



ask your children questions!

for Mums & Dads
1001

Summary of the פֿרָשָׁה, by עֲלוֹת

פֿתוּ At the end of two full years, פֿרָעָה dreamt that standing over the River Nile when seven beautiful and healthy cows emerged from it. They grazed in the marshland. Then, seven ugly, thin cows emerged and stood next to the fat ones. The thin ones ate the fat ones, then פֿרָעָה awoke. He fell asleep and dreamt again, this time about seven healthy ears of grain and seven thin, scorched ones. The thin ears swallowed the healthy ones. פֿרָעָה awoke. None of his wise men could interpret the dreams.

The פֿרָעָה now remembered יוֹסֵף and told פֿרָעָה how יוֹסֵף had helped him and the שֵׁר הָאוֹפִים. יוֹסֵף was rushed out of prison and brought before פֿרָעָה.

קוּ פֿרָעָה said to יוֹסֵף that he had heard יוֹסֵף could interpret dreams. יוֹסֵף answered that it was ה' who would help פֿרָעָה. פֿרָעָה told יוֹסֵף his dreams, and that no-one had been able to help him understand them. יוֹסֵף explained to פֿרָעָה that seven years of abundance were coming, followed by seven years of famine. The famine would be so bad that the years of abundance would be forgotten. The dream was repeated, said יוֹסֵף, because ה' was ready to fulfil it.

יוֹסֵף advised פֿרָעָה to appoint a man of wisdom and understanding - אִישׁ נְבוֹן וְחָכָם - who would appoint officers to help him gather grain during the seven years of plenty. This would be for a reserve to help מִצְרַיִם survive the seven years of famine. פֿרָעָה was very pleased with the idea.

שְׁלִישִׁי פֿרָעָה told יוֹסֵף : "Since Hashem has informed you of all this, there can be no one as understanding and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace...only by the throne shall I outrank you." He gave יוֹסֵף his ring, royal garments of linen and a gold chain. He also let him ride in the second royal chariot. פֿרָעָה called יוֹסֵף "צִפְנַת פַּעַנַח" and gave him אֶסְנַת, the daughter of פֿרַעַי for a wife. יוֹסֵף was now 30 years old.

In the first seven years, יוֹסֵף collected as much grain as "the sand in the sea" - so much, it could not be counted.

Before the famine began, יוֹסֵף had two sons, מְנַשֶּׁה and אֶפְרַיִם .

רְבִיעִי The seven years of famine began, but in מִצְרַיִם there was bread. When people cried out in hunger, פֿרָעָה told them to go to יוֹסֵף . All the earth came to יוֹסֵף because the famine was everywhere. The famine was also in כְּנָעַן , and יַעֲקֹב sent ten of his sons down to מִצְרַיִם to buy grain. He kept בְּנָמִין back.

When the brothers appeared before יוֹסֵף, they did not recognise him. He accused them of being spies. They said that they were brothers, that the youngest was still with their father, and that one was "gone" - "וְהַאֲחֵד אֵינְנוּ" . יוֹסֵף said that, to prove their identity, one of them should return to fetch בְּנָמִין while the others are imprisoned. Then he put them into prison for three days. On the third day, יוֹסֵף told them what would happen.

סֵפֶר בְּרָאשִׁית

בְּרָאשִׁית

נח

לֵד-לֵד

וַיֵּרָא

חַיֵּי שָׁרָה

תּוֹלְדוֹת

וַיֵּצֵא

וַיִּשְׁלַח

וַיִּשָּׁב

מִקְצֵ

וַיִּגַּשׁ

וַיַּחֲיוּ

תמישי One brother would be kept in prison while the others take food for their families, then return with the youngest brother back to מצרים. The brothers spoke amongst themselves, in Hebrew. They said that this was all happening because of what they had done to יוסף. They did not know that יוסף understood them, for an interpreter was between them. שמעון was kept in prison while the other brothers left, with sacks of grain. יוסף commanded that the brothers' money be returned to their sacks.

Back at home, as they told everything to their father, they were shocked and frightened to find their money in their sacks. יעקב said that, having lost both יוסף and שמעון, he would not let בנימין go. Once their food had run out, יעקב told his sons to return to מצרים to buy more food. They told him that יוסף had warned them not to return without their younger brother. יהודה promised to look after בנימין and, finally, יעקב let them take בנימין. He told them to take double the money they had taken last time, the money they had found in their sacks, and gifts.

ששי The man in charge of יוסף's house reassured the brothers that he had received their money last time. He brought שמעון out to them. When יוסף came to the house he asked whether their father was still alive. He then asked whether בנימין was the 'little' brother of whom they had spoken.

שביעי יוסף went into another room and wept. He washed his face, came out and ordered food to be served. He had the brothers seated according to their ages. The brothers looked at each other in astonishment. בנימין was given a portion five times greater than the others'.

יוסף instructed that the brothers' sacks should be filled with food and that their money should be put in the top. He added that his silver goblet should be placed in בנימין's sack.

In the morning, when the brothers had not travelled far from the city, יוסף ordered that they be overtaken and accused of stealing the silver goblet. It was found in בנימין's sack. The brothers tore their clothes and returned to יוסף's house.

יהודה offered for all of the brothers to become יוסף's slaves, but יוסף said that he would take only בנימין as a slave. The rest of them should return to their father.

Translate the following פסוק on the lines:

בְּרֵאשִׁית מֵא

טז וַיַּעַן יוֹסֵף אֶת־פַּרְעֹה

לֵאמֹר

בְּלִעְדֵי

אֱלֹקִים יַעֲנֶה

אֶת־שְׁלוֹם פַּרְעֹה:

What do we learn in this פסוק about יוסף's character?

Now look back and compare this with the way יוסף speaks at the beginning of the פרשה.

Do you see any difference? Do you see any change in יוסף?

What can we learn for ourselves?

שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם!