

After two years' time, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the river, when out of the river there came up seven cows, handsome and sturdy, and they grazed in the reed grass. But presently, seven other cows came up from the river close behind them, ugly and gaunt, and stood beside the cows on the bank of the river; and the ugly gaunt cows ate up the seven handsome sturdy cows. And Pharaoh awoke.

Next morning, his spirit was agitated, and he sent for all the magicians of Egypt, and all its wise men; and Pharaoh told them his dream; but none could interpret them for Pharaoh.

The chief cupbearer then spoke up and said to Pharaoh, "I must make mention today of a Hebrew youth, a servant of the chief steward; and when he we told him our dreams, he interpreted them for us, telling each of the meaning of his dream. And as he interpreted for us, so it came to pass."

Thereupon Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was rushed from the dungeon. He had his hair cut and changed his clothes, and he appeared before Pharaoh.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, "I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it." And Pharaoh told Joseph his dream.

And Joseph said to Pharaoh: "God has told Pharaoh what He is about to do. The seven healthy cows are seven years, and the seven lean ugly cows that followed are seven years; they are seven years of famine. Immediately ahead are seven years of great abundance in all the land of Egypt. After them will come seven years of famine, and all the abundance in the land will be forgotten. As the land is ravaged by famine, no trace of the abundance will be left in the land because of the famine thereafter, for it will be very severe. Accordingly, let Pharaoh find a man of discernment and wisdom, and set him over the land of Egypt. And let Pharaoh take steps to appoint overseers over the land, and take a fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven years of plenty. Let all the food of these good years that are coming be gathered, and let the grain be collected under Pharaoh's authority as food to be stored in the cities. Let that food be a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will come upon the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish in the famine."

And the magicians of Egypt and the wise men said to Pharaoh, "This is a Hebrew from the dungeon; he should be enslaved and put to work on the pyramid we are building to hold Pharaoh upon his death, in order to join the other gods. This Hebrew only cares about feeding the slaves; he cares not about the building of pyramids. Yes, Pharaoh, you had a dream; we all have dreams, but we do not believe in the God of the Hebrew, and if we do as the Hebrew says, we will displease the god of the river, and the god of the sun, and Pharaoh himself will not have a pyramid, for you are also a god."

So Pharaoh did as his magicians and wise men said, and Joseph was enslaved and put to work on the pyramid. And Egypt enjoyed seven years of plenty, and instead of taxing the land, as Joseph had said, the people of Egypt lived well, and the pyramid was built in only seven years, at great cost to the land and to the slaves of Egypt.

The seven years of abundance that the land of Egypt enjoyed came to an end, and the seven years of famine set in, just as Joseph had foretold. There was famine in all lands. And when all the land of Egypt felt the hunger, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread.

And the magicians and wise men of Egypt said to Pharaoh, "Let us deal shrewdly with them, so that they may not increase; otherwise in the event of war they may join our enemies in fighting against us." So they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. But the more they were oppressed the more they cried out to Pharaoh for bread. Ruthlessly they made life bitter for them with hard labor at mortar and in bricks and with all sorts of tasks in the field.

The famine had become severe throughout the world. And Jacob said to his sons, "Go down and procure rations for us, that we may live and not die." So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to get grain rations from Egypt, for the famine extended to the land of Canaan. And the Egyptians said, "You are also Hebrews from the land of Canaan, and we will enslave you, and put you to work, like your brother. Joseph."

A new king arose over Egypt, who knew of Joseph. Then Pharaoh charged all his people, saying: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you shall throw into the river, but let every Hebrew girl live."

A certain man of the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw how beautiful he was, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer, she got a wicker basket for him and caulked it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child into it and placed it among the reeds by the bank of the river.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the river, while her maidens walked along the river. She spied the basket among the reeds and sent her slave to fetch it. When she opened it, she saw that it was a child, a boy crying.

And she said, "This must be a Hebrew child." And she followed her father's charge, and threw the child into the river.

Then the enemies of Egypt considered fighting against the Egyptians, and the Hebrews sought to join them. But Pharaoh said to his enemies, "Is this not the fault of the Hebrews and their Politics of Destruction? Let Egypt bail you out, and help us enslave the Hebrews, for they do not worship our gods, and they do not worship me, and they surely will not worship your gods and you." So the enemies of Egypt helped Egypt, and the Hebrews were dispersed out of the land of Canaan, and their altars were destroyed.

Now Joseph and his ten brothers had grown old and weary. And they each had a son, borne before the new king over Egypt. And the eleven sons arose one day, and went to the top of the pyramid, and barricaded themselves inside. And the task masters tried to remove them from the top of the pyramid, but they could not. And Pharaoh was very wroth.

Then the Hebrews gathered, and they ceased from all of their labors, and they went into the throne room of Pharaoh, and they made demands. And Pharaoh was very wroth.

And the taskmasters said, "They have multiplied, and they are many, and if we slaughter them all then we will not have any slaves to work the land and build the next pyramid." So Pharaoh summoned his magicians and his wise men. And they said, "Promise the Hebrews another space to sit, and access to the annals of the land of Egypt, and appoint two magicians to listen to them, so that they may write down their plan, and this will get them out of the throne room." So Pharaoh did as his magicians and wise men said. And the Hebrews were tricked, and they did not get another space to sit, nor did they get access to the annals of the land of Egypt, and the plan they wrote down was rejected.

So the Hebrews started to pray to their God, and they made offerings and sacrifices. And God said: "Finally, the children of Israel are worshipping and dreaming and praying. I have now heard the moaning of the Israelites because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. Therefore I say to the Israelite people: I am the Lord. I will free you from the labors of the Egyptians and deliver you from their bondage. Yet I know that the king of Egypt will let you go only because of a greater might. You must redeem yourselves with an outstretched arm and through extraordinary chastisements. I will bring you into the land which I swore and I will give it to you for a possession, I am the Lord."

So the children of Israel exercised extraordinary chastisements against the Pharaoh, and against the magicians, and against the wise men of Egypt. And the Jews mustered in their cities to attack those who sought their hurt; and no one could withstand them; for the fear of them had fallen upon all the peoples. Indeed, all the officials of the provinces - the satraps, the governors, and the king's stewards - showed deference to the Jews, because the fear had fallen upon them. So the Jews struck at their enemies with the sword, slaying and destroying; they wreaked their will upon their enemies. And Pharaoh was impaled on the stake, and Pharaoh's five sons were impaled.

And on the day the Jews enjoyed relief from their foes, the day was transformed for them from one of grief and mourning to one of festive joy. They were to observe it as a day of feasting and merrymaking, and as an occasion for sending gifts to one another and presents to the poor.

Consequently, these days are recalled and observed in every generation: by every family, every province, and every city; and these days shall never cease among the Jews, and the memory of them shall never perish among their descendants. And it was written in a scroll.

Are the events and actions not recorded in the Annals of the Kings?