

## 5. Joseph's Agricultural Template of Egypt

Genesis 47:13-27

Now there was no bread in all the world, for the famine was very severe; both the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.

Joseph gathered in all the money that was to be found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, as payment for the rations that were being procured, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's palace.

And when the money gave out in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us bread, lest we die before your very eyes; for the money is gone!"

And Joseph said, "Bring your livestock, and I will sell to you against your livestock, if the money is gone."

So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the horses, for the stocks of sheep and cattle, and the asses; thus he provided them with bread that year in exchange for all their livestock.

And when that year was ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We cannot hide from my lord that, with all the money and animal stocks consigned to my lord, nothing is left at my lord's disposal save our persons and our farmland.

Let us not perish before your eyes, both we and our land. Take us and our land in exchange for bread, and we with our land will be serfs to Pharaoh; provide the seed, that we may live and not die, and that the land may not become a waste."

So Joseph gained possession of all the farm land of Egypt for Pharaoh, every Egyptian having sold his field because the famine was too much for them; thus the land passed over to Pharaoh.

And he transferred the population to cities\*, from one end of Egypt's border to the other.

Only the land of the priests he did not take over, for the priests had an allotment from Pharaoh, and they lived off the allotment which Pharaoh had made to them; therefore they did not sell their land.

Then Joseph said to the people, "Whereas I have this day acquired you and your land for Pharaoh, here is seed for you to sow the land.

And when harvest comes, you shall give one-fifth to

וְלֶחֶם אֵין בְּכָל־הָאָרֶץ כִּי־כָבֵד הָרָעַב מֵאֵד וַיָּתְלָה אֶרֶץ  
מִצְרָיִם וְאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן מִפְּנֵי הָרָעַב:

וַיִּלְקֹט יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־הַלֶּסֶף הַנִּמְצָא בְּאֶרֶץ־מִצְרָיִם וּבְאֶרֶץ  
כְּנָעַן בַּשֶּׁבֶר אֲשֶׁר־הֵם שִׁבְרִים וַיָּבֵא יוֹסֵף אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף בְּיַתְה  
פְּרָעָה:

וַיְתֵם הַכֶּסֶף מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם וּמֵאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ כָל־מִצְרָיִם  
אֶל־יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר הִבֵּה־לָנוּ לֶחֶם וְלָמָּה נָמוּת נִגְדָּר כִּי אֶפְס  
זָקָף:

וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף הִבּוּ מִקְנֵיכֶם וְאֶתְנֶנָּה לָכֶם בְּמִקְנֵיכֶם אִם־אֶפְס  
זָקָף:

וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶת־מִקְנֵיהֶם אֶל־יוֹסֵף וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם יוֹסֵף לֶחֶם  
בַּסּוּסִים וּבַמִּקְנֵה הַצֹּאן וּבַמִּקְנֵה הַבָּקָר וּבַחֲמֹרִים וַיִּנְהַלֵּם  
בְּלֶחֶם בְּכָל־מִקְנֵיהֶם בַּשָּׁנָה הַהוּא:

וַתֵּתֶם הַשָּׁנָה הַהוּא וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵלָיו בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁנִיָּה וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ  
לֹא־נִכְחַד מֵאֲדָנִי כִּי אִם־תֵּתֵם הַכֶּסֶף וּמִקְנֵה הַבְּהֵמָה  
אֶל־אֲדָנִי לֹא נִשְׂאֵר לִפְנֵי אֲדָנִי בְּלִתִּי אִם־גּוֹיֵתֵנו וְאֲדָמְתֵנו:

לָמָּה נָמוּת לַעֲיֹנִיךָ גַם־אֲלַחֲנוּ גַם אֲדָמְתֵנו קְנֵה־אֶתְנוּ  
וְאֶת־אֲדָמְתֵנו בְּלֶחֶם וְנִהְיֶה אֲנַחְנוּ וְאֲדָמְתֵנו עֲבָדִים  
לְפָרְעָה וְתוֹזָרַע וְנִחְיֶה וְלֹא נָמוּת וְהָאֲדָמָה לֹא תִשָּׂם:

וַיִּקֹּן יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־אֲדָמַת מִצְרָיִם לְפָרְעָה כִּי־מָכְרוּ מִצְרָיִם  
אִישׁ שְׂדֵהוּ כִּי־חִזַּק עֲלֵהֶם הָרָעַב וַתְּהִי הָאָרֶץ לְפָרְעָה:

וְאֶת־הָעָם הָעֵבְרִי אֲתוּ לַעֲרִים מִקְצֵה גְבוּל־מִצְרָיִם  
וְעַד קָצְהוּ:

רַק אֲדָמַת הַכֹּהֲנִים לֹא קָנָה כִּי חֹק לַכֹּהֲנִים מֵאֵת פְּרָעָה  
וְאֵכְלוּ אֶת־חִקְקֵם אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָהֶם פְּרָעָה עַל־כֵּן לֹא מָכְרוּ  
אֶת־אֲדָמָתָם:

וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־הָעָם הִן קָנִיתִי אֶתְכֶם הַיּוֹם  
וְאֶת־אֲדָמַתְכֶם לְפָרְעָה הֵאֱלֵכֶם זֶרַע וְזָרַעְתֶּם  
אֶת־הָאֲדָמָה:

וְהִיָּה בְּתִבּוּאוֹת וּנְתַתֶּם חֲמִישִׁית לְפָרְעָה וְאַרְבַּע הַיְדֹת  
יְהִיָּה לָכֶם לְזָרַע הַשָּׂדֶה וְלֹאֲכַלְכֶם וְלֹאֲשֶׁר בְּבִתְיֹכֶם וְלֹאֲכַל  
לְטַפְּכֶם:

וַיֹּאמְרוּ הֲחַיֵּיתֵנו נִמְצָאֵחַן בְּעֵינֵי אֲדָנִי וְהִיָּינו עֲבָדִים  
לְפָרְעָה:

וַיִּשֶׂם אֹתָהּ יוֹסֵף לְחֹק עַד־הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה עַל־אֲדָמַת מִצְרָיִם  
לְפָרְעָה לְחֲמִשׁ רַק אֲדָמַת הַכֹּהֲנִים לִבְדָּם לֹא הִיָּתָה  
לְפָרְעָה:

Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be yours as seed for the fields and as food for you and those in your households, and as nourishment for your children.”

And they said, “You have saved our lives! We are grateful to my lord, and we shall be serfs to Pharaoh.”

And Joseph made it into a land law in Egypt, which is still valid, that a fifth should be Pharaoh's; only the land of the priests did not become Pharaoh's.

