

Parashah 10: Mikketz (At the end) 41:1 - 44:17

(Gen 41:1 CJB) At the end of two years, Pharaoh had a dream: he was standing beside the Nile River;

(Gen 41:2 CJB) and there came up out of the river seven cows, sleek and fat; and they began feeding in swamp grass.

(Gen 41:3 CJB) After them, there came up out of the river seven more cows, miserable-looking and lean; and they stood by the other cows at the edge of the river.

(Gen 41:4 CJB) Then the miserable-looking and lean cows ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. At this point Pharaoh woke up.

(Gen 41:5 CJB) But he went to sleep again and dreamt a second time: seven full, ripe ears of grain grew out of a single stalk.

(Gen 41:6 CJB) After them, seven ears, thin and blasted by the east wind, sprang up.

(Gen 41:7 CJB) And the thin ears swallowed up the seven full, ripe ears. Then Pharaoh woke up and realized it had been a dream.

(Gen 41:8 CJB) In the morning he found himself so upset that he summoned all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one there could interpret them for him.

(Gen 41:9 CJB) Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today reminds me of something wherein I am at fault:

(Gen 41:10 CJB) Pharaoh was angry with his officials and put me in the prison of the house of the captain of the guard, me and the chief baker.

(Gen 41:11 CJB) One night both I and he had dreams, and each man's dream had its own meaning.

(Gen 41:12 CJB) There was with us a young man, a Hebrew, a servant of the captain of the guard; and we told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us — he interpreted each man's dream individually.

(Gen 41:13 CJB) And it came about as he interpreted to us — I was restored to my office, and he was hanged."

(Gen 41:14 CJB) Then Pharaoh summoned Yosef, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon. He shaved himself, changed his clothes, and came in to Pharaoh.

(Gen 41:15 CJB) Pharaoh said to Yosef, "I had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it; but I've heard it said about you that when you hear a dream, you can interpret it."

(Gen 41:16 CJB) Yosef answered Pharaoh, "It isn't in me. God will give Pharaoh an answer that will set his mind at peace."

(Gen 41:17 CJB) Pharaoh said to Yosef, "In my dream, I stood at the edge of the river;

(Gen 41:18 CJB) and there came up out of the river seven cows, fat and sleek; and they began feeding in the swamp grass.

(Gen 41:19 CJB) After them, there came up out of the river seven more cows, poor, miserable-looking and lean — I've never seen such bad-looking cows in all the land of Egypt!

(Gen 41:20 CJB) Then the lean and miserable-looking cows ate up the first seven fat cows.

(Gen 41:21 CJB) But after they had eaten them up, one couldn't tell that they had eaten them; because they were as miserable-looking as before. At this point I woke up.

(Gen 41:22 CJB) But I dreamed again and saw seven full, ripe ears of grain growing out of a single stalk.

(Gen 41:23 CJB) After them, seven ears, thin and blasted by the east wind, sprang up.

(Gen 41:24 CJB) And the thin ears swallowed up the seven ripe ears. I told this to the magicians, but none of them could explain it to me."

(Gen 41:25 CJB) Yosef said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are the same: God has told Pharaoh what he is about to do.

(Gen 41:26 CJB) The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears of grain are seven years — the dreams are the same.

(Gen 41:27 CJB) Likewise the seven lean and miserable-looking cows that came up after them are seven years, and also the seven empty ears blasted by the east wind — there will be seven years of famine.

(Gen 41:28 CJB) This is what I told Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.

(Gen 41:29 CJB) Here it is: there will be seven years of abundance throughout the whole land of Egypt;

(Gen 41:30 CJB) but afterwards, there will come seven years of famine; and Egypt will forget all the abundance. The famine will consume the land,

(Gen 41:31 CJB) and the abundance will not be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, because it will be truly terrible.

(Gen 41:32 CJB) Why was the dream doubled for Pharaoh? Because the matter has been fixed by God, and God will shortly cause it to happen.

(Gen 41:33 CJB) "Therefore, Pharaoh should look for a man both discreet and wise to put in charge of the land of Egypt.

(Gen 41:34 CJB) Pharaoh should do this, and he should appoint supervisors over the land to receive a twenty percent tax on the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.

(Gen 41:35 CJB) They should gather all the food produced during these good years coming up and set aside grain under the supervision of Pharaoh to be used for food in the cities, and they should store it.

(Gen 41:36 CJB) This will be the land's food supply for the seven years of famine that will come over the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish as a result of the famine."

