

GET OUT OF DEBT

Background

Pharaoh had a dream of seven healthy cows rising from the Nile. The hearty cows were then followed by seven gaunt cows, which consumed the healthy ones. Pharaoh called for his wise men and magicians to interpret the dream. As none of their explanations satisfied him, he called for Yosef. Yosef immediately interpreted the dream to mean that there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Yosef then went on to give a piece of unsolicited advice: during the seven good years, Pharaoh should double the tax on the land to a full twenty percent, and that amount should all be put into storage to sustain the country during the years of famine. Additionally, Yosef advised, Pharaoh should appoint a man who is *navon* and *chacham* to administer the plan.

The Rashbam defines the word *navon* as a particular type of wisdom: someone with the ability to see into the future, a visionary.

Questions

There are many functions of intelligence, and many skill sets given to man. The particular one that Yosef focused on seems to be the wrong one needed for the job at hand. There was a very clear vision of what was to be: seven years of famine. There was even a plan: gather together 20 percent in taxes during the years of plenty. What was needed was a good **administrator**, a man with an eye for systems and details. Why did Yosef stress that what they needed was a man of vision to rule over Mitzrayim? Clearly, what was needed was a good administrator, not a visionary.

ספר בראשית פרק מא

(לג) וְעַתָּה יֵרָא פְּרָעָה אִישׁ
נְבוֹן וְחָכָם וְיִשְׁיִתְהוּ עַל
אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:

And Pharaoh should appoint a wise and intelligent man and place him over Mitzrayim.

רשב"ם על בראשית פרק מא פסוק לג

(לט) נבוּן - מבין עתידות
ורואה הנולד:

וחכם - קיבץ חכמות
ממה שראה ושמע:

Rashbam- navon: *someone who understands the future and sees what will come about*

chacham: *someone who gathers wisdom from what he sees and hears*