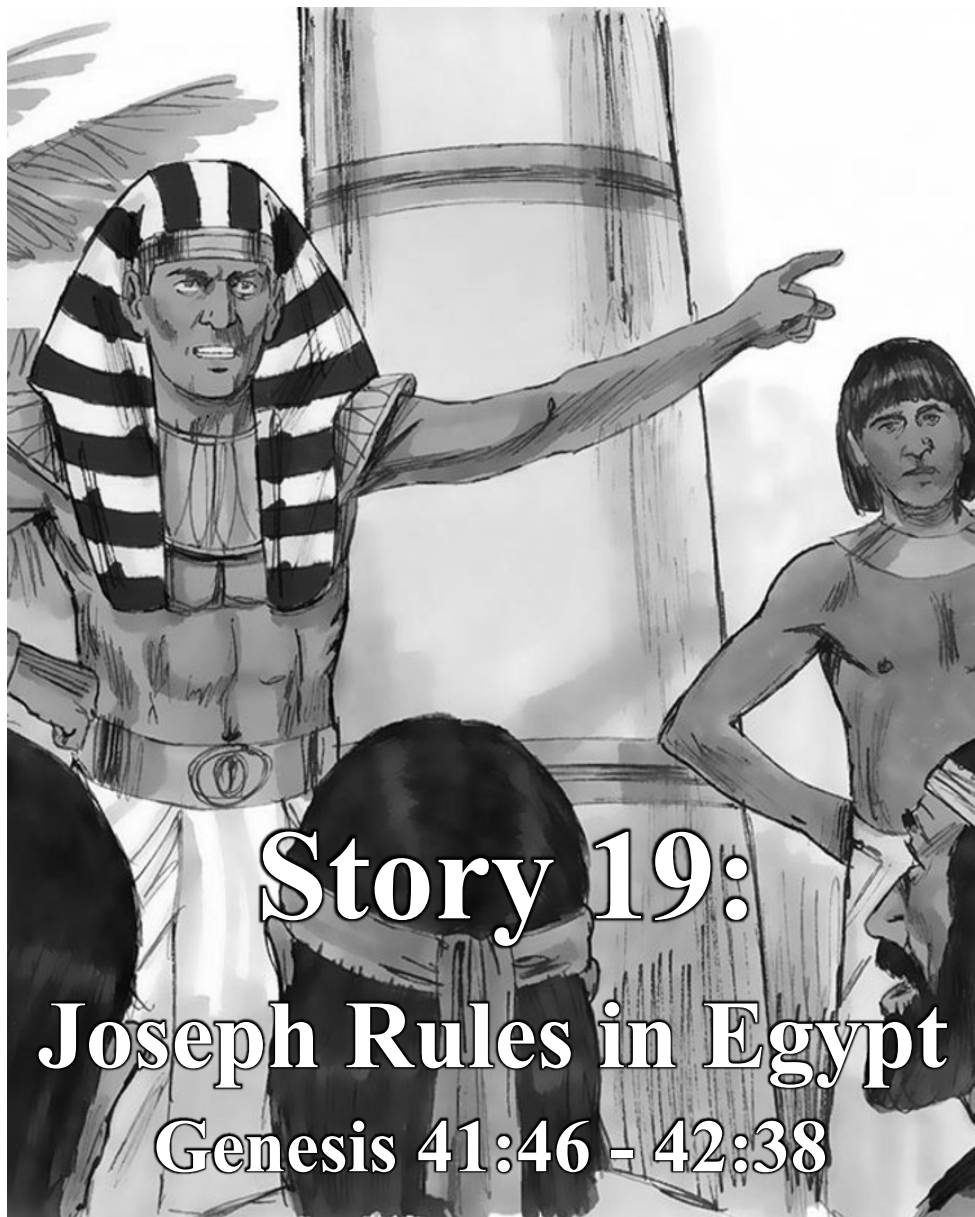


Story 19:
Joseph Rules in Egypt
Genesis 41:46 - 42:38



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Joseph Rules in Egypt

Genesis 41:46 - 42:38



Joseph was thirty years old when he entered Pharaoh's service. Very soon, the land began producing a wonderful crop, just as Joseph said it would.