(Gen 41:37 CJB) The proposal seemed good both to Pharaoh and to all his officials.

(Gen 41:38 CJB) Pharaoh said to his officials, "Can we find anyone else like him? The Spirit of God lives in him!"

(Gen 41:39 CJB) So Pharaoh said to Yosef, "Since God has shown you all this — there is no one as discerning and wise as you —

(Gen 41:40 CJB) you will be in charge of my household; all my people will be ruled by what you say. Only when I rule from my throne will I be greater than you."

(Gen 41:41 CJB) Pharaoh said to Yosef, "Here, I place you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."

(Gen 41:42 CJB) Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Yosef's hand, had him clothed in fine linen with a gold chain around his neck

(Gen 41:43 CJB) and had him ride in his second best chariot; and they cried before him, "Bow down!" Thus he placed him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

(Gen 41:44 CJB) Pharaoh said to Yosef, "I, Pharaoh, decree that without your approval no one is to raise his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt."

(Gen 41:45 CJB) Pharaoh called Yosef by the name Tzafnat-Pa`neach and gave him as his wife Osnat the daughter of Poti-Fera priest of On. Then Yosef went out through all the land of Egypt.

(Gen 41:46 CJB) Yosef was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt; then he left Pharaoh's presence and traveled through all the land of Egypt.

(Gen 41:47 CJB) During the seven years of abundance, the earth brought forth heaps of produce.

(Gen 41:48 CJB) He collected all the food of these seven years in the land of Egypt and stored it in the cities — the food grown in the fields outside each city he stored in that city.

(Gen 41:49 CJB) Yosef stored grain in quantities like the sand on the seashore, so much that they stopped counting, because it was beyond measure.

(Gen 41:50 CJB) Two sons were born to Yosef before the year of famine came; Osnat the daughter of Poti-Fera priest of On bore them to him.

(Gen 41:51 CJB) Yosef called the firstborn M'nasheh [*causing to forget*], "Because God has caused me to forget all the troubles I suffered at the hands of my family."

(Gen 41:52 CJB) The second he called Efrayim [*fruit*], "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortune."

(Gen 41:53 CJB) The seven years of abundance in the land of Egypt ended;

(Gen 41:54 CJB) and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Yosef had said. There was famine in all lands, but throughout the land of Egypt there was food.

(Gen 41:55 CJB) When the whole land of Egypt started feeling the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food, and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Yosef, and do what he tells you to do."

(Gen 41:56 CJB) The famine was over all the earth, but then Yosef opened all the storehouses and sold food to the Egyptians, since the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.

(Gen 41:57 CJB) Moreover all countries came to Egypt to Yosef to buy grain, because the famine was severe throughout the earth.

(Gen 42:1 CJB) Now Ya`akov saw that there was grain in Egypt; so Ya`akov said to his sons, "Why are you staring at each other?"

(Gen 42:2 CJB) Look," he said, "I've heard that there's grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us from there, so that we can stay alive and not die!"

(Gen 42:3 CJB) Thus Yosef's ten brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt,

(Gen 42:4 CJB) except for Binyamin, Yosef's brother. Ya`akov did not send him with his brothers, because he was afraid something might happen to him.

(Gen 42:5 CJB) The sons of Isra'el came to buy along with the others that came, since the famine extended to the land of Kena`an.

(Gen 42:6 CJB) Yosef was governor over the land; it was he who sold to all the people of the land. Now when Yosef's brothers came and prostrated themselves before him on the ground,

(Gen 42:7 CJB) Yosef saw his brothers and recognized them; but he acted toward them as if he were a stranger and spoke harshly with them. He

asked them, "Where are you from?" They answered, "From the land of Kena`an to buy food."

(Gen 42:8 CJB) So Yosef recognized his brothers, but they didn't recognize him.

(Gen 42:9 CJB) Remembering the dreams he had had about them, Yosef said to them, "You are spies! You've come to spot our country's weaknesses!"

(Gen 42:10 CJB) "No, my lord," they replied, "your servants have come to buy food.

(Gen 42:11 CJB) We're all the sons of one man, we're upright men; your servants aren't spies."

(Gen 42:12 CJB) "No," he said to them, "you've come to spy out our country's weaknesses."

(Gen 42:13 CJB) They said, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Kena`an; the youngest stayed with our father, and another one is gone."

(Gen 42:14 CJB) "Just as I said," replied Yosef, "you're spies!"

