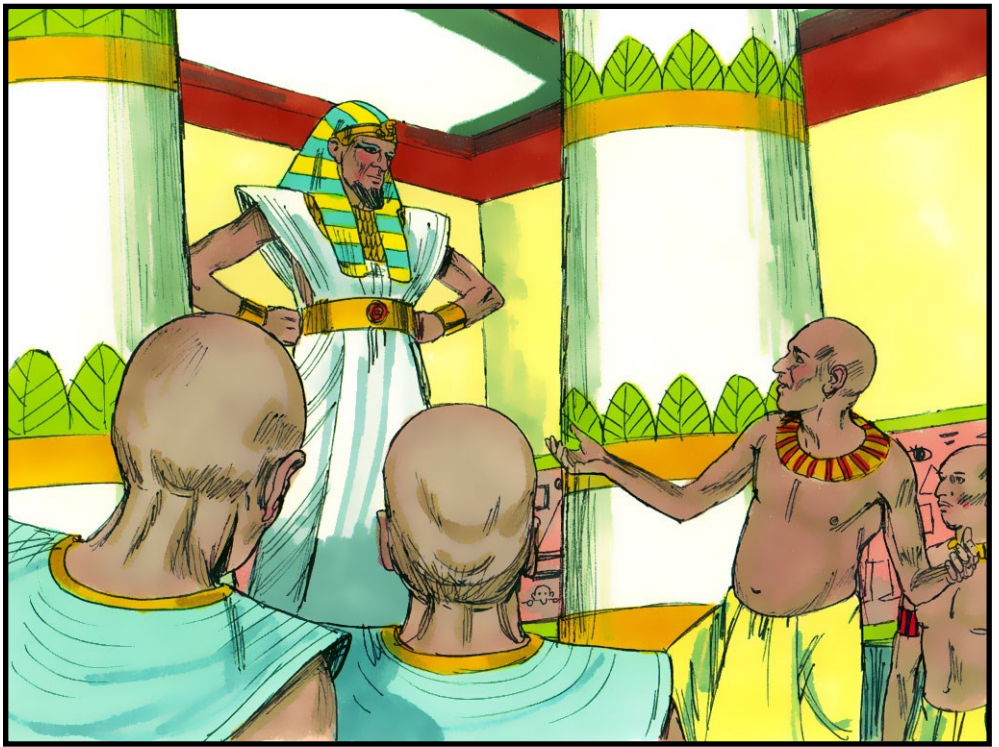
A black and white illustration. On the right side, a close-up of a man's face is shown in profile, looking towards the left. He has large, thick, curved horns on his head, similar to a ram or goat. His eyes are wide and focused. On the left side, a herd of oxen is depicted, some looking towards the man. The background is a simple, light-colored sky. The overall style is that of a woodcut or a detailed line drawing.

**Story 18:**  
**Joseph Interprets  
Pharaoh's Dreams**  
**Genesis 41**



Two years had passed since Joseph interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. One night, Pharaoh, himself, was also given dreams by God. He awoke feeling very troubled about the things he had seen.