## 6. Shemita, Yovel and Arachin - Replacing Pharaoh with God

Leviticus 25:20-23, 29-42

<p>And should you ask, "What are we to eat in the seventh year, if we may neither sow nor gather in our crops?"</p> <p>I will <b>ordain My blessing for you in the sixth year</b>, so that it shall yield a crop sufficient for three years.</p> <p>When you sow in the eighth year, you will still be eating old grain of that crop; you will be eating the old until the ninth year, until its crops come in.</p> <p><b>But the land must not be sold beyond reclaim, for the land is Mine; you are but strangers resident with Me.</b></p> <p>If a man sells a dwelling house in a walled city, it may be redeemed until a year has elapsed since its sale; the redemption period shall be a year.</p> <p>If it is not redeemed before a full year has elapsed, <b>the house in the walled city shall pass to the purchaser beyond reclaim throughout the ages; it shall not be released in the jubilee.</b></p> <p>But houses in villages that have no encircling walls shall be classed as open country: they may be redeemed, and they shall be released through the jubilee.</p> <p><b>As for the cities of the Levites, the houses in the cities they hold—the Levites shall forever have the right of redemption.</b></p> <p>Such property as may be redeemed from the Levites—houses sold in a city they hold—shall be released through the jubilee; for the houses in the cities of the Levites are their holding among the Israelites....</p> <p>If your kinsman under you continues in straits and must give himself over to you, do not subject him to the treatment of a slave.</p> <p>He shall remain with you as a hired or bound laborer; he shall serve with you only until the jubilee year.</p> <p>Then he and his children with him shall be free of your authority; he shall go back to his family and</p>	<p>וְכִי תֹאמְרוּ מֵה־נֹאכֵל בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁבִיעִת הֵן לֹא נִזְרַע וְלֹא נֶאֱסַף אֶת־תְּבוּאָתָנוּ:</p> <p><b>וְצִוִּיתִי אֶת־בְּרַכְתִּי לָכֶם בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁשִׁית</b> וְעָשַׂתְתֶּם אֶת־הַתְּבוּאָה לְשֵׁלֶשׁ הַשָּׁנִים:</p> <p>וְזָרַעְתֶּם אֶת הַשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁמִינִית וְאָכַלְתֶּם מִן־הַתְּבוּאָה יָשֹׁן עַד אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁלַח הַתְּשִׁיעַת עַד־בּוֹא תְבוּאָתָהּ תֹאכְלוּ יָשֹׁן:</p> <p><b>וְהָאָרֶץ לֹא תִמְכַר לְצַמְתָּת כִּי־לִי הָאָרֶץ כִּי־גֵרִים וְתוֹשְׁבֵי־אֶתְּמֹתֶי:</b></p> <p>וְאִישׁ כִּי־יִמְכַר בֵּית־מוֹשָׁב עִיר חוֹמָה וְהָיְתָה גְּאֻלְתּוֹ עַד־תֵּם שָׁנַת מִמְכָרוֹ יָמִים תִּהְיֶה גְּאֻלְתּוֹ:</p> <p>וְאִם לֹא־יִגָּאֵל עַד־מְלֹאת לֹשְׁנָה תְּמִימָה <b>וְקָם הַבַּיִת אֲשֶׁר־בְּעִיר אֲשֶׁר־לֹא [לֹו] חֹמָה לְצַמְתָּת לִקְנָה אֹתוֹ לְדֹרֹתָיו</b> לֹא יֵצֵא בִּיבֹל:</p> <p>וּבְתֵי הַחֲצִרִים אֲשֶׁר אֵין־לָהֶם חֹמָה סָבִיב עַל־שַׁדָּה הָאָרֶץ יִחָשֵׁב גְּאֻלָּה תִּהְיֶה־לּוֹ וּבִיבֹל יֵצֵא:</p> <p><b>וְעָרֵי הַלְוִיִּם בְּתֵי עָרֵי אֲחֻזָּתָם גְּאֻלַּת עוֹלָם תִּהְיֶה לְלוִוִּים:</b></p> <p>וְאֲשֶׁר יִגָּאֵל מִן־הַלְוִיִּם וַיֵּצֵא מִמְכָר־בֵּית וְעִיר אֲחֻזָּתוֹ בִּיבֹל כִּי בְתֵי עָרֵי הַלְוִיִּם הוּא אֲחֻזָּתָם בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל....</p> <p>וְכִי־יָמוּךְ אֶחָד עִמָּךְ וְנִמְכַרְלָךְ לֹא־תַעֲבֹד בּוֹ עַבְדַּת עֶבֶד:</p> <p>כְּשֹׁכֵר כְּתוֹשֵׁב יִהְיֶה עִמָּךְ עַד־שָׁנַת הַיָּבֹל יַעֲבֹד עִמָּךְ:</p> <p>וַיֵּצֵא מִעִמָּךְ הוּא וּבְנָיו עִמּוֹ וְשָׁב אֶל־מִשְׁפַּחְתּוֹ וְאֶל־אֲחֻזַּת אָבִיתּוֹ יָשׁוּב:</p> <p><b>כִּי־עַבְדֵי הֵם אֲשֶׁר־הוֹצֵאתִי אֹתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֹא יִמְכְרוּ מִמְכָרַת עֶבֶד:</b></p>
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return to his ancestral holding.

**For they are My servants, whom I freed from the land of Egypt; they may not give themselves over into servitude.**

Leviticus 27:19

And if he who consecrated the land wishes to redeem it, **he must add one-fifth to the sum at which it was assessed, and it shall pass to him.**

וּאִם־גָּאֵל יִגְאֹל אֶת־הַשָּׂדֶה הַמִּקְדָּשׁ אִתּוֹ **וְיִסַּף חֲמִשִּׁית**  
**כֶּסֶף־עֶרְכּוֹ עָלָיו וְקָם לוֹ:**