

LIFE'S TOUGH – Genesis 41



CAST: Pharaoh, 2 guards, wise men, cup-bearer, Joseph, servants, Asenath
Egyptians
PROPS: Throne, crown, robes, gold cup, gold ring, gold chain

[Pharaoh sleeps]

NARRATOR:

Pharaoh dreams that he stands by the river and sees 7 fat cows come up out of the river to feed on the pasture. Then look... 7 ugly skinny cows come up and eat the 7 fat cows!

[Pharaoh wakes up then goes back to sleep]

Pharaoh has a 2nd dream...

7 plump heads of grain come up on one stalk. Then look... 7 empty heads, burnt by the wind, come up and eat the 7 plump heads.

[Pharaoh wakes up]

In the morning Pharaoh is worried and calls for his wise men. He tells them his dreams but no-one can say what they mean.

CUP-BEARER:

I remember.....Pharaoh was angry with us - the baker and I - and put us in prison. We both had a dream one night. In prison with us was a young Hebrew man who was a servant of the captain of the bodyguards. He told us what our dreams meant and it happened just like he said. Pharaoh restored me to my job and hanged the baker.

PHARAOH to Joseph:

I have had a dream and no-one can tell me what it means. I hear you can tell what a dream means.

JOSEPH:

It's not in me. God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

PHARAOH:

Look, in my dream I stood on the bank of the river. Suddenly 7 fat cows came up out of the river to feed on the pasture. Then look, 7 ugly skinny cows came up, the ugliest I have ever seen, and they ate up the 7 fats cows. You would never have known because they were still just as ugly. I also dreamt of 7 plump heads of grain on one stalk. Then look, 7 empty heads, burnt by the wind, came up and ate the 7 plump heads.

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JOSEPH:

Pharaoh's dreams are the same - it is God showing Pharaoh what He is going to do.

The 7 fat cows and the 7 plump heads mean 7 years.

The 7 ugly skinny cows and the 7 empty heads are 7 years of drought.

There will be 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of drought, so bad that no-one will remember the times of plenty.

The dream was repeated twice because this is from God.

Let Pharaoh choose a wise man to set officers over the land and collect one-fifth of all produce during the 7 plentiful years.

The food will be a reserve for the 7 years of drought.

PHARAOH:

Is there anybody like this man with the Spirit of God in him?

You shall be over my house and all my people will be ruled by you.

I will be greater than you only in regard to the throne.

[Pharaoh gives Joseph his ring, a coat and a gold chain]

[Joseph rides in Pharaoh's 2nd chariot and everybody bows to him]

PHARAOH:

I am Pharaoh and no-one may lift a hand or a foot without your say so. I now call you: Zaphnath-Paaneah and here is your bride, Asenath.

[Asenath joins Joseph in the chariot]

NARRATOR:

Joseph gathered all the food from the 7 years of plenty and stored it in the cities. When the 7 years of plenty ended then the 7 years of drought began. Joseph opened the stores and sold food to the Egyptians. All the countries around Egypt came to Joseph and bought grain.