

Joseph and Pharaoh

- The word "beginning" in Genesis 1:1 is the Hebrew word "re'shiyth (ray-sheeth')" which means "first, beginning, best, chief."
 - THE CREATION STORY WAS BOTH FIRST IN TIMELINE ORDER AND FIRST IN IMPORTANCE IN THE BIBLICAL NARRATIVE.
- AFTER CREATION, GOD SAW THAT HIS CREATION WAS GOOD. HE TRUSTED THE STORY.
- Abraham trusted the story and followed God.
 - Because Abraham followed God, he was given a son, Isaac, who had sons, Esau and Jacob.
 - Jacob was blessed and had 12 sons, which would become the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Jacob's son, Joseph, was sold into slavery by his brothers.
- Joseph was elevated and humbled in vicious cycles: father's favorite
 --> sold as a slave. Head of Potiphar's household --> wrongfully
 accused and thrown in prison. Head of prisoners --> forgotten.
- AFTER PHARADH HAD DISTURBING DREAMS, HIS CUPBEARER FINALLY REMEMBERED JOSEPH AND HIS ABILITY TO INTERPRET DREAMS.
- Joseph Interpreted Pharaoh's dreams.
 - Seven skinny cows are seven fat cows in one dream.
 - IN ANOTHER DREAM, SEVEN THIN, DRIED OUT HEADS OF GRAIN ATE SEVEN HEALTHY, GOOD HEADS OF GRAIN.
 - JOSEPH TOLD PHARAOH THESE DREAMS MEANT THERE WOULD BE SEVEN YEARS WITH PLENTY OF FOOD (REPRESENTED BY THE SEVEN FAT COWS AND SEVEN HEADS OF HEALTHY, GOOD GRAIN) FOLLOWED BY SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE (REPRESENTED BY THE SKINNY COWS AND SEVEN HEADS OF THIN, DRIED OUT GRAIN).
 - JOSEPH TOLD PHARAOH TO PREPARE FOR THE SEVEN BAD YEARS BY SAVING FOOD DURING THE SEVEN GOOD YEARS.
 - Joseph did not take credit for interpreting the dreams. Instead, he trusted the Story and gave God the glory.
- Pharaoh appointed Joseph as second in command in ALL of Egypt.