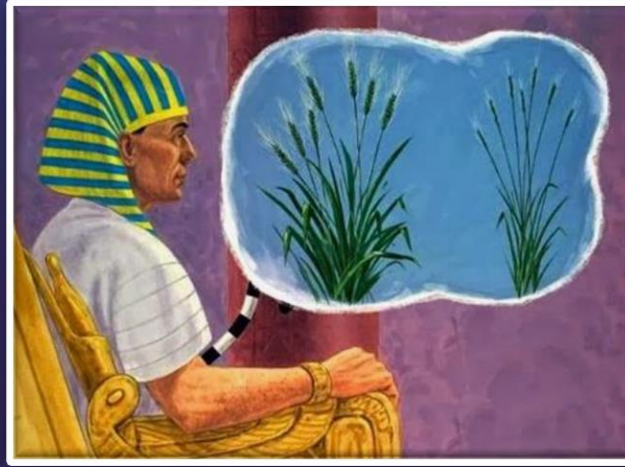
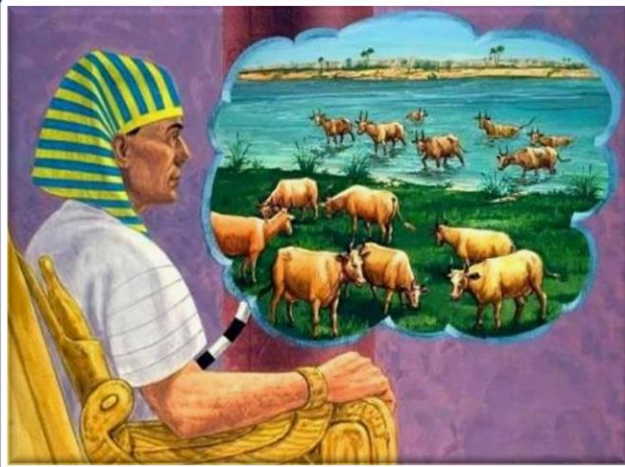


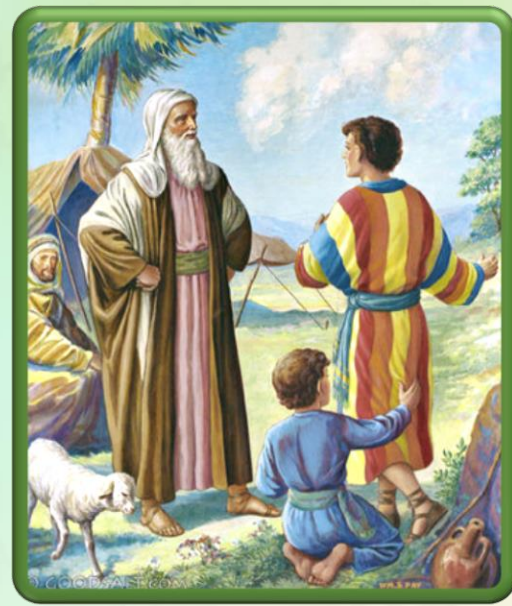
JOSEPH, MASTER OF DREAMS



Jacob was deeply in love with Rachel, so he favored Joseph above his other sons, “because he was the son of his old age” (Genesis 37:3. Benjamin was too young at that time).

Besides, Joseph was young but spiritual. This contrasted with the bad characters and infamy of his brothers who fell out with him.

Despite the deplorable acts and mistakes in Genesis 37-41, God still worked everything for good.