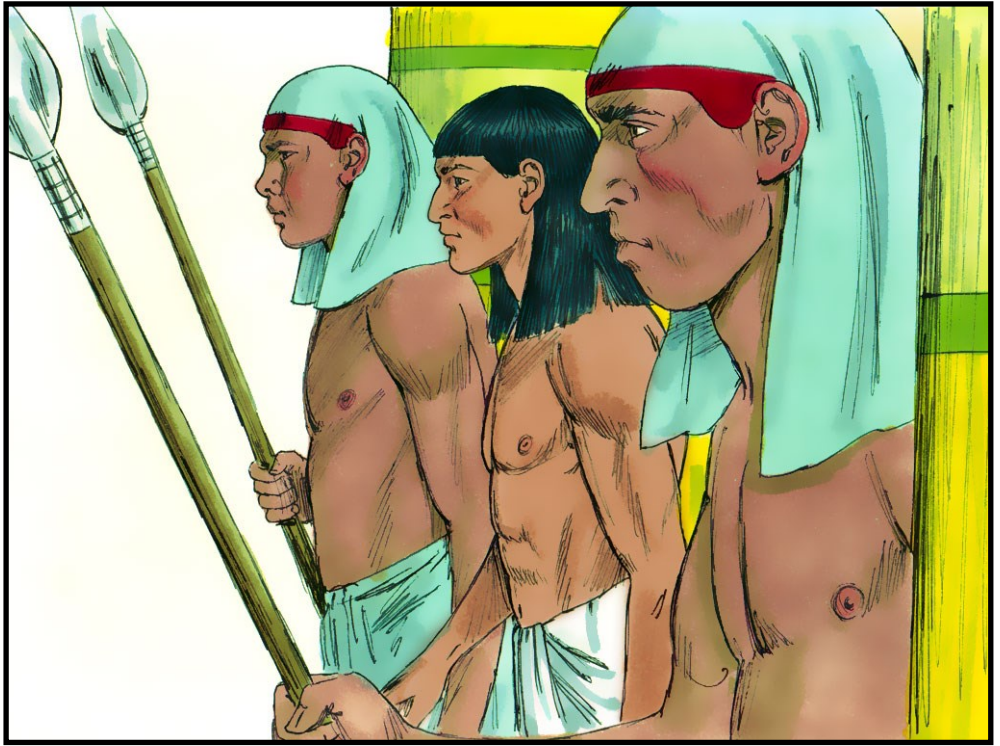


When the morning came, he summoned all the wise men and magicians of Egypt. He told them his dreams, but no one was able to interpret them.



Then, Pharaoh's cupbearer remembered the time that Joseph interpreted his dream.

He told them, "When Pharaoh was angry with the baker and me, he put us into prison. We had dreams on the same night. A young Hebrew was there with us. He interpreted our dreams and it turned out just the way he said it would."



When Pharaoh heard that Joseph could interpret dreams, he sent for him. Joseph quickly prepared to meet the king. He shaved, changed his clothes, and was brought out from the dungeon.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had two dreams that no one has been able to interpret, but I hear that you are able to interpret dreams.”

Joseph replied, “I am not able to. It is God who will help Pharaoh understand his dreams.”





So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “In my dream I was standing on the side of the Nile River. I saw seven beautiful, healthy cows come out of the river and start eating the grass along the side.

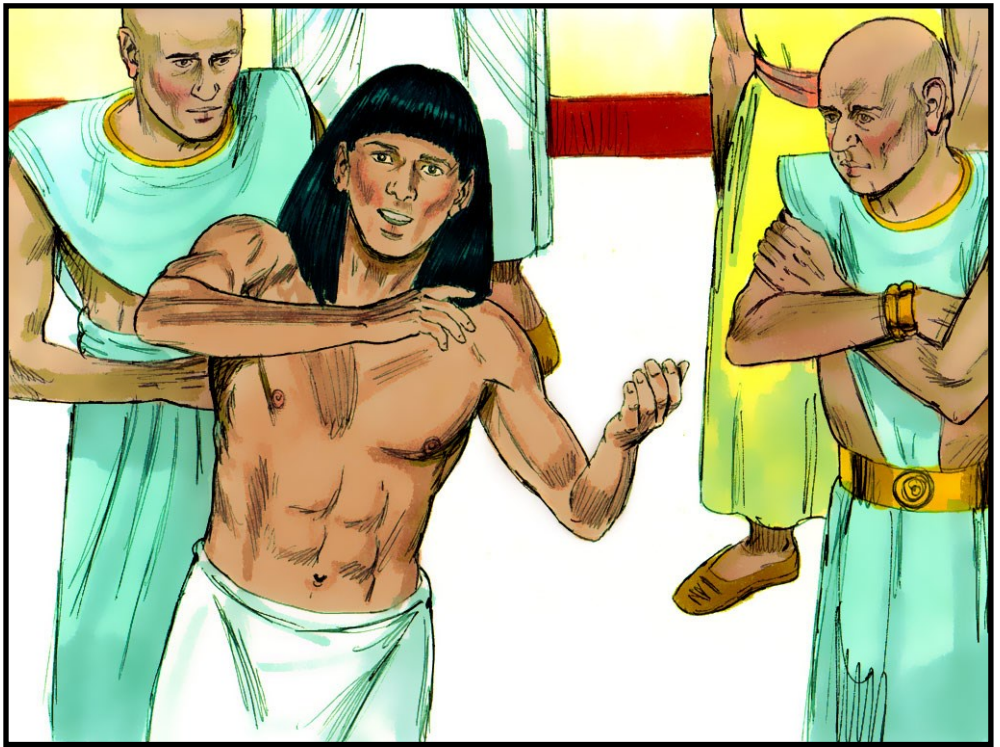
Then, I saw seven scrawny, sick-looking cows come out of the river. I had never seen such thin and unhealthy cows before. All of a sudden, the thin cows started eating the big, healthy cows until they were gone. Then I woke up.”