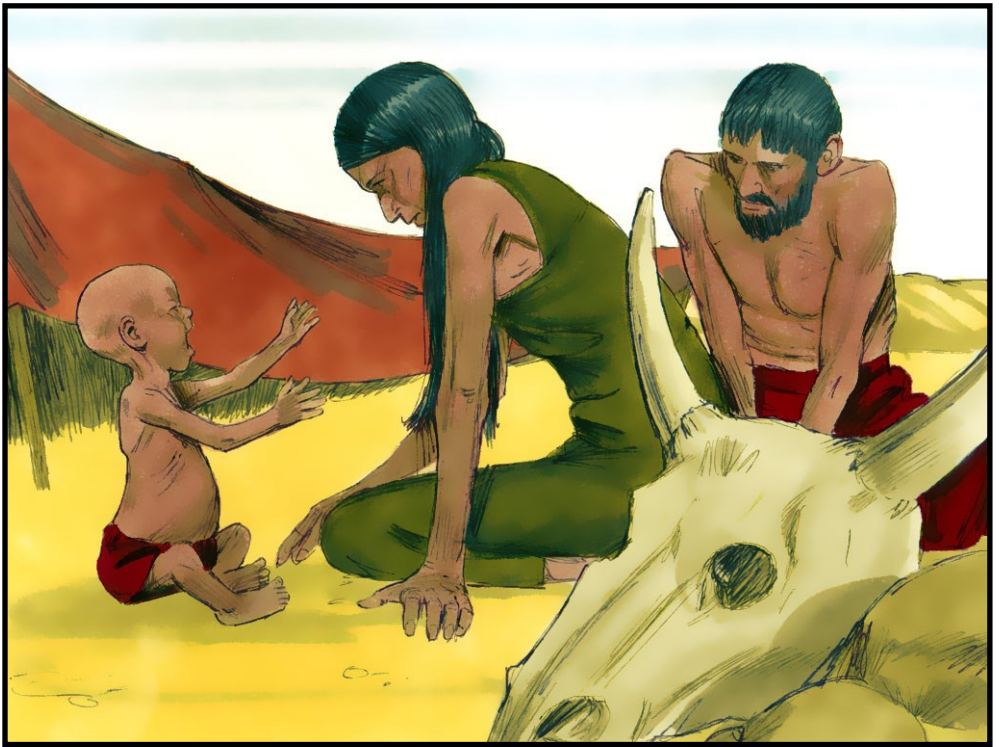
Joseph traveled all throughout the land of Egypt to make sure the extra food was being gathered up. During the seven years of plenty, he built storehouses to keep the food safe for later.



Joseph stored up so much food that he eventually stopped counting how much was coming in. It became impossible to measure—like sand on a seashore.



The seven years of plenty came to an end just as Joseph said it would. It was followed by seven years of horrible famine.



The famine wasn't only in Egypt; it was also in all the surrounding lands. Nevertheless, there was plenty of food in Egypt because Joseph had stored it away.



