## נאות דשא Neos Deshe

An Adaptation of Rabbi Shmuel Dov Asher Leiner's Neos Deshe by Rabbi Reuven Boshnack Questions? Comments? Dedications? Email <a href="mailto:ReuvenBoshnack@gmail.com">ReuvenBoshnack@gmail.com</a>

## Mikeitz

In this week's Parsha, Paroh is afflicted by dreams of seven thin cows eating seven fat cows, and seven dry stalks devouring seven rich stalks. He cannot find an interpretation that suited him, until he found Yosef, an Ivri man in a prison, who could explain it. Yosef explained that his dream meant that there would be seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine coming.

But, then he offered some unsolicited advice to Paroh. If Paroh could find a wise man who could organize the food during the years of abundance, they could sustain themselves during the years of famine.

In response, Paroh said to Joseph, (Bereshis 41:39) "Since God has **made all of this** known to you, there is none so discerning and wise as you."

Neos Deshe asks why does Paroh say "all this," instead of "this". Additionally, why did Yosef volunteer advise to Paroh, despite the fact that he did not ask for any? Paroh didn't ask for a jailed Ivri's advice. This could be seen as disrespectful.

Yosef saw that there was an important point that he felt everyone would miss, so he advised Paroh of a solution. While everyone else would be caught up in the impending doom, only Yosef realized that one could use the years of plenty to be able to save the world. He also saw this as a way to save his father and family from the famine. He saw "all of this."

Many commentators have asked the question why Yosef didn't tell his father he was in Egypt during the 22 years he was there. We now realize that the entire famine is engineered in order for Hashem to bring the family to Egypt, and to play out the Bris Bein Habesarim. During this prophecy, Hashem told Avraham that his children will be strangers in a strange land, but then they will leave with great wealth. Yosef saw this dream of Paroh as the means to feed the world, his family and the fulfillment of this prophecy. Therefore, Yosef said, "Accordingly, let Pharaoh find a man of discernment and wisdom, and set him over the land of Egypt." 41:33. In order to see the destiny of the children of Avraham unfold, it would require that a person be of such upstanding intuition and knowledge to understand the long game. This is one part of a far reaching prophecy, included in "all of this."

For this reason, Paroh says to Yosef that Hashem told you "all of this" meaning the years of famine, and that the years of plenty which preceded them could be away to survive.

Hidden within our past are keys to our challenges of our present. Yosef teaches us to face the future knowing that we have been armed by our past, if we look at it in a new way. Similarly, the holiday

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of Chanuka teaches us that in our past, someone put away some hidden oil, which will help us brighten our coming days, if we can find it.