“I fell back asleep and had another dream. I dreamed I saw seven big, beautiful heads of grain growing up on one stalk. They looked so full and good.

Then, I saw seven thin heads of grain growing. They were ugly and had been scorched by the wind. The thin, scorched heads of grain swallowed up the big, healthy heads of grain. I told these things to my magicians, but they didn’t know what they meant.”





Then, Joseph spoke up and said, “Both of Pharaoh’s dreams mean the same thing. God has revealed to Pharaoh what He is about to do.

The seven healthy cows and the seven big heads of grain represent seven years of plenty. For seven years the land of Egypt will be prosperous. The land will produce more than enough food for everyone.”



“In the same way, the seven scrawny cows and the seven thin heads of grain also mean the same thing,” Joseph said. “Except, these represent seven year of famine.”



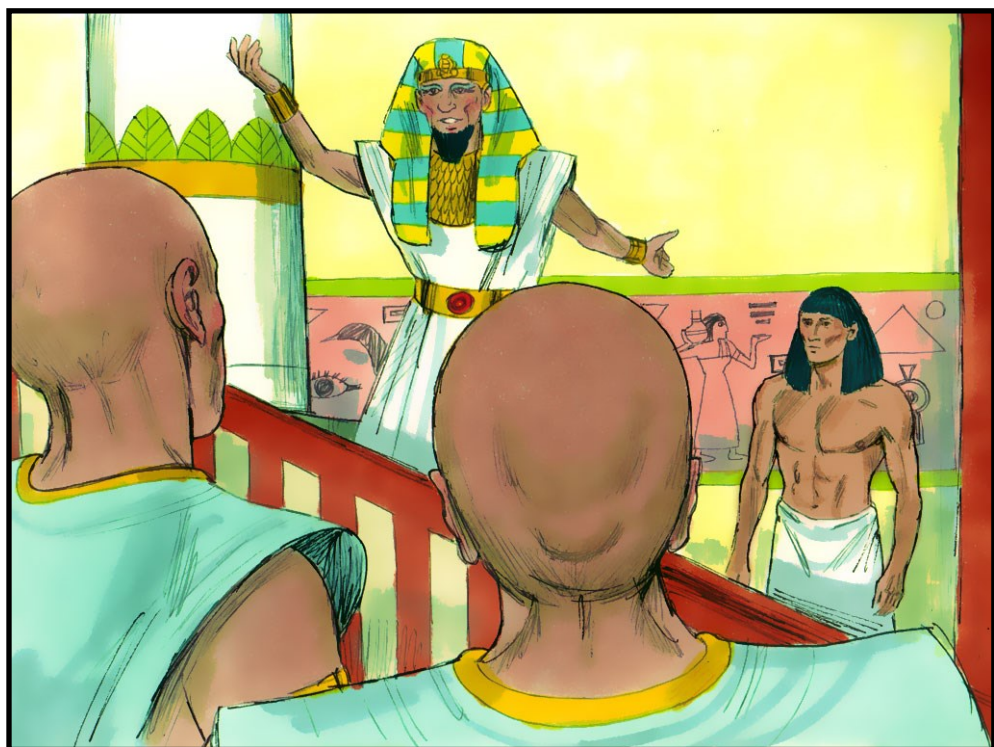
“God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. There will be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. The land will be so devastated by the famine that everyone will forget about all about the previous years of plenty.”