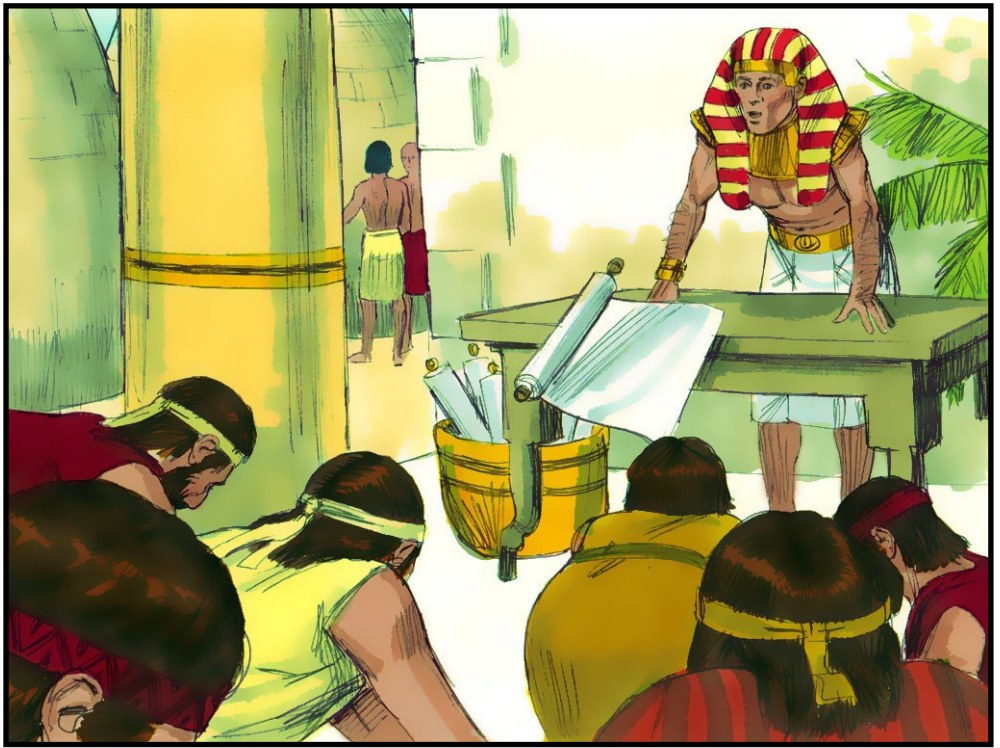
The people cried out to Pharaoh for food, so he told them, “Go to Joseph and do whatever he tells you.”

Joseph opened the storehouses of grain and began selling the food to those who needed it. He not only sold food to the Egyptians; people came from all over the region to buy food.



Now, Joseph's father Jacob was still living in Canaan along with his brothers during the time of the famine. When Jacob found out that there was grain in Egypt he said to his sons, "Why are you looking at each other? Go down to Egypt and buy food so that we will live and not die."

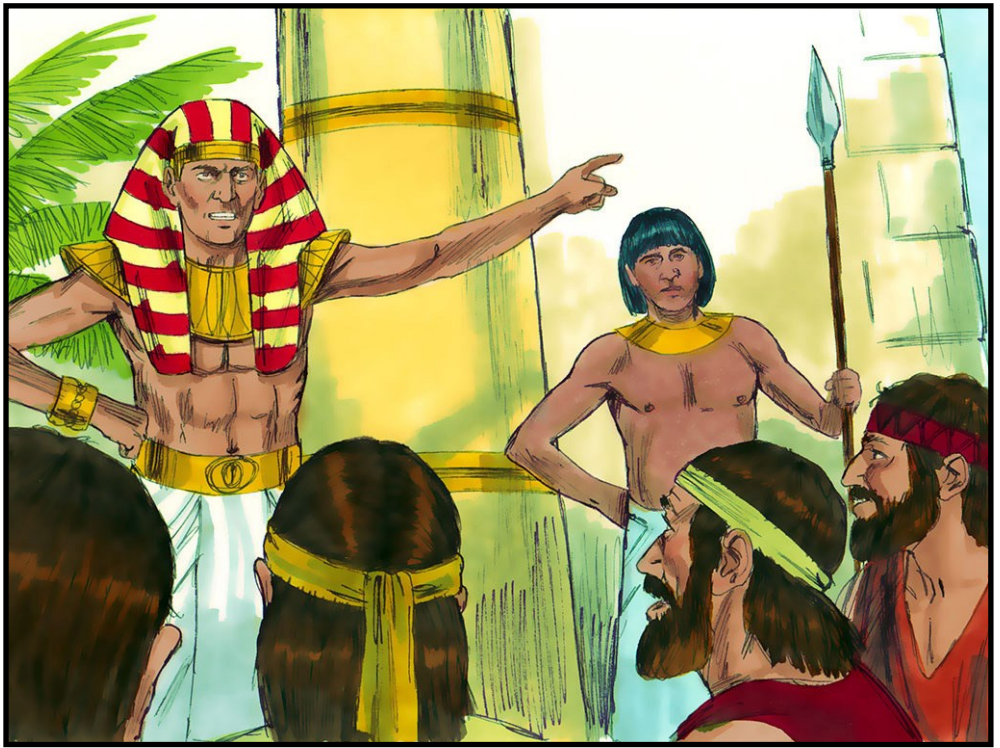
So, all the brothers prepared for the journey except the youngest brother, Benjamin. Jacob was worried about his safety and would not let him go.