The dreams of Joseph. Genesis 37:1-11



Joseph is sold. Genesis 37: 12-36



Interlude: Judah and Tamar. Genesis 38



Joseph is imprisoned. Genesis 39



The dreams of Pharaoh. Genesis 40:1-41:36

THE DREAMS OF JOSEPH

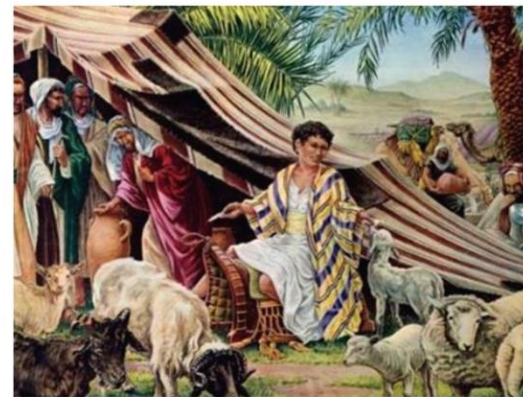
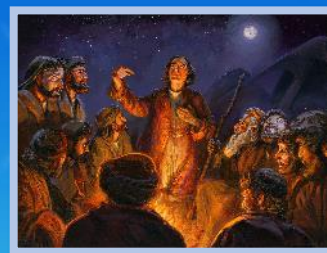
“Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.” (Genesis 37:5)

Joseph was reporting the bad behavior of his brothers to their father (Gn. 37:2). It was obvious that Jacob wanted to place Joseph—the firstborn of Rachel—above all his brothers (Gn. 37:3).

The immediate result was: “But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.” (Gn. 37:4)

To top it all, Joseph had two dreams that showed him above his brothers:

Jacob didn’t seem happy with those dreams, but he reflected on their meaning and possible fulfillment (Gn. 37:11).



Genesis 37:5-8

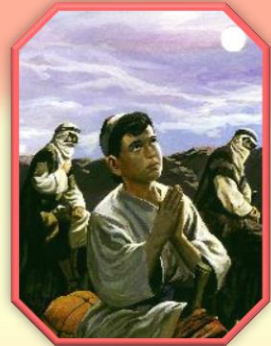


Genesis 37:9-10

JOSEPH IS SOLD

Everything happened quickly (Genesis 37:13-36).

“Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.”
(Genesis 37:36)



2. A man met Joseph “by chance,” and told him where to find his brothers (15-17)

4. Reuben tried to save him and interceded on his behalf (21-24)

6. They tricked Jacob by telling him that Joseph was dead (29-35)



1. Jacob sent Joseph to visit his brothers (13-14)

3. His brothers decided to kill him when they saw him (18-20)

5. Judah proposed a new plan: to sell him instead of killing him (25-28)

7. Once in Egypt, Joseph is sold to Potiphar (36)

“Our heavenly Father does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men. He has His purpose in the whirlwind and in the storm, in the fire and in the flood. The Lord permits calamities to come to His people to save them from greater dangers. He desires everyone to examine his own heart closely and carefully, and then draw near to God, that God may draw near to him.

Our life is in the hands of God. He sees dangers threatening us that we cannot see. He is the giver of all our blessings [...]”

E. G. W. (In Heavenly Places, September 15)



INTERLUDE: JUDAH AND TAMAR

"So Judah acknowledged them and said, 'She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son.' And he never knew her again." (Genesis 38:26)

After Joseph was sold, Judah left the nest. He married and had three children (Gn. 38:1-5). Er was the firstborn and married Tamar. Then, God began to respond to the evil acts of Judah's children (Gn. 38:6-10).

However, God didn't punish Judah and Tamar for their mistake (Gn. 38:11-18). Judah acknowledged his mistake, and Tamar was considered righteous (Gn. 38:26). God transformed evil into good, and He redeemed Tamar by grace.

Perez was the second son of Tamar and Judah, and he is one of the Messianic ancestors (Mt. 1:3). Tamar is the first of the four women mentioned in Jesus' genealogy.