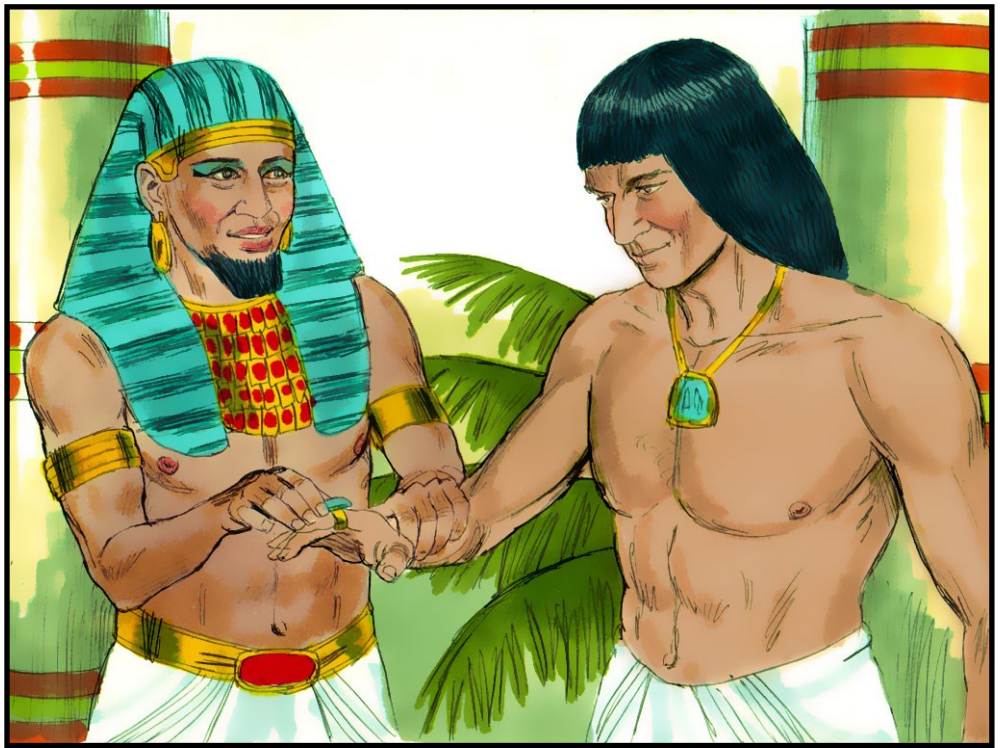
“God gave Pharaoh the two dreams to show him that all these things will certainly happen and that He will carry them out soon.”

Joseph advised Pharaoh by saying, “Let Pharaoh appoint someone in charge of collecting food—as much as possible during the seven years of plenty. We should take a fifth of the crops that are harvested and store them away to prepare for the seven years of famine.”



Joseph's idea sounded good to Pharaoh and all of his servants.

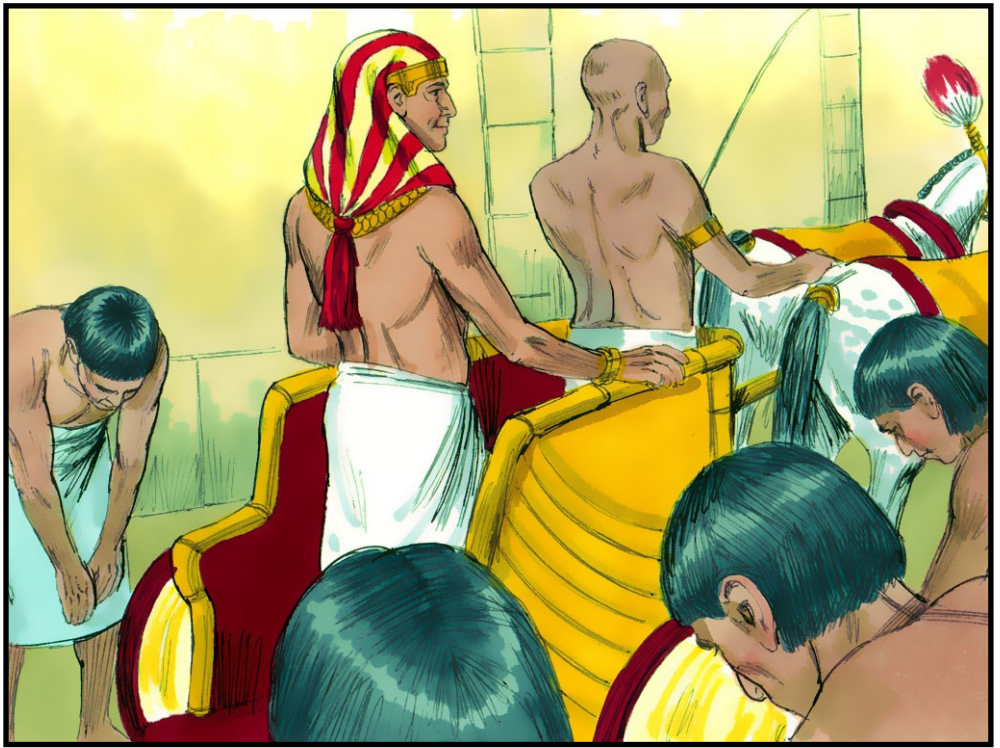
Pharaoh said, "Who can find anyone like Joseph—a man with God's spirit in him? Since God has made this known to him, it's clear that there is no one as wise as him. Starting today, Joseph will rule over my house, and all the people of Egypt must obey his commands. Only I, the king, will be greater than him."



