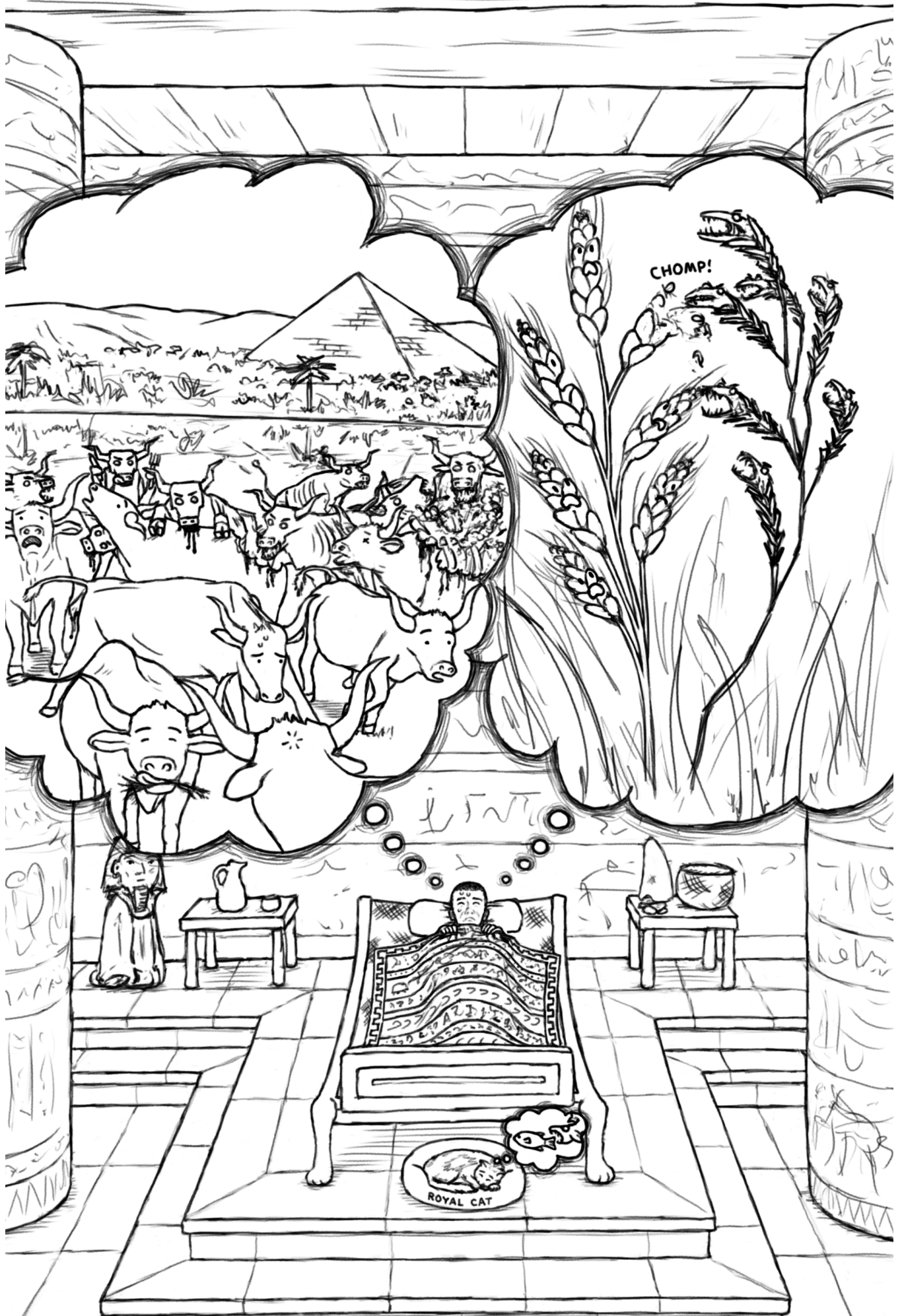




Lesson 12

Romans 11:33

How very rich are God's wisdom and knowledge! How He judges is more than we can understand! The way He deals with people is more than we can know!

Pharaoh has Two Dreams

Genesis 41:1–40

¹When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream. In his dream, he was standing by the Nile River.

²Seven cows came up out of the river. They looked healthy and fat. They were eating some of the tall grass growing along the river. ³After them, seven other cows came up out of the Nile. They looked ugly and skinny. They were standing beside the other cows on the riverbank. ⁴The ugly, skinny cows ate up the seven cows that looked healthy and fat. Then Pharaoh woke up.

⁵He fell asleep again and had a second dream. In that dream, seven heads of grain were growing on one stem. They were healthy and good. ⁶After them, seven other heads of grain came up. They were thin and dried up by the east wind. ⁷The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up. It had been a dream.

⁸In the morning he was worried. So he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams. But no one could tell him what they meant.

