



NEWSCAST 3. JOSEPH

The position of Viceroy was traditionally extremely powerful in ancient Egypt. This will explain why Joseph had the authority to institute such far-reaching economic reforms. When the astrologers and magicians of the Egyptian court failed to explain the Pharaoh's strange dreams, God gave Joseph the ability to interpret them accurately — thus leading to his dramatic rise from prison to Palace.

Not covered in this program is Joseph's justifiable revenge on his brothers for having sold him into slavery. When they arrive in Egypt in search of grain, Joseph has them arrested as spies. After many trials he eventually reveals himself as their long-lost brother, and when Jacob is brought to Egypt, the family is at last reunited. Jacob's arrival marks the beginning of Israel's sojourn in Egypt — which is only to end centuries later with the Exodus under Moses.

Newscast 3 introduces two important items of background interest. First, Mursilis' Hittite Empire was becoming the dominant power in Western Asia (see map) and Hittites were already being mentioned in the Bible — particularly in the Jerusalem area. Second, this period marks the end of Hammurabi's Babylonian dynasty. It was King Hammurabi who compiled a great code of laws which was the most comprehensive legal document to appear in the ancient world until the Law of Moses five hundred years later.

Biblical references: Genesis Chapters 39-46