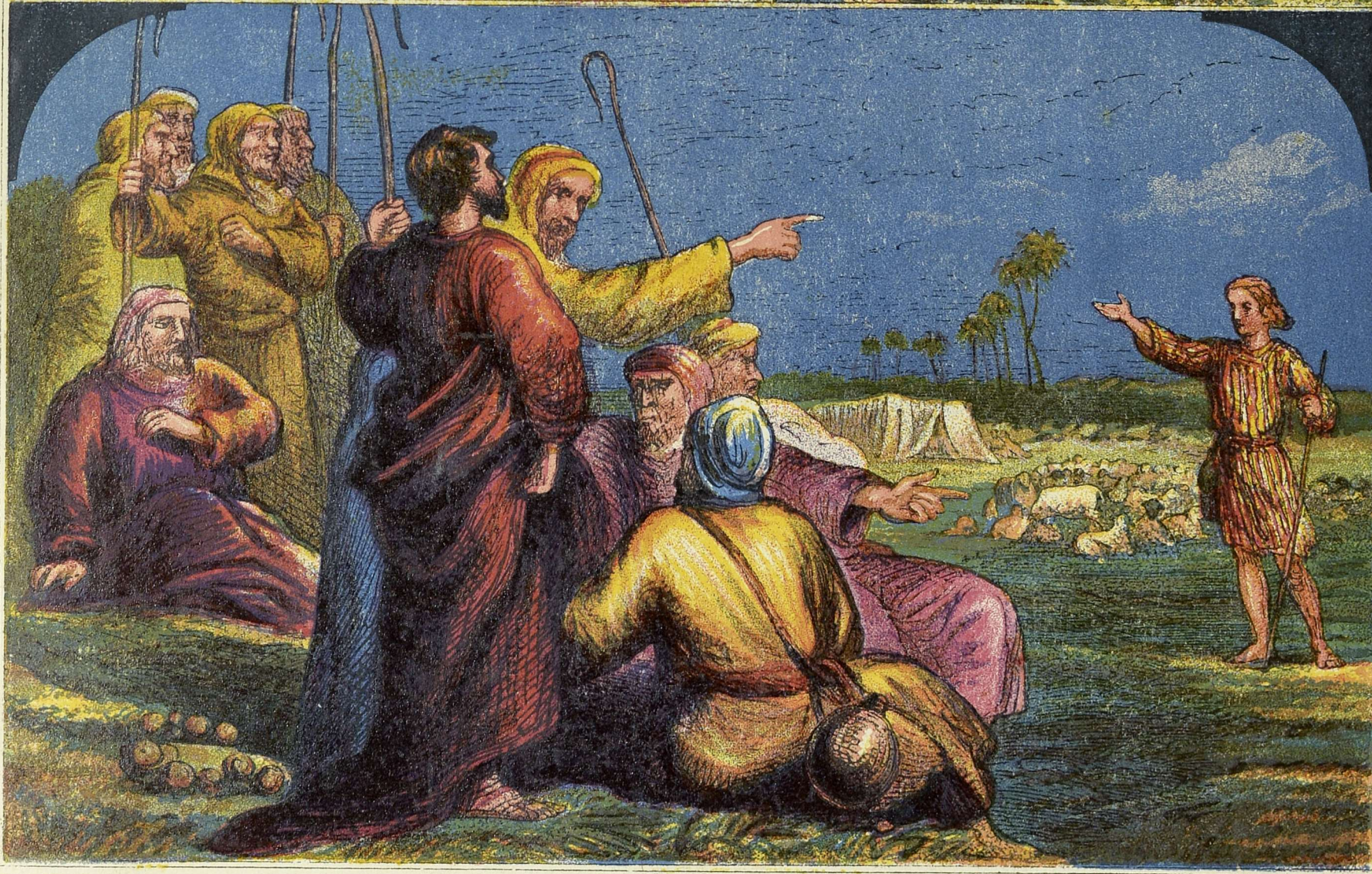


THE
HISTORY
OF
JOSEPH

LONDON
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE
77, GREAT QUEEN ST.

