

The Dreamer and Interpreter of Dreams

Cast: Storyteller(s), Joseph, Jacob, possibly 11 brothers, Cupbearer, Baker, Pharaoh.

Characters to mime actions as the story unfolds.

Joseph was the 11th son of Jacob and his favourite son. Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colours. His 10 older brothers hated Joseph.

Joseph had a dream and he shared it with his brothers.

Joseph: 'We were in the field binding up corn after which my sheaf rose up and stood upright in the centre and your sheaves all bowed down to it.'

Now the 10 older brothers took the sheep down into the Valley to graze. Jacob sent Joseph to take them food, but when nine of his brothers saw him coming alone they decided to kill him. But Reuben heard their plots and persuaded them not to kill him.

When Joseph arrived the brothers pounced on him, stripped off his colourful coat and threw him down a dried up well.

Some of the brothers still wanted to kill Joseph but Judah said they would get money by selling Joseph as a slave. So whilst Reuben was away with some of the flock. Judah sold Joseph to some traders passing by and then put blood on to Joseph's coloured robe and the brothers took it back to Jacob and said Joseph had been killed by a ferocious animal. Jacob was heartbroken.

Joseph ended up in prison in Egypt and also in prison were the King of Egypt's chief cupbearer and chief baker, both had been imprisoned because somebody had tried to poison the King, who was known as Pharaoh. They both had a dream. The next day they were very sad. Joseph asked them why they were sad. They told him they had had a dream but did not know what they meant.

Joseph told them that his God could interpret dreams. Joseph prayed whilst first the chief cupbearer and then the chief baker shared their dreams. Then with God's inspiration Joseph interpreted the dreams.

The Chief Cupbearer: 'In my dream I saw a vine in front of me and on the vine were 3 branches. They budded and blossomed and ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand and I squeezed the grapes into the cup and gave it to him.'

Joseph: 'The 3 branches are 3 days. In 3 days you will be restored to your trusted position at the side of Pharaoh.'

The Chief Baker: 'I too had a dream: On my head were 3 baskets of bread, but the birds were eating the bread in the top basket.'

Joseph: 'Again the 3 baskets are 3 days. In 3 days Pharoah will hang you on a tree and the birds will eat away your flesh.'

In 3 days everything happened just as Joseph had predicted.

2 years later Pharoah had 2 dreams which frightened him. He called all his wise men and magicians to him but nobody could interpret the dreams. Pharoah was furious and upset. Then the Chief Cupbearer remembered Joseph, who was still in prison, had interpreted his Dream so he told the Pharoah. Pharoah sent to the prison for Joseph, who had to shave and get new clothes before he could enter Pharoah's presence.

Pharoah asked Joseph to interpret his 2 dreams. Joseph said that he could not do it, but the God he worshipped would provide an answer.

Pharoah: ' I was standing on the bank of the Nile when out of the river there came up 7 fat and healthy cows and they ate food. After them came 7 thin, very ugly and lean cows. These 7 thin cows ate up the 7 fat cows but they looked no different and they were just as ugly.'

Pause

Pharoah: 'I saw 7 ears of corn, full and good growing on a single stalk. Then 7 other ears of corn sprouted, withered and scorched. Then these 7 very poor ears of corn swallowed up the 7 healthy ears of corn.'

Joseph prayed to God.

Joseph: 'The dreams are saying the same thing. The 7 fat cows and 7 good ears of corn are 7 years of plenty. The 7 ugly cows and 7 withered ears of corn are 7 years of drought which will cause a famine.'

Pharoah was horror struck at the thought of a long drought.

Joseph: 'What God is saying to Pharoah is there will be 7 years when the land will provide more than enough food, and then 7 years when it will be impossible to grow any food. So you need to store up during the 7 years of plenty to provide for the 7 years of drought and famine. So Pharoah needs to find a wise man to be put in charge of the land of Egypt and to take each year for 7 years a fifth of all the produce grown and animals reared and store them so that when the 7 years of famine and drought comes there will be food available to stop people starving.'

Pharaoh saw that this plan was a good one and decided Joseph would be the right man for the job. So Joseph took on the role of administrator for the whole of Egypt and appointed 50 commissioners to be in charge throughout the land of Egypt to store a fifth of the produce of the land each year. When the famine came the Egyptians were ready for it and food was made available for all the people who needed it.

The famine did not only hit Egypt but Canaan as well, where Jacob and his 11 remaining sons and families lived. In the end Jacob sent his 10 eldest sons to buy grain from Egypt. When they arrived at the palace of Pharaoh of course they met Joseph but did not recognise him, but Joseph knew them straight away.

When Joseph came into the room all his brothers bowed down to him. The dream Joseph had as a boy was coming true.

Pause

To cut a long story short Joseph in the end made himself known to his brothers and met his father, Jacob, again, who was overjoyed because he thought his favourite son had died.

Joseph settled his family in Egypt for the whole period of the famine and continued his role as Administrator in Egypt until he retired.

God had been with Joseph through all his trials and tribulations and had brought him through them all to gain a position of trust and importance, which in the end was to benefit not only himself but his family as well.

God's purpose for our lives is not always obvious but all things come together for good with those who love and serve him.