



Miketz

Beresheet (Genesis) 41:1 – 44:17

As *Parshat Miketz* begins, Pharaoh has two dreams which no one in his court can interpret. He calls upon Joseph after his cupbearer recalls that Joseph interpreted dreams correctly in the past. Joseph avers that interpretations come from G-d and tells Pharaoh that both dreams carry the same message; there will be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.

To reward him, Pharaoh places Joseph in charge of food collection during the years of plenty and food distribution during the subsequent years of famine. During the years of plenty, Joseph fathers two sons: Manasseh and Ephraim.

Meanwhile, back in Canaan, Jacob is forced to send his sons to Egypt to buy grain during the famine. Jacob keeps Benjamin at home. When his brothers arrive Joseph recognizes them, but they do not recognize him. Hiding his identity, Joseph accuses his brothers of being spies and decides to test them by challenging them to return with their youngest brother Benjamin. They are given grain, but each is secretly given his money back. Joseph keeps Simeon as a hostage until the brothers come back with Benjamin.

The brothers return to Canaan. Jacob initially refuses to send Benjamin, but realizes they need more grain. Benjamin accompanies his brothers on their return to Egypt, where Joseph continues the test. After placing grain in their sacks, he again returns their money secretly and has his silver goblet placed in Benjamin's bag. Joseph sends his men to pursue his brothers and to accuse them of theft. The portion closes with Joseph declaring that Benjamin must remain as his slave, but the other brothers are free to go.



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