⁹Then the chief wine taster spoke up. He said to Pharaoh, "Now I remember that I've done something wrong. ¹⁰Pharaoh was once angry with his servants. He put me and the chief baker in prison. We were in the house of the captain of the palace guard. ¹¹Each of us had a dream the same night. Each dream had its own meaning. ¹²A young Hebrew servant was there with us. He was a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams. And he explained them to us. He told each of us the meaning of our dreams. ¹³Things turned out exactly as he said they would. I was given back my job. The other man had a pole stuck through his body."

¹⁴So Pharaoh sent for Joseph. He was quickly brought out of the prison. Joseph shaved and changed his clothes. Then he came to Pharaoh.

¹⁵Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream. No one can tell me what it means. But I've heard that when you hear a dream you can explain it."

¹⁶"I can't do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh. "But God will give Pharaoh the answer he wants."

¹⁷Then Pharaoh told Joseph what he had dreamed. He said, "I was standing on the bank of the Nile River. ¹⁸Seven cows came up out of the river. They were fat and looked healthy. They were eating the tall grass growing along the river. ¹⁹After them, seven other cows came up. They were bony and very ugly and thin. I had never seen such ugly cows in the whole land of Egypt. ²⁰The thin, ugly cows ate up the seven fat cows that came up first. ²¹But no one could tell that the thin cows had eaten the fat cows. That's

because the thin cows looked just as ugly as they had before. Then I woke up.

²²“In my dream I also saw seven heads of grain. They were full and good. They were all growing on one stem. ²³After them, seven other heads of grain came up. They were weak and thin and dried up by the east wind. ²⁴The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads. I told my dream to the magicians. But none of them could explain it to me.”

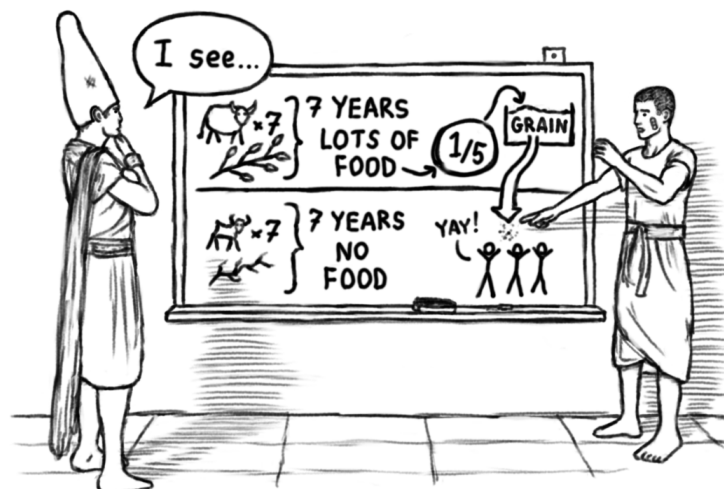
²⁵Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Both of Pharaoh’s dreams have the same meaning. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. ²⁶The seven good cows are seven years. And the seven good heads of grain are seven years. Both dreams mean the same thing. ²⁷The seven thin, ugly cows that came up later are seven years. So are the seven worthless heads of grain dried up by the east wind. They are seven years when there won’t be enough food.

²⁸“It’s just as I said to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He’s about to do. ²⁹Seven years with plenty of food are coming to the whole land of Egypt. ³⁰But seven years when there won’t be enough food will follow them. Then everyone will forget about all the food Egypt had. Terrible hunger will destroy the land. ³¹There won’t be anything left to remind people of the years when there was plenty of food in the land. That’s how bad the hunger that follows will be. ³²God gave the dream to Pharaoh in two forms. That’s because the matter has been firmly decided by God. And it’s because God will do it soon.

³³“So Pharaoh should look for a wise and understanding man. He should put him in charge of the land of Egypt. ³⁴Pharaoh should appoint officials to be in charge of the land. They should take a fifth of the harvest in Egypt during the seven years when there’s plenty of food. ³⁵They should collect all the extra food of the good years that are coming. Pharaoh should give them authority to store up the grain. They should keep it in the cities for food. ³⁶The grain should be stored up for the country to use later. It will be needed during the seven years when there isn’t enough food in Egypt. Then the country won’t be destroyed just because it doesn’t have enough food.”

³⁷The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and all his officials. ³⁸So Pharaoh said to them, “The spirit of God is in this man. We can’t find anyone else like him, can we?”

³⁹Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “God has made all this known to you. No one is as wise and understanding as you are. ⁴⁰You will be in charge of my palace. All my people must obey your orders. I will be greater than you only because I’m the one who sits on the throne.”



Questions

- 1 When these events took place, how many years had passed since the chief wine taster's and chief baker's dreams had come true? _____ full years had passed. (Gen. 41:1)
- 2 What happened to Pharaoh? Pharaoh had a _____. (Gen. 41:1)
- 3 Who gave Pharaoh his dream? _____ gave Pharaoh his dream. (Gen. 41:25)
- 4 What was the first part of Pharaoh's dream? In the first part of Pharaoh's dream, Pharaoh was _____ on the bank of the _____ River when _____ cows came up _____ of the river. These cows looked _____ and _____, and they began eating the _____ grass growing along the river. (Gen. 41:1-2, 17-18)
- 5 What was the second part of Pharaoh's dream? In the second part of Pharaoh's dream, seven other _____ came out of the river, but they looked _____ and _____. These seven new cows stood _____ the other seven cows on the riverbank. Then the seven ugly, skinny cows _____ up the seven healthy, fat cows. (Gen. 41:3-4, 19-20)
- 6 After the seven thin cows ate the seven healthy cows, did the seven thin cows gain weight? (Yes/No) _____. They looked just as _____ as they had before. (Gen. 41:21)
- 7 Did Pharaoh wake up after this dream? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 41:4)
- 8 Was Pharaoh able to go back to sleep? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 41:5)
- 9 What happened when Pharaoh went back to sleep? Pharaoh had a _____ dream. (Gen. 41:5)
- 10 What was the first part of Pharaoh's second dream? In the first part of Pharaoh's second dream, there were _____ heads of _____ growing on _____ stem. These heads were _____, full, and _____. (Gen. 41:5, 22)
- 11 What was the second part of Pharaoh's second dream? In the second part of Pharaoh's second dream, _____ other heads of grain came up, but they were weak, _____, and _____ up by the east wind. These seven thin heads of grain _____ up the seven healthy, full heads. (Gen. 41:6-7, 23-24)
- 12 What was Pharaoh's response to his two dreams? Pharaoh was _____. (Gen. 41:8)
- 13 Could any of Pharaoh's magicians or wise men tell Pharaoh what his dreams meant? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 41:8)
- 14 Who finally remembered his promise to Joseph? The chief _____ finally remembered his promise to Joseph. (Gen. 41:9)



God's timing is perfect!

- 15 What did Pharaoh do when he heard that Joseph could tell him the meaning of his dreams? Pharaoh _____ for Joseph. (Gen. 41:14)

Psalm 37:7a

Be still and wait patiently for the Lord to act.

- 16 What did Joseph do before he saw Pharaoh? Joseph _____, and _____ his clothes. (Gen. 41:14)
- 17 Did Joseph take *credit* for being able to explain the meaning of dreams? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 41:16)



Joseph gave God all the honour and glory!

- 18 Did Pharaoh's two dreams have different meanings? (Yes/No) _____. They had the _____ meaning. (Gen. 41:25)
- 19 What was the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams? Pharaoh's dreams meant that _____ years with _____ of _____ would be coming to the whole land of Egypt. But following those years would be _____ years when there wouldn't be enough food. _____ hunger would _____ the land, and there wouldn't be _____ left to _____ people of the years when there had been plenty of food. (Gen. 41:29–31)
- 20 Why did God give Pharaoh two dreams with the same meaning, instead of just giving him one dream? God gave Pharaoh two dreams with the same meaning to show that the matter had been _____ decided by _____ and that God was going to do it _____. (Gen. 41:32)
- 21 What *advice* did Joseph give Pharaoh? Joseph told Pharaoh that Pharaoh should _____ for a _____ and understanding _____ to put in _____ of the land of Egypt. Then, with this man in charge, a _____ of the _____ in Egypt during the _____ years of plenty should be **C** _____ and **S** _____ up to use during the seven years when there wouldn't be enough food. (Gen. 41:33–36)
- 22 What did Pharaoh see in Joseph? Pharaoh saw the _____ of God in Joseph. (Gen. 41:38)
- 23 What did Pharaoh say Joseph was like more than anyone else Pharaoh knew? Pharaoh said that no

one was as _____ and _____ as Joseph. (Gen. 41:39)

Acts 7:9–10a

“Jacob’s sons were jealous of their brother Joseph. So they sold him as a slave. He was taken to Egypt. But God was with him. He saved Joseph from all his troubles. God made Joseph wise.”

- 24 Who was the one who made Joseph wise? _____ was the one who made Joseph wise.

Psalm 111:10a

If you really want to become wise, you must begin by having respect for the Lord. All those who follow His rules have good understanding.

- 25 Why do you think God made Joseph so wise and understanding? God made Joseph so wise and understanding because Joseph had _____ for the Lord and _____ His rules.
- 26 When Pharaoh saw how wise and understanding Joseph was, what did Pharaoh decide to do? Pharaoh decided to put Joseph in _____ of Pharaoh’s _____. (Gen. 41:40)
- 27 Who would now have to obey Joseph’s orders? _____ Pharaoh’s people would now have to obey Joseph’s orders. (Gen. 41:40)
- 28 Who was the only one who would be greater than Joseph in Egypt? _____ was the only one who would be greater than Joseph in Egypt. (Gen. 41:40)

How did the Holy Spirit speak to you this week as you studied these Bible verses? In other words, what did you learn this week from reading God’s Word?