(Gen 42:15 CJB) Here's how you can prove you're not lying: as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave here unless your youngest brother comes here.

(Gen 42:16 CJB) Send one of you, and let him bring your brother. Meanwhile, you will be kept in custody. This will prove whether there is any truth in what you say. Otherwise, as Pharaoh lives, you are certainly spies."

(Gen 42:17 CJB) Then he put all of them together in prison for three days.

(Gen 42:18 CJB) On the third day, Yosef said to them, "Do what I say, and stay alive, for I fear God.

(Gen 42:19 CJB) If you are upright men, let one of your brothers remain incarcerated in the prison you're being kept in, while you go and carry grain back to relieve the famine in your homes.

(Gen 42:20 CJB) But bring your youngest brother to me. In this way your statements will be verified, and you won't die." So they did it.

(Gen 42:21 CJB) They said to each other, "We are in fact guilty concerning our brother. He was in distress and pleaded with us; we saw it and wouldn't listen. That's why this distress has come upon us now."

(Gen 42:22 CJB) Re'uven answered them, "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't wrong the boy'? But you wouldn't hear of it. Now comes the reckoning for his blood!"

(Gen 42:23 CJB) They had no idea that Yosef understood them, since an interpreter was translating for them.

(Gen 42:24 CJB) Yosef turned away from them and wept; then he returned and spoke to them. He took Shim`on from among them and put him in prison before their eyes.

(Gen 42:25 CJB) Next he ordered that their containers be filled with grain, that every man's money be put back in his pack and that they be given provisions for the journey. When these things had been done for them,

(Gen 42:26 CJB) they loaded their grain on their donkeys and departed.

(Gen 42:27 CJB) But at camp that night, as one of them opened his pack to give fodder to his donkey, he noticed his money — there it was, just inside his pack.

(Gen 42:28 CJB) He said to his brothers, "My money has been restored — there it is, right in my pack!" At that, their hearts sank; they turned, trembling, to one another and said, "What is this that God has done to us?"

(Gen 42:29 CJB) They returned to Ya`akov their father in the land of Kena`an and told him all that had happened to them.

(Gen 42:30 CJB) "The man, the lord of the land, spoke harshly with us. He took us for spies in his country.

(Gen 42:31 CJB) We said to him, 'We are upright men, we're not spies;

(Gen 42:32 CJB) we are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is gone, and the youngest stayed with our father in the land of Kena`an.'

(Gen 42:33 CJB) But the man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'Here is how I will know that you are upright men: leave one of your brothers with me, take grain to relieve the famine in your homes, and go on your way;

(Gen 42:34 CJB) but bring your youngest brother to me. By this I will know that you aren't spies, but are upright men; then I will return your brother to you; and you will do business in the land.' "

(Gen 42:35 CJB) Next, as they emptied their packs, there was each man's bag of money in his pack; and when they and their father saw their bags of money, they became afraid.

(Gen 42:36 CJB) Ya`akov their father said to them, "You have robbed me of my children! Yosef is gone, Shim`on is gone, now you're taking Binyamin away — it all falls on me!"

(Gen 42:37 CJB) Re'uven said to his father, "If I don't bring him back to you, you can kill my own two sons! Put him in my care; I will return him to you."

(Gen 42:38 CJB) But he replied, "My son will not go down with you. His brother is dead, and he alone is left. If anything were to happen to him while traveling with you, you would bring my gray hair down to Sh'ol with grief."

(Gen 43:1 CJB) But the famine was severe in the land;

(Gen 43:2 CJB) so when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said to them, "Go again, buy us a little food."

(Gen 43:3 CJB) Y'hudah said to him, "The man expressly warned us, 'You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.'

(Gen 43:4 CJB) If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food;

(Gen 43:5 CJB) but if you will not send him, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.' "

(Gen 43:6 CJB) Isra'el said, "Why did you bring such trouble my way by telling the man you had another brother?"

(Gen 43:7 CJB) They answered, "The man kept questioning us about ourselves and about our kinsmen. He asked, 'Is your father still alive?' 'Do you have another brother?' and we answered according to the literal meaning of his questions. How were we to know he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'"

(Gen 43:8 CJB) Y'hudah said to Isra'el his father, "Send the boy with me; and we will make preparations and leave; so that we may stay alive and not die, both we and you, and also our little ones.

(Gen 43:9 CJB) I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me responsible. If I fail to bring him to you and present him to your face, let me bear the blame forever.

(Gen 43:10 CJB) Except for our lengthy delay, we would have been there again by now."