Pharaoh said, “Look, I am placing you over all the whole land of Egypt.”

Pharaoh removed his signet ring, which showed his authority, and put it on Joseph’s hand. He also gave Joseph fine linen clothes and placed a gold chain around his neck.



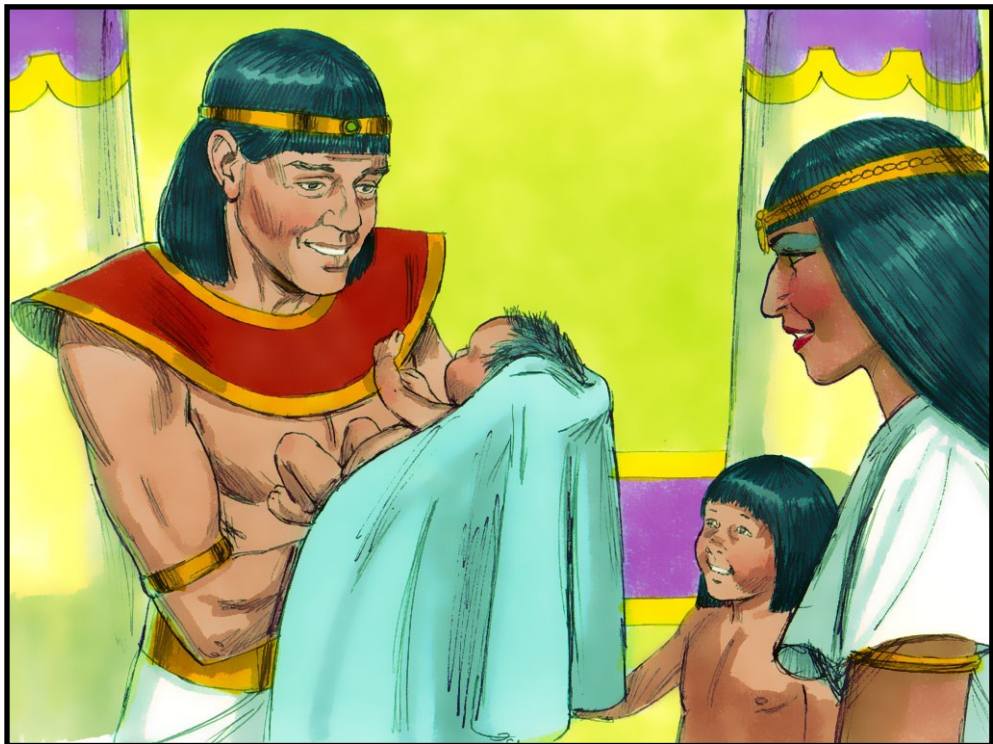


Pharaoh had Joseph ride from place to place in a chariot. Before he went somewhere the servants would call out, “Make way!”

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am placing you over the land of Egypt. No one is to do anything, not even raise their hand or foot, without your permission.



Pharaoh also gave Joseph a wife, Asenath, whose father was Potiphera, the priest of On.



A little later, two sons were born to Joseph. He named his first son **Manasseh**, which means “to forget.” Joseph said, “God has made me forget all my hard times and my family.” His second son was named **Ephraim**, which means “to make fruitful and successful.” Joseph said, “God has made me fruitful in the land of my trouble.”



M

kids wants to thank American illustrator Jim Pagett and Sweet Publishing for their free distribution of the pictures used in this book.