Now, Joseph was in charge of the entire country of Egypt, selling grain to all its people. When Joseph's brothers came to buy grain, he recognized them, but they didn't recognize him.

They came and bowed down before him. When they did this, Joseph remembered his dream from years ago.

He decided to treat them very harshly. "Where do you come from?" he demanded.



“We are from the land of Canaan,” they replied. “We are here to buy food.”

“I don’t believe you,” Joseph said. “I think you are spies! You have come to see if our land has any weaknesses.”

They replied saying, “No, we are your servants. We are the sons of one man living in Canaan. We were twelve brothers. The youngest is with our father and one is no longer living.”

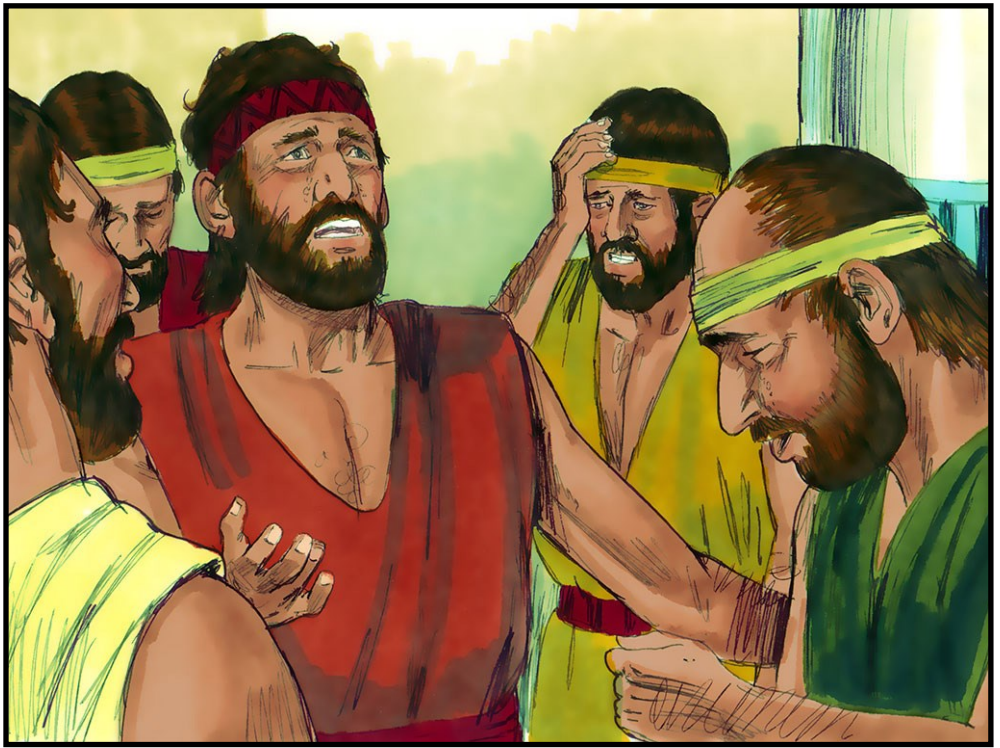


Joseph answered back, “I have spoken! You are spies! Nevertheless, I will test you to see if you are telling the truth. Only one of you may leave to bring back this younger brother you have spoken of. The rest of you will stay in prison. If you cannot show me this younger brother, then you are surely spies.”

So, Joseph imprisoned them for three days.

