

Genesis 41:37-57

Genesis 41:37 – **This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.**

1. Senwosret II - 1887–1878 BC

a. From Wikipedia –

“**Senusret II** or **Sesostris II** was the fourth pharaoh of the Twelfth Dynasty of Egypt. He took a great deal of interest in the Faiyum oasis region and began work on an extensive irrigation system from **Bahr Yussef** through to Lake Moeris through the construction of a dike at El-Lahun and the addition of a network of drainage canals. The purpose of his project was to increase the amount of cultivable land in that area. The importance of this project is emphasized by Senusret II's decision to move the royal necropolis from Dahshur to El-Lahun where he built his pyramid. This location would remain the political capital for the 12th and 13th Dynasties of Egypt. Senusret II was known by his prenomen Khakheperre, which means "The Ka of Re comes into being". The king also established the first known workers' quarter in the nearby town of Senusrethotep (Kahun)

2. This would be 1887 BC

41:38 – **And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?”**

1. Joseph is not a trained city manager nor an expert on infrastructure, so Pharaoh concludes this wisdom is directly from the Spirit of God.

41:39 – **Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are.**

41:40 – **You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.”**

1. The House of Pharaoh is his administration over Egypt
2. This is the third house Joseph has been over (Jacob's, Potiphar's, Pharaoh's)
3. Egyptian titles for this position would be “Great Steward of the Lord of the Two Lands” or “Great Chief in the Palace”. This is the Vizier or Prime Minister of Egypt.
4. The literal translation is “and on your mouth all my people shall kiss” which seems to mean simply “obey”

41:41 – And Pharaoh said to Joseph,
“See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.”

41:42 – Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck.

41:43 – And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, “Bow the knee!” Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt.

41:44 – Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”

1. This is the third speech Pharaoh gives to Joseph.
 - a. Pharaoh's Intention
 - b. Pharaoh's implementation
 - c. And, here, Pharaoh's confirmation
2. No one in Egypt will be able to buy, sell, own property, etc. without Joseph's oversight and permission



SENWOSRET II - 1887 BC

(or, **SEUSRET II, SESOSTRIS II**)

41:45 – And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphra priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

1. Zaphenath-paneah –
 - a. This name is never mentioned again
 - b. Could mean from Egyptian: “*God speaks and he lives*” or “*The god has said: “HE WILL LIVE*”
 - c. Or, “*the man who knows things*”
2. Asenath –
 - a. “belonging to Neith” (Neith was an Egyptian goddess)
3. daughter of Potiphra priest of On –
 - a. Potiphra is the same form and name as Potiphar, but NOT the same person.
 - b. The name means “He whom RE has given”

41:46 – Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.

1. Joseph was 17. In 41:2, Joseph was released from prison after 2 years. Now he is 30.
2. It has been 13 years of slavery and imprisonment mixed with betrayal for Joseph.
3. Joseph's first project:

41:47 – During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly,

1. Joseph is now busy for seven years collecting, overseeing and organizing Egypt's abundance.

41:48 – and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of Egypt, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it.

1. Each city seems to have collected their own abundance.
2. The whole land was abundantly, unnaturally productive for seven years.

41:49 – And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.

1. The grain was so great it could not be counted. Record keeping had reached its limit.
2. Similar to Joseph being a foreigner in Egypt who oversaw the Egyptian grain, there is an Egyptian text from this ancient time that records a man known as PASNHESI (PHINEAS) who was "the Nubian" that had been appointed by Pharaoh to be the:
 - a. "Overseer of the Granaries of Pharaoh"
 - b. "Overseer of the Granaries of Upper and Lower Egypt"

41:50 – Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph.

Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On, bore them to him.

1. During these seven years of plenty Joseph had two sons.

41:51 – Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house."

1. Joseph names his first son, not Asenath (like Jacob's wives)
 - a. 29:31-35 – Leah names her sons: Rueben, Simeon, Levi and Judah
 - b. 30:3-8 – Rachel names the sons Bilhah bore: Dan, Napthali
 - c. 30:9-13 – Leah named the sons Zilpah bore: Gad, Asher
2. The name Joseph gives his first son: MANASSEH, because Joseph wants a namesake or a reminder of these two things:
 - a. "God has made me forget all my hardship"
 - b. "God has made me forget...all my father's house"
 - i. It appears as far as Joseph is concerned:
 1. Joseph is walking with God and God is blessing Joseph
 2. BUT, Joseph is finished with his father's household which includes:
 - a. His brothers, of course
 - b. Also, his father Jacob
 - c. And, his grandfather Isaac
 - d. And, Abraham and the entire Abrahamic Covenant handed down through Isaac to Jacob
 - e. This is all in Joseph's past and not to be thought of again, except to remember that he has "forgotten" all that.