JOSEPH TELLS HIS DREAM TO HIS BRETHREN.



JOSEPH'S BRETHREN CONSPIRE AGAINST HIM.

JOSEPH TELLS HIS DREAMS.

In the land of Canaan there lived an old man called Jacob.

He had twelve sons, and he loved the two youngest, Joseph and Benjamin, best, because they were born when he was an old man.

When Joseph was seventeen years old, his father gave him a beautiful coat, made of a great many colours; this made his brothers very angry, and they hated Joseph, because they thought that their father loved Joseph more than he did them.

One night Joseph had a dream: in the picture you will see he is telling it to his brothers.

They have crooks in their hands, because they were shepherds.

Joseph said: "I dreamed that we were making sheaves in the field, and my sheaf stood up in the middle, and your sheaves bowed down to it.

Then he had another dream which he told them too: it was "that the sun and the moon and the eleven stars bowed down to him."

And his father was angry with him, and asked, if he thought that he and his mother and his brothers should all bow down to him.

And Joseph's brothers were more angry with him than ever.

JOSEPH GOES TO SEE HIS BROTHERS IN DOTHAN.

One day Joseph's father said to him: "Go and see how your brothers are, and come and tell me about them."

So Joseph set out to look for them; and he had on his coat of many colours.

He could not find his brethren in the place to which his father had told him to go.

At last he met a man and asked him if he had seen them, and the man said: "They are in Dothan."

You know in that country the sheep are obliged to be driven about wherever there is grass for them to eat; and the shepherds are obliged to go with them, and take tents to live in.

So Joseph went to Dothan, and found his brothers there.

When he was a long way off, his brothers saw him, and said: "See, this dreamer comes: let us kill him, and say that a wild beast has eaten him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams."

And Reuben said: "Do not kill him, but cast him into this pit;" for he thought that, when his brothers were gone, he could take him out and give him back to his father.

When Joseph came up, he little thought that instead of being glad to see him, they were talking about killing him.

JOSEPH IN THE PIT.



JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BRETHREN.

JOSEPH IN THE PIT.

As soon as Joseph came up to his brothers, they took hold of him, and stripped off his beautiful coat of many colours.

Then they threw him into a deep pit, intending to leave him there.

In this country there are a great many of these pits, for at some time of the year there is no rain, and the people dig deep down in the ground to get water.

When his brothers had put Joseph into the pit, they sat down to eat bread.

But Joseph prayed to God out of the pit; for he knew that God could hear him and would take care of him.

When his brothers left Joseph in the pit, without a morsel of bread, they did not know that a day would come, when they should have to beg him to let them buy food, to keep them and their children from dying of hunger.

But God knew this, and took care of Joseph.

JOSEPH IS SOLD TO THE ISHMAELITES.

While Joseph was in the pit, some merchants passed by, going down into Egypt.

They were carrying spices and balm, on their camels, to sell there.

And Judah said to his brothers: "What profit is it, if we kill our brother? Let us sell him to these Ishmaelites."

So they drew Joseph out of the pit, and sold him as a slave for twenty pieces of silver.