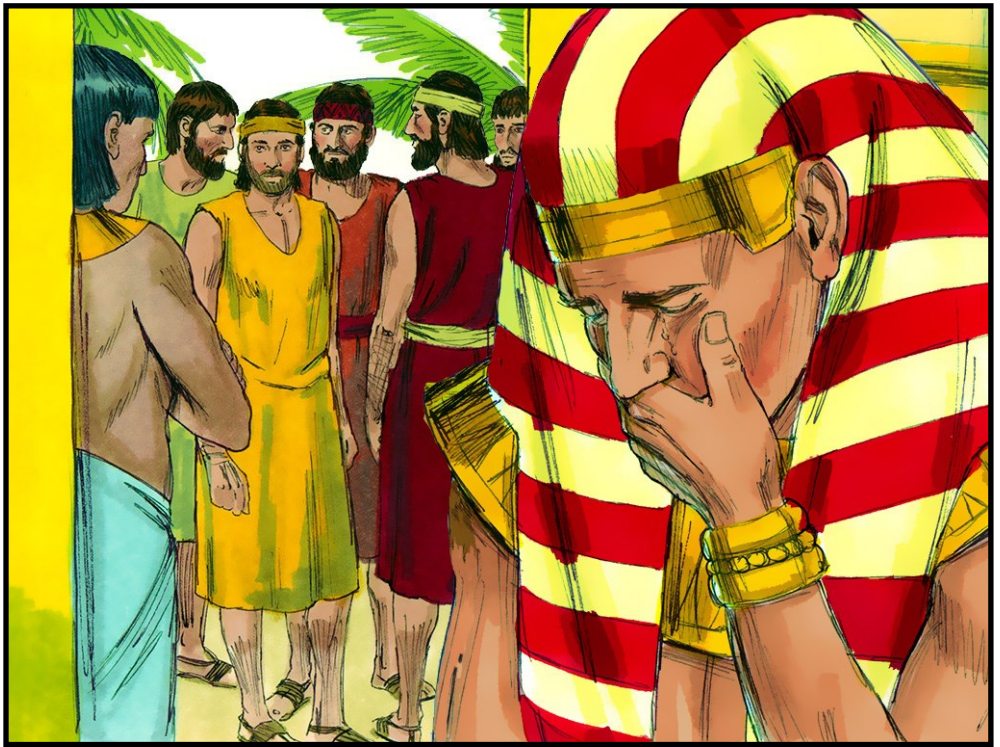


On the third day, Joseph brought them all out and said, “I am a God-fearing man, so I have changed my mind. This will be your test: only *one* of you must stay in prison. The rest of you may go home with the food so that your family won’t go hungry. Bring back this younger brother that you have spoken of and I will let the brother who stays in prison go free. This way I will know that you are telling the truth and I will spare your lives.”



Then, the brothers said to one another, “God must be punishing us for what we did to our brother, Joseph, all those years ago. He was so scared and cried out to us, but we would not listen.”

The oldest brother, Reuben, said, “Didn’t I tell you not to harm him? But you wouldn’t listen to me. We are getting what we deserve in return for treating him so badly.”



The brothers didn't know that Joseph could understand what they were saying. This whole time he had been speaking the Egyptian language while using an interpreter. He turned his face away from them and began to cry. The pain of his past was almost too much to bear.



Joseph turned back to them and gave orders to have Simeon bound before their eyes and taken to prison. He would be the one who stayed behind.

Later, Joseph gave orders to his men to fill the brother's sacks with grain. He also ordered his men to secretly return the silver that they had used to buy the grain. He even gave them provisions for their journey home. The brothers loaded their donkeys and left.



When the brothers stopped for the night, one of them opened his sack to feed his donkey. He cried, “My silver has been returned! It’s here in my bag!”

When they heard this, their hearts sank and they began to tremble. They said to one another, “What is this that God is doing to us? First, they thought we were spies. Now, they will think we are thieves.”



After returning home from their journey, the other brothers opened their sacks only to find out that their silver had be returned too!

They told their father about everything that had happened. They said to Jacob, “We will only be able to get Simeon back and buy more food if Benjamin goes with us.”



Jacob responded, “Joseph is gone. Now Simeon is gone. And you want to take Benjamin?”

Reuben said, “Father, put Benjamin in my care. I will return him to you. If I don’t, you can put my two sons to death.”

But Jacob answered, “No, Benjamin will not go with you. His brother Joseph is dead and he is the only son I have left from Rachel. I am growing old. If anything were to happen to him, it would kill me.”

M

kids

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