41:52 – The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

1. Joseph names his second son: EPHRAIM, because:
 - a. “God has made Joseph fruitful in the land that had afflicted him.”
 - i. Notice concerning God, Joseph is still:
 1. conscious of God,
 2. credits God
 3. considers God good
2. Joseph does NOT give his sons Egyptian names, these are Hebrew names
3. Joseph, with all his power, influence, resources and mobility DOES NOT make any recorded attempt to contact his father Jacob (who is still in grief at the loss of his son almost twenty years ago)
 - a. Joseph knows where Jacob lives
 - b. Joseph is not that far away
 - c. Joseph could have made contact with, at least, a messenger. But, no, Joseph is done.

41:53 – The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end,

1. Joseph is now 37
2. The famine effected the crops and food. No mention of lack of water
3. Famine can come from lack of rain, disease, foreign invasion, natural disaster.

41:54 – and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

כָּל

1. “ALL” is the Hebrew word כָּל, which is pronounce **KAL**.

559 [e] 'ā-mar אָמַר had said √-Qal-Perf-3ms	834 [e] ka-ʾā-šer כַּאֲשֶׁר as Prep-k Pro-r	935 [e] lā-bō-w, לָבֹא to come Prep-l V-Qal-Inf	7458 [e] hā-rā-ʾāb הָרָעַב of the famine Art N-ms	8141 [e] še-nē שָׁנָי years N-fpc	7651 [e] še-ba' שִׁבְעָה seven Number-fs	2490 [e] wat-tə-ḥil-le-nāh וַתְּחִלֵּנָה and began Conj-w V-Hifil-ConseclImperf-3fp
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3605 [e] ū-bə-kāl וּבְכָל but in all Conj-w, Prep-b N-msc	776 [e] hā-ʾā-rā-šō-wt הָאָרְצוֹת lands Art N-fp	3605 [e] bə-kāl בְּכָל in all Prep-b N-msc	7458 [e] rā-ʾāb רָעַב the famine N-ms	1961 [e] way-hī וַיְהִי And was Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms	3130 [e] yō-w-sēp; יֹסֵף Joseph N-proper-ms
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כָּל = (kaf, lamed) = /kall/ = "ALL" בְּ = (bet) = /be/ = "in"

2. “Kal” or “all” is used repeatedly in this next section:
 - a. Once in 41:48
 - b. Twice by Joseph in 41:51
 - c. **Eight** times in 41:54-57

41:55 – **When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread.**

Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do.”

1. Interesting that Pharaoh is said to send the Egyptians “to Joseph”, and does not use his Egyptian name, “to Zaphenath-paneah”
2. Joseph’s name, position and power are known to all the Egyptians at this time.

41:56 – **So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.**

41:57 – **Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.**

1. Like Noah’s flood effected “all the earth”, now Joseph’s famine “was severe over all the earth” in this description

Middle Kingdom - 2030–1640 BC

Dynasty 11 (second half) (2030–1981 BC)

Mentuhotep II (*cont.*) - 2030–2000 BC.....**JACOB BORN in 2006 BC**

Mentuhotep III - 2000–1988 BC..... **ABRAHAM DIES in 1991 BC**

Qakare Intef - 1985 BC

Sekhentibre - 1985 BC

Menekhkare - 1985 BC

Mentuhotep IV - 1988–1981 BC

Dynasty 12 (1981–1802 BC)

Amenemhat I - 1981–1952 BC

Senwosret I - 1961–1917 BC

Amenemhat II - 1919–1885 BC.....**JOSEPH SOLD into EGYPT in 1898 BC**

Senwosret II - 1887–1878 BC.....**JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS in 1887 BC**