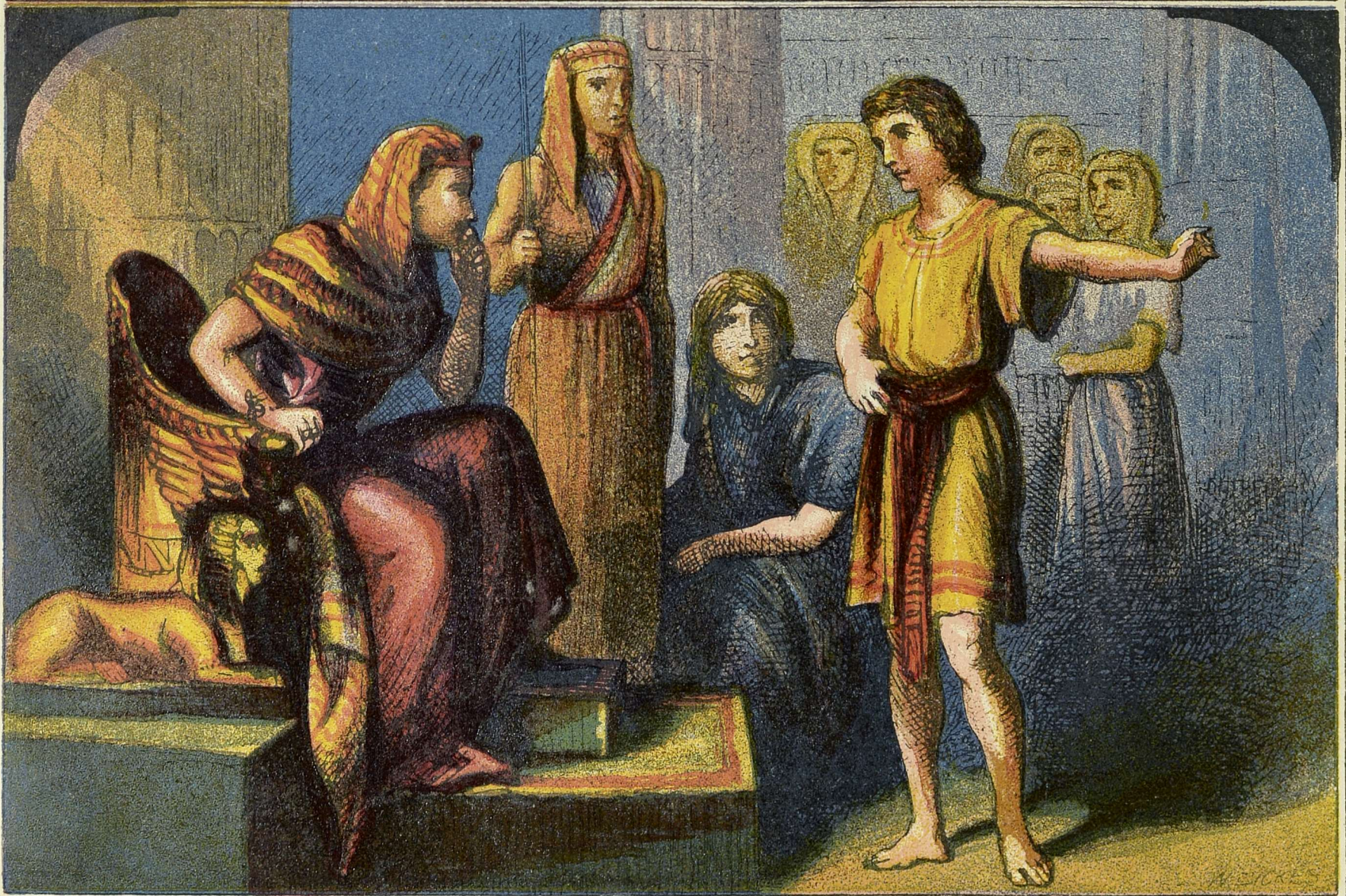
Then he was taken down into Egypt, and sold again to Potiphar, captain of the guard of the king of Egypt.

Soon after the Ishmaelites had gone, Reuben came back and looked in the pit for Joseph, and could not find him; then he tore his clothes, and said: "The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?"

His brothers did not care what Reuben said, but only wished to hide what they had done from their father; so they took Joseph's coat of many colours, and dipped it in the blood of a young kid, to show to their father, and asked him whether the coat was Joseph's or not.

And Jacob knew it directly, and said: "It is my son's coat: an evil beast hath devoured him. Joseph is, without doubt, rent in pieces."

Then he tore his clothes, and put ashes on his head, and wept and mourned; and said: "I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning."