(Gen 43:11 CJB) Their father Isra'el answered them, "If that's how it is, do this: take in your containers some of the land's best products, and bring the man a gift — some healing resin, a little honey, aromatic gum, opium, pistachio nuts and almonds.

(Gen 43:12 CJB) Take twice the amount of money with you; and return the money that came back with you in your packs — it could have been an oversight.

(Gen 43:13 CJB) Yes, and take your brother too; and get ready; and go again to the man.

(Gen 43:14 CJB) May El Shaddai give you favor in the man's sight, so that he will release to you your other brother as well as Binyamin. As for me, if I must lose my children, lose them I will."

(Gen 43:15 CJB) The men took that gift, and they took twice the money with them, and Binyamin; then they prepared, went down to Egypt and stood before Yosef.

(Gen 43:16 CJB) When Yosef saw Binyamin with them, he said to his household manager, "Take the men inside the house, kill the animals and prepare the meat. These men will dine with me at noon."

(Gen 43:17 CJB) The man did as Yosef ordered and brought the men into Yosef's house.

(Gen 43:18 CJB) Upon being ushered inside Yosef's house, the men became fearful. They said, "It's because of the money that was returned in our packs the first time that we have been brought inside — so that he can use it as an excuse to attack us, take us as slaves and seize our donkeys too."

(Gen 43:19 CJB) So they approached the manager of Yosef's household and spoke to him at the entrance of the house:

(Gen 43:20 CJB) "Please, my lord, the first time we indeed came down to buy food;

(Gen 43:21 CJB) but when we got to camp, we opened our packs, and there inside our packs was each man's money, the full amount. We have brought it back with us;

(Gen 43:22 CJB) moreover, we have brought down other money to buy food. We have no idea who put our money in our packs."

(Gen 43:23 CJB) "Stop worrying," he replied, "don't be afraid. Your God and the God of your father put treasure in your packs. As for your money — I was the one who received it." Then he brought Shim`on out to them.

(Gen 43:24 CJB) The man brought the men into Yosef's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet, and he provided fodder for their donkeys.

(Gen 43:25 CJB) Then they got their gift ready for Yosef's arrival at noon, for they had heard that they were going to eat a meal there.

(Gen 43:26 CJB) When Yosef arrived home, they went in the house and presented him with the gift they had brought with them, then prostrated themselves before him on the ground.

(Gen 43:27 CJB) He asked them how they were and inquired, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"

(Gen 43:28 CJB) They answered, "Your servant our father is well; yes, he is still alive," as they bowed in respect.

(Gen 43:29 CJB) He looked up and saw Binyamin his brother, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?" and added, "May God be good to you, my son."

(Gen 43:30 CJB) Then Yosef hurried out, because his feelings toward his brother were so strong that he wanted to cry; he went into his bedroom and there he wept.

(Gen 43:31 CJB) Then he washed his face and came out, but he controlled himself as he gave the order to serve the meal.

(Gen 43:32 CJB) They served him by himself, the brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians included at the meal by themselves — Egyptians don't eat with Hebrews, because that is abhorrent to them.

(Gen 43:33 CJB) So they sat there facing him, the firstborn in the place of honor, the youngest in last place; and the men expressed their amazement to each other.

(Gen 43:34 CJB) Each was given his serving there in front of him, but Binyamin's portion was five times as large as any of theirs. So they drank and enjoyed themselves with him.

(Gen 44:1 CJB) Then he ordered the manager of his household, "Fill the men's packs with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money just inside his pack.

(Gen 44:2 CJB) And put my goblet, the silver one, just inside the pack of the youngest, along with his grain money." He did what Yosef told him to do.

(Gen 44:3 CJB) At daybreak the men were sent off with their donkeys;

(Gen 44:4 CJB) but before they were far from the city Yosef said to his manager, "Up, go after the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid good with evil?

(Gen 44:5 CJB) Isn't this the goblet my lord drinks from, indeed the one he uses for divination? What you have done is evil!' "

(Gen 44:6 CJB) So he caught up with them and said these words to them.

(Gen 44:7 CJB) They replied, "Why does my lord speak this way? Heaven forbid that we should do such a thing!

(Gen 44:8 CJB) Why, the money we found inside our packs we brought back to you from the land of Kena`an! So how would we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?

(Gen 44:9 CJB) Whichever one of us the goblet is found with, let him be put to death — and the rest of us will be my lord's slaves!"