Senwosret III - 1878–1840 BC.....**JACOB GOES TO EGYPT in 1876 BC**

Amenemhat III - 1859–1813 BC.....**JACOB DIES 1859 BC**

Amenemhat IV - 1814–1805 BC

Nefrusobek - 1805–1802 BC.....**JOSEPH DIES 1805 BC**

Dynasty 12 (1981–1802 BC)

Amenemhat I - 1981–1952 BC

1. Established 12th Dynasty
2. Not royal blood
3. Called “son of someone”
4. Rebuilt Egypt
5. Expanded southward for minerals and gold

6. Moved capital to Lisht (north)
7. Merged Sun god RE with Theban god AMON to create the SUN GOD → AMON-RE
8. People moving into northern Nubia
9. Claimed second cataract as southern boundary
10. Amenemhat I was killed in palace coup

Senwosret I - 1961–1917 BC

1. Served 10 years a co-regent with his father
2. Led a campaign into Nubia to build forts near second Cataract to protect new territory
3. Small number of pharaohs with long reigns indicate a stable Egypt
4. Pharaoh's revived building pyramids
5. Senusert built largest pyramid of the Middle Kingdom at Sakkara with 352 foot base and 200 feet height
6. Stability allowed increased commercial contact with Syria and Canaan
7. Stories from this time mention people from Canaan in Egypt and Egyptian couriers passing through Canaan
8. Mention of the military being deployed into Canaan to keep a trade route open
9. Egyptian objects in Aram indicate trade with Egypt at this time

Amenemhat II - 1919–1885 BC.....JOSEPH SOLD into EGYPT in 1898 BC

Senwosret II - 1887–1878 BC.....JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS in 1887 BC

1. Throne name "He who makes justice appear"
2. These were enlightened leaders who cared about subjects
3. Reclamation of flooded land and flood control projects at government expense
4. 1,000's of cultivated acres were added to the delta
5. Records of Nile's height were recorded at 2nd Cataract to forecast flooding
6. Time of peace, prosperity and trade with West Asia
7. No recorded military campaigns
8. Only six private stelae of Senwosret II exist
9. He moved from the ancient Egyptian pyramid complex and necropolis in DAHSHUR to LAHUN
10. His pyramid and mortuary complex at LAHUN
11. LAHUN means "the mouth of the canal"
12. LAHUN was rebuilt as a royal estate to exploit the FAYYUM for agricultural purposes
13. A dike was built at LAHUN to connect BAHR YUSEF waterway to desert valley FAYYUM
14. At FAYYUM, besides the dike, there were drainage canals dug to create a complex irrigation system greatly increasing the cultivated land.
15. Bahr Yusef was a waterway dug as an offshoot of the Nile River that ran parallel to Nile on westside into the desert valley



**Pyramid of Senusret II
at Lahun**

Genesis 42:1-38

Genesis 42:1 – **When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you look at one another?”**

4714 [e] be·miṣ·rā·yim; בְּמִצְרַיִם	7668 [e] še·ḇer שֶׁבֶר	3426 [e] yeš- יֵשׁ	3588 [e] kî כִּי	3290 [e] ya·'ă·qōḇ, יַעֲקֹב	7200 [e] way·yar וַיַּרְא
in Egypt	grain	there was	that	Jacob	And when saw
Prep-b N-proper-fs	N-ms	Adv	Conj	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms
7200 [e] tiṭ·rā·'ū. תִּתְרָאוּ:	4100 [e] lām·māh לָמָּה	1121 [e] lə·ḇā·nāw, לְבָנָיו	3290 [e] ya·'ă·qōḇ יַעֲקֹב	559 [e] way·yō·mer וַיֹּאמֶר	
do you look at one another	why	to his sons	Jacob	then said	
V-Hitpael-Imperf-2mp	Interrog	Prep-l N-mpc 3ms	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms	
/tit/	/ra/ from רָאָה /raah/ meaning "see, view, appear"			/u/	

1. “**raah**” means “see, show self, sight of others, espy, stare, surely, think, view”
 - a. The shorter **ra’a** is translated in battle scenes (2 Kings 14:8, 11) to say “face one another in battle”
 - b. In this case it appears Jacob was referring to his sons being in battle positions waiting for someone to take action.
 - c. They were visible and seen. They were aware of the problem. But, they were NOT engaging.
 - d. This is a difficult place to use and translate this word.
 - e. Whatever it means Jacob was not happy with his sons passive attitude toward the problem.