JOSEPH IN PRISON.

Joseph lived for some time, as a slave, with Potiphar; and Joseph was so good, that Potiphar gave him the care of all his house, and God made all that he did to prosper.

But, after a time, Potiphar's wife, who was a very bad woman, told her husband that Joseph was a wicked man; and he thought all that she said was true: so he shut Joseph up in prison.

But God loved Joseph, and made the keeper of the prison love him too; and the keeper of the prison trusted him so much, that he gave him charge over all the prisoners that were shut up there.

There were, in the prison, two chief servants of the king: one was his baker, and the other his butler.

One night they each had a dream: the butler dreamed that he squeezed the grapes of three large vine branches, and took the wine cup to his master, as he used to do before he was shut up.

The baker dreamed that as he was taking three baskets of meats to Pharaoh, the birds came and ate them out of the baskets upon his head.

Then God told Joseph what the dreams meant, and he told the men.

He said that the butler's dream meant, that in three days the king would let him out of prison to serve him again; and Joseph begged him to remember him when he was free.

But the baker's dream meant, that in three days he would be hanged.

Very soon after this both these things happened.

JOSEPH LET OUT OF PRISON.

When the butler was out of prison again, he forgot all about Joseph, till one day the king had a dream, which made him very unhappy; and he sent for all the wise men of Egypt, to see if they could tell him what it meant; but they could not.

Then the butler remembered Joseph, who was still in prison; and he told the king about him; and Pharaoh ordered him to be fetched.

The king said to him: "I have heard that thou canst tell the meaning of a dream."

And Joseph answered: "It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer."

And Pharaoh said, that he had seen in his dream seven fat cows and seven lean cows, and the seven lean cows ate up the seven fat cows, and yet remained just as lean as they were before; also, he had seen seven thin ears of corn and seven full ears, and the poor ears again ate up the good ears, and yet were as poor as ever.

Then Joseph said, that God meant to tell Pharaoh what he was going to do; and that the seven fat cows meant seven years of plenty, and the seven lean cows seven years of famine; and, that during the famine all the food which remained from the seven years of plenty would be eaten up, and yet every one would suffer from the famine.

JOSEPH BECOMES A GREAT MAN IN EGYPT.

When Joseph had told Pharaoh what his dream meant, he advised him to look out for some wise man to collect the corn during the seven years of plenty; so that, when the terrible famine came, there should be food for the people.

Pharaoh said to his servants: "Can we find such an one as this is: a man in whom the spirit of God is?"

And the king said, that Joseph himself should take care of the corn; and he made him the greatest man in Egypt, after himself.

Then Joseph was clothed in fine linen, and had a gold chain round his neck.

Pharaoh gave him a grand chariot to ride in, and servants to run before him, to tell the people to bow down before him.

So Joseph, instead of being a poor prisoner, became a ruler and a great man.

And when the seven years of plenty began, he made great store-houses to hold the corn.

Then, when the seven years of plenty were ended, and the seven years of famine began, the people of Egypt, and all the countries round, were in great distress, and came to buy corn of Joseph.

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS GO DOWN INTO EGYPT TO BUY CORN.

Now, the famine was very sore in the land of Canaan, where Jacob, Joseph's father, lived.

So Jacob said to his sons: "Get you into the land of Egypt, and buy food for the famine of your houses, that we may live and not die."

Then ten of his sons went into the land of Egypt; but the youngest stayed with their father.

When they came before Joseph, he knew them; but they did not know who he was; and they bowed themselves down before him.

This was just what Joseph's dreams had told him, so many years before, would happen.

Then Joseph pretended not to know them, and asked them who they were, and spoke roughly to them: calling them spies, and saying that they had come to see the nakedness of the land.

They said: "We are true men, come to buy food for our houses."

Then Joseph said to them: "Have ye another brother?"

And they said, that the youngest was with their father, and one was dead.

