

### **The Story Chapter 3, “Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh” (readings excerpted from Genesis 37-50, NIV)**

[Even among the family that God chose to carry the promise of redemption, sin showed up in the form of favoritism and jealousy. Abraham’s grandson Jacob, also known as Israel,] loved Joseph more than any of his other children ... So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph – a beautiful robe. But his brothers hated Joseph... They couldn’t say a kind word to him.

But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.  
<sup>19</sup> “Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. *(Gen 37:18-19)*

...

When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile, <sup>2</sup> when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. <sup>3</sup> After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank. <sup>4</sup> And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. *(Gen 41:1-4)*

Pharaoh said to Joseph... “I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it.”

“It is beyond my power to do this,” Joseph replied. “But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease... God is telling Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do.

[Joseph’s advice was so good that Pharaoh appointed him second-in-command of Egypt to carry out the plan. As God foretold, seven years of bumper crops were soon followed by terrible famine. The famine stretched even to the land of Canaan, where Jacob’s family was in danger of starving. Hearing that there was food in Egypt, Jacob sent his sons to bargain for grain.]

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. <sup>7</sup> God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. *(Gen 45:3,7)*

[Joseph forgave his brothers. They brought their father Jacob to see Joseph in Egypt, and that was a joyous reunion! Jacob gave praise to God, who spoke to him in a dream:]

[Pharaoh invited Joseph’s family to stay.]