(Gen 44:10 CJB) He replied, "Fine; let it be as you have said: whichever one it is found with will be my slave. But the rest of you will be blameless."

(Gen 44:11 CJB) Then each hurried to put his pack down on the ground, and each one opened his pack.

(Gen 44:12 CJB) He searched, starting with the oldest and ending with the youngest; and the goblet was found in the pack belonging to Binyamin.

(Gen 44:13 CJB) At this, they tore their clothes from grief. Then each man loaded up his donkey and returned to the city.

(Gen 44:14 CJB) Y'hudah and his brothers arrived at Yosef's house. He was still there, and they fell down before him on the ground.

(Gen 44:15 CJB) Yosef said to them, "How could you do such a thing? Don't you know that a man such as myself can learn the truth by divination?"

(Gen 44:16 CJB) Y'hudah said, "There's nothing we can say to my lord! How can we speak? There's no way we can clear ourselves! God has revealed your servants' guilt; so here we are, my lord's slaves — both we and also the one in whose possession the cup was found."

(Gen 44:17 CJB) But he replied, "Heaven forbid that I should act in such a way. The man in whose possession the goblet was found will be my slave; but as for you, go in peace to your father."

Haftarah Mikketz: M'lakhim Alef (I Kings) 3:15-4:1

(1Ki 3:15 CJB) Shlomo awoke and found it had been a dream. But he went to Yerushalayim, stood before the ark for the covenant of Adonai and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings. He also made a feast for all his servants.

(1Ki 3:16 CJB) After this, there came to the king two women who were prostitutes. After presenting themselves to him,

(1Ki 3:17 CJB) one of the women said, "My lord, I and this woman live in the same house; and when she was in the house, I gave birth to a baby.

(1Ki 3:18 CJB) Three days after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. We were there together; there was no one else with us in the house except the two of us.

(1Ki 3:19 CJB) During the night this woman's child died, because she rolled over on top of it.

(1Ki 3:20 CJB) So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from next to me, while your servant was sleeping, and put it in her arms; and she laid her dead child in my arms.

(1Ki 3:21 CJB) When I awoke in the morning to feed my child from my breast, there it was, dead. But when I took a closer look later in the morning, why, it wasn't my son at all — not the one I gave birth to!"

(1Ki 3:22 CJB) The other woman broke in, "No! The living one is my son, and the dead one is your son!" The first one said, "No! The dead one is your son and the living one is my son!" This is how they spoke in the presence of the king.

(1Ki 3:23 CJB) Then the king said, "This woman says, 'The living one is my son; your son is the dead one'; while the other says, 'No, the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son.'

(1Ki 3:24 CJB) Bring me a sword," said the king. They brought a sword to the king.

(1Ki 3:25 CJB) The king said, "Cut the living child in two; give half to the one and half to the other."

(1Ki 3:26 CJB) At this, the woman to whom the living child belonged addressed the king, because she felt so strongly toward her son: "Oh, my lord, give her the living child; you mustn't kill it!" But the other one said, "It will be neither yours nor mine. Divide it up!"

(1Ki 3:27 CJB) Then the king answered, "Give the living child to the first woman, don't kill it, because she is its mother."

(1Ki 3:28 CJB) All Isra'el heard of the decision the king had made and held the king in awe, for they saw that God's wisdom was in him, enabling him to render justice properly.

(1Ki 4:1 CJB) King Shlomo was king over all Isra'el,

B'rit Hadashah suggested reading for Parashah Mikketz: Acts 7:9-16 (specifically vv. 11-12)

(Act 7:9 CJB) "Now the Patriarchs grew jealous of Yosef and sold him into slavery in Egypt. But Adonai was with him;

(Act 7:10 CJB) he rescued him from all his troubles and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who appointed him chief administrator over Egypt and over all his household.

(Act 7:11 CJB) Now there came a famine that caused much suffering throughout Egypt and Kena`an

(Act 7:12 CJB) But when Ya`akov heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers there the first time.

(Act 7:13 CJB) The second time, Yosef revealed his identity to his brothers, and Yosef's family became known to Pharaoh.

(Act 7:14 CJB) Yosef then sent for his father Ya`akov and all his relatives, seventy-five people.

(Act 7:15 CJB) And Ya`akov went down to Egypt; there he died, as did our other ancestors.

(Act 7:16 CJB) Their bodies were removed to Sh'khem and buried in the tomb Avraham had bought from the family of Hamor in Sh'khem for a certain sum of money.