Then Joseph told them, that they must bring their youngest brother with them next time they came, that he might know that they were telling the truth; and he said, he should not let Simeon go till they come back.

And they said, one to another: "We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear: therefore is this distress come upon us."

They did not know that Joseph understood what they were saying; but he heard it all, and turned away and wept.

JOSEPH MADE GOVERNOR IN EGYPT.



JOSEPH'S BRETHREN BOW BEFORE HIM.

THE CUP FOUND IN BENJAMIN'S SACK.

When the brothers got back into Canaan, they told their father how they had been treated; and said that the lord of the country had ordered them to bring their youngest brother with them the next time they went for corn.

But Jacob said he would not let Benjamin go, for fear of harm happening to him.

After a time, however, when they were all starving for want of food, his sons persuaded Jacob to let them take Benjamin.

When they were come to Joseph, he made a great feast for them, and sent meat from his own table for them; but Benjamin's portion was much the largest.

When they went away, he told his servants to put the money which they had paid for the corn into their sacks; and to put his silver cup into Benjamin's sack.

Then he sent his steward after them, to accuse them of stealing the cup.

When the steward overtook them, he asked why they had stolen his lord's cup? They were terrified; and said whoever had the cup should be his lord's slave.

The cup was very soon found in Benjamin's sack.

Then Benjamin was taken back to Joseph, and all his brothers with him.

JOSEPH MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN TO HIS BROTHERS.

When his brothers were again brought before Joseph, he said to them: "What deed is this that ye have done?"

And they fell down before him.

And Joseph told them, that the man in whose sack the cup was found was his slave; the others, he said, might return home.

Then Judah said, that Benjamin was the child of his father's old age, and that if he saw them come back without him he would die, because his life was bound up in the child's life.

And Judah asked Joseph to let him become a slave instead of Benjamin.

Then Joseph could no longer refrain himself, and he made everybody go out from him; and then he told his brothers who he was; and when he said: "I am Joseph; doth my father yet live?" his brothers were troubled.

THE CUP FOUND IN BENJAMIN'S SACK.



JOSEPH MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN TO HIS BRETHREN.

JOSEPH'S FATHER COMES INTO EGYPT.

At first Joseph's brothers were afraid of him; but he comforted them, telling them not to grieve about what they had done, because God had intended it to be the means of preserving all their lives.

Then Joseph fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept; and he kissed all his brothers, and wept upon them.

Now, when Pharaoh heard of Joseph's brothers' coming, he was very much pleased; and wished them to come and live in the land of Egypt.

So they went back to fetch their father; and took waggons to bring their wives and little ones.

When they told Jacob that Joseph was yet alive, his heart fainted, and he could hardly believe them.

But when they showed him the waggons which Joseph had sent to fetch him, he said: "It is enough: Joseph, my son, is yet alive; I will go and see him before I die."

And when Jacob came to Egypt, Joseph made ready his chariot, and went out to meet him; when he saw him, he fell on his neck and wept a good while, and Jacob said: "Now let me die, since I have seen thy face again."

JOSEPH TAKES HIS FATHER TO SEE PHARAOH.

One day Joseph took five of his brothers to Pharaoh, and the king asked them what their occupation was; and they said that they were shepherds, and that they had come to live in the land of Egypt, because there was no food for their flocks in their own country.