42:2 – **And he said, “Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die.”**

1. Most likely through traveling traders Jacob had heard Egypt has grain.

42:3 – **So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.**

42:4 – **But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him.**

42:5 – **Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.**

1. People from all lands were traveling to Egypt and appearing before Joseph who managed with detail

42:6 – Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground.

42:7 – Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. “Where do you come from?” he said. They said, “From the land of Canaan, to buy food.”

1. Joseph recognized his brothers before they spoke
2. Joseph last saw his brothers twenty-two years ago when he was 17.
 - a. The famine started when Joseph was 37, so this is likely into the second year making Joseph 39 when his brothers saw him
 - i. 17 years from being sold at **17** and rising to power at **30**
 - ii. 7 years of plenty and storing grain until **37**
 - iii. Likely, second season, or second year, of the famine, 2 years of famine, he's **39**
3. The age of the brothers is 22 years plus whatever age they were when Joseph was sold:
 - a. Estimate: Rueben was ten years older than Joseph? So, Rueben is 49, maybe 50.
 - b. Estimate: Benjamin was five years younger than Joseph? So, Benjamin is maybe:
 - i. At most, 34 years old ($12 + 22 = 34$)
 - ii. At youngest, 27 years old ($5 + 22 = 27$)
 - c. So, the ten brothers (not Benjamin) visiting Joseph here are 40-50 years old.

42:8 – And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

42:9 – And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, “You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land.”

1. Joseph's dreams:
 - a. The brothers' (including Benjamin's) sheaves of wheat bowing down to Joseph's
 - i. This refers to this moment
 - ii. Which leads to Joseph being the head of the brothers
 - b. The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing down to Joseph
 - i. This refers to Joseph being the head of the family.
 - ii. The double portion of the Abrahamic Covenant
 - iii. All his brothers (unlike Ishmael and Esau) received their part of the Abrahamic Covenant
 - iv. Jacob will come to Joseph
 1. Rachel and Leah are buried in Israel before Jacob left the land
 2. The Bible does not record the death of Bilhah and Zilpah
 - a. They may have already died and been buried in Israel
 - b. They may have made the trip to Egypt with Jacob.
2. Jacob accuses them of spying on Egypt. Searching for Egypt's weaknesses.

42:10 – They said to him, “No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food.

42:11 – We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies.”

42:12 – He said to them, “No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see.”

1. “No, you are looking for weak points in our defenses, economy, government, culture!”

42:13 – And they said, “We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more.”

42:14 – But Joseph said to them,

“It is as I said to you. You are spies.

42:15 – By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

42:16 – Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies.”

42:17 – And he put them all together in custody for three days.

1. They get the impression they are doomed never to leave prison or Egypt again.

42:18 – On the third day Joseph said to them, “Do this and you will live, for I fear God:

1. When the hope the ten brothers have is lost, Joseph calls for them and credits God.
2. “God” is the Hebrew word Elohim. The LORD, or YHWH, is not used, not even by Joseph when he speaks to the brothers with the covenant of YHWH.

42:19 – if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households,

42:20 – and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die.” And they did so.

42:21 – Then they said to one another, “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.”

42:22 – And Reuben answered them, “Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood.”

1. Reuben was the one who convinced his brothers not to kill Joseph but throw him into a dry cistern. Reuben planned on rescuing Joseph.
2. Judah was the one who suggested selling Joseph to the caravan.

42:23 – They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them.

42:24 – Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

1. Why Simeon?
 - a. Jewish tradition (not scripture) says it was Simeon’s idea to kill Joseph at Dothan.
 - b. It might be a clue to Jacob since Simeon was Leah’s SECOND son just like BENJAMIN was Rachel’s SECOND son. As if to say, both first born are still alive: Judah and Joseph

42:25 – And Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

42:26 – Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed.

42:27 – And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack.

42:28 – He said to his brothers, “My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!” At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, “What is this that God has done to us?”

42:29 – When they came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying,

42:30 – “The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land.

42:31 – But we said to him, ‘We are honest men; we have never been spies.

42:32 – We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.’

42:33 – Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, ‘By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your households, and go your way.

42:34 – Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.’”

42:35 – As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid.

42:36 – And Jacob their father said to them, “You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me.”

42:37 – Then Reuben said to his father, “Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you.”

42:38 – But he said, “My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol.”