



Midrash - Parashat Mikeitz

- I. “After two whole years...” (Gen. 41:1)
 - A. Why was Joseph left in prison 2 whole years after the cup-bearer was restored to his position? Because he relied on man for his help (89:2)
 - B. “For he went from prison to the throne...” (Ecclesiastes 4:14)
- II. “Pharaoh dreamed”
 - A. A king’s dream affects the whole nation (89:4)
 - B. “they fed in the reed grass”
 - 1. reed grass = “achu” (אָחוּ)
 - 2. achavah (אָחוּוה/אָחוּוה) = “brotherhood”
 - C. Unacceptable interpretations (89:6)
 - 1. Why? So that Joseph could be championed.
 - D. Interpreting Dreams
 - 1. Dreams are dependent on their interpretation (89:8)
 - E. Joseph — Joseph gave Hashem credit as the interpreter of dreams
- III. Joseph was put into power
 - A. “and they cried before him: ‘Abrech’” (Gen 41:43)
 - 1. Av = Father
 - 2. Rach = tender
 - 3. Also, possibly “Bend the knee” (because of “barach” which means to bend the knee or to bow down)
 - B. Joseph was called Zaphenath-Paneah (צַפְנַת פַּעֲנָח)
 - 1. צ – tzefeh: seer/watcher
 - 2. פ – podeh: redeemer

3. נ – *navi*: prophet
 4. ת – *tomek*: supporter
 5. פ – *poter*: interpreter
 6. ע – *arom*: skilled
 7. ג – *navon*: understanding/wise
 8. ח – *chozeh*: seer
 9. Possibly an allusion to Asenath, the daughter of Dina
- C. “and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians: ‘Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.’” (Gen 41:55)
1. “Do” = be circumcised (i.e. convert)
 2. Joseph was seen as not only the savior of this world, but the one who saved men from their fate in the world to come.
- D. “Now Jacob saw that there was grain (שֶׁבֶר) in Egypt” (Gen 42:1)
1. Jacob didn’t merely see grain, but he saw hope (שֶׁבֶר/שְׁבֹרָה) (91:1)
 2. “Go down (יָרַד)”
 - a) 200 = ג
 - b) 4 = ד
 - c) 6 = ו
- IV. Story of the binding of Simeon (91:6)