JOSEPH IS IMPRISONED

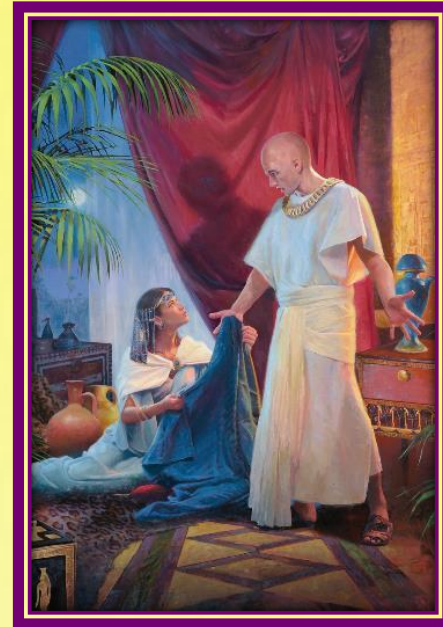
"But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison." (Genesis 39:21)

God was with Joseph when he was sold to Potiphar. Potiphar was the captain of the guard of the royal prisons (Gn. 39:1-2).

Joseph was put in charge of all his estate. Success didn't corrupt him. On the contrary, he refused to give in to his mistress' insinuations (Gn. 39:9). However, he was sent to prison. Thus back to the beginning.

God was still with Joseph at prison. He also extended His mercy on him and gave him favor in the sight of the guard (Gn. 39:21).

He was again put in charge of everything (Gn. 39:22-23). Joseph never forgot that his success was God's doing. He remained faithful to God under all circumstances.



“Joseph regarded his being sold into Egypt as the greatest calamity that could have befallen him; but he saw the necessity of trusting in God as he had never done when protected by his father's love. Joseph brought God with him into Egypt, and the fact was made apparent by his cheerful demeanor amid his sorrow.”



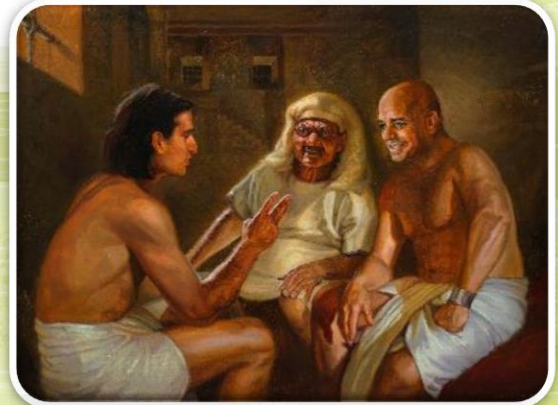
THE DREAMS OF PHARAOH



**"And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass."
(Genesis 41:32)**

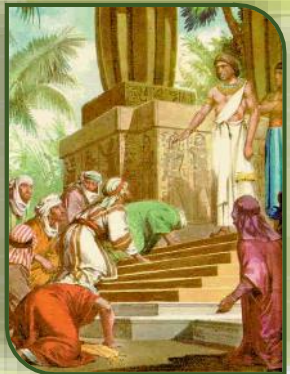
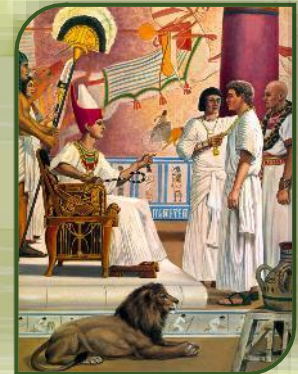
Joseph expected to be released quickly after interpreting the dreams of the butler and the baker (Gn. 40:14-15). But his freedom didn't come then.

Then, again two dreams and a worried dreamer. Pharaoh was eager to understand their meaning. After two years, God's time had finally come (Gn. 41:1-14).



**Even before Pharaoh, Joseph didn't forget his success was actually God's: "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."
(Gn. 41:16)**

Joseph's two dreams were beginning to become true. After many years, he was put in charge of all Egypt (Gn. 41:41).



“From the dungeon Joseph was exalted to be ruler over all the land of Egypt. It was a position of high honor, yet it was beset with difficulty and peril [...] But Joseph's character bore the test alike of adversity and prosperity. The same fidelity to God was manifest when he stood in the palace of the Pharaohs as when in a prisoner's cell [...] he fully believed that the divine hand had directed his steps, and in constant reliance upon God he faithfully discharged the duties of his position. Through Joseph the attention of the king and great men of Egypt was directed to the true God [...]”