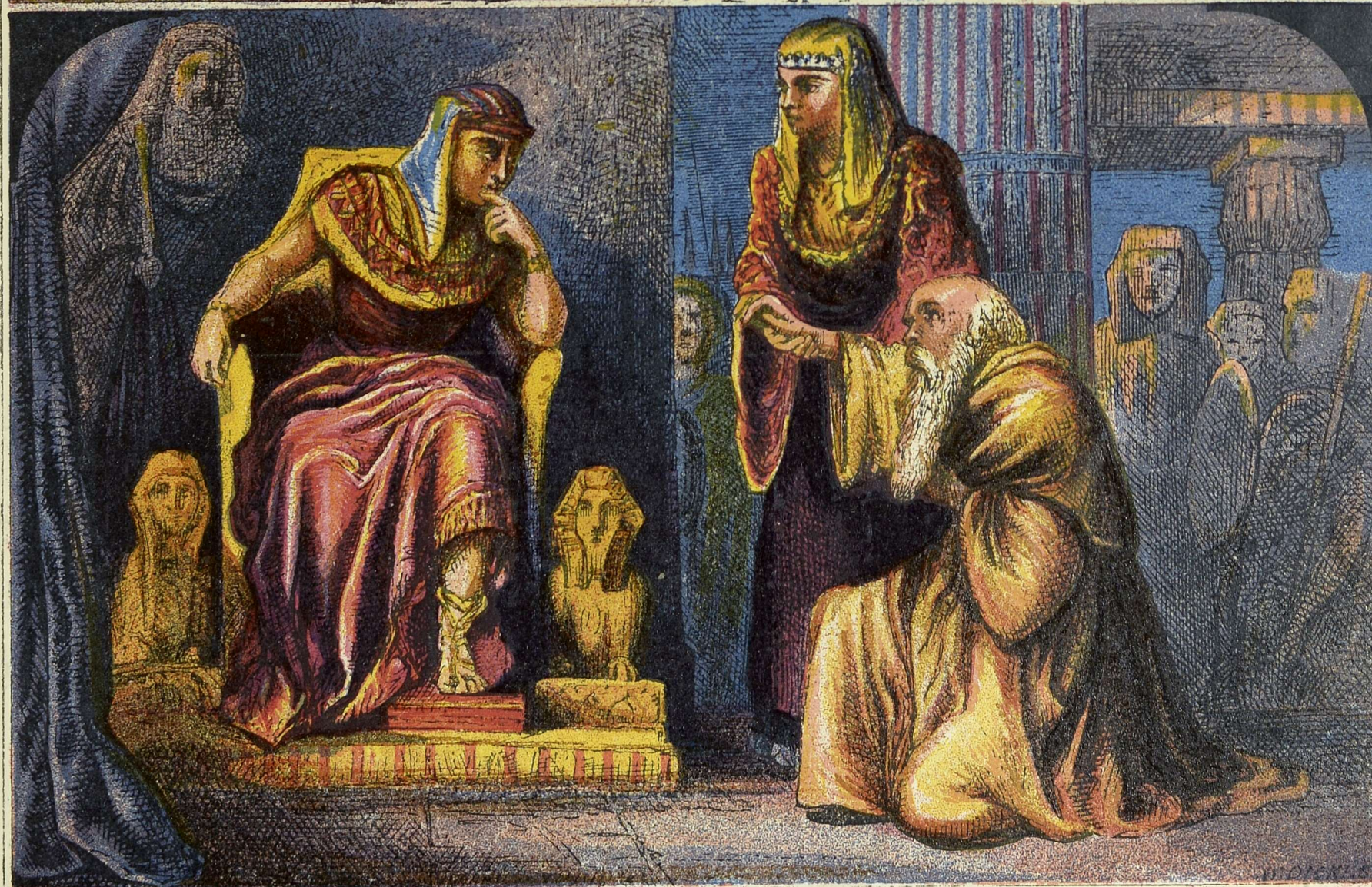
Then Pharaoh gave them the land of Goshen to live in, and all the best of the land of Egypt for their food and comfort.

Then Joseph brought Jacob, his father, to Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh; and Pharaoh said unto Jacob: "How old art thou?" and Jacob said unto Pharaoh: "An hundred and thirty years."

Soon after this Jacob died, and Joseph buried him.

And Joseph, himself, lived to be one hundred and ten years old; and before he died, he said to his children and their kinsmen: "I die; and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land, and unto the land which he sware to Abraham, and to Isaac, and to Jacob."

JOSEPH MEETING HIS FATHER JACOB.



JOSEPH BRINGS JACOB TO PHARAOH



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