

Concerning Genesis chapters 41-45, Joseph and the Seven Years of Plenty and Seven Years of Famine

Yemenite Inscriptions About a Famine in the Time of Joseph. Found 130 years ago in Yemen, at the tip of Saudi Arabia, in a castle referring to seven years of plenty and then of a famine.

*"We dwelt at ease in this castle a long tract of time;
Nor had we a desire but for the region-lord of the vineyard.
Hundreds of camels returned to us each day at evening,
Their eye pleasant to behold in their resting-places.
And twice the number of our camels were our sheep,
In comeliness like white does, and also the slow moving kine.
We dwelt in this castle seven years of good life
How difficult for memory its description!"*

*Then came years barren and burnt up:
When one evil year had passed away,
Then came another to succeed it.
And we became as though we had never seen a glimpse of good.
They died and neither foot nor hoof remained.
Thus fares it with him who renders not thanks to God:
His footsteps fail not to be blotted out from his dwelling."*

[Rendered in Arabic by Professor Schultens, translated into English by Rev. Charles Forster]

Archaeologists found a tomb of a wealthy Yemenite Noble-Woman. She had rings of gold and jewels on every finger, she had seven necklaces of pearls, was very wealthy, yet she starved to death. Inside her tomb was an inscription in marble. Based on the writings it appears to be from about 1800 BC, around the time of the actual events of Joseph.

*"In thy name O God, the God of Hamyar.
I Tajah, the daughter of Dzu Shefar, sent my steward to Joseph,
And he delaying to return to me, I sent my handmaid
With a measure of silver, to bring me back a measure of flour.
And not being able to procure it, I sent her with a measure of
gold:"*

*And finding no profit in them, I am shut up here.
Whosoever may hear of it, let him commiserate me;
And should any woman adorn herself with an ornament
From my ornaments, may she die with no other than my death."*

[Translation by Rev. Charles Forster]

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