



“do this great evil and sin against GOD” (Genesis 39:8-9, emphasis mine). When Pharaoh’s servants expressed their dreams to Joseph he said, “**Do not interpretations belong to GOD?**” (Genesis 40:8, emphasis mine). Once again, when Joseph had the opportunity to interpret Pharaoh’s dreams notice where he placed his emphasis.

is present. He is speaking and He is alive. The very fact that Joseph was given life was due to God remembering Rachel (Genesis 30:22). When he was brought to Egypt, even in the midst of what seemed a terrible situation, God was blessing Joseph (Genesis 39:5). After being tempted by Potiphar’s wife Joseph explained why he couldn’t engage in such sin. It wasn’t because he feared that Potiphar would be wronged (although he certainly would have been), but because he knew he couldn’t

When Pharaoh said, “**I have heard it said about YOU, that when YOU hear a dream YOU can interpret it,**” Joseph responded, “**It is NOT in ME; GOD will give Pharaoh a favorable answer**” (Genesis 41:15-16, emphasis mine).

You see, all throughout Joseph’s life he emphasized God rather than himself. As a result, even the king of Egypt, one who was a worshipper of many false gods, recognized that “God speaks, he lives.”

### Conclusion

Let’s briefly consider our own lives. Each one of us encounters various people everyday. What if they had the opportunity to rename us based on what they saw in our lives? Would they call us, “Rude,” “Hypocrite,” or “Stuck-up?” Or would they recognize that we are the people of God? We must live in such a way that people could look at us and call us, “Zaphenathpaneah!—God speaks, He lives!”



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We are so glad that you joined us today.

ISSUE

16.4

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

January 24,  
2014

## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday: 7:00 PM



## Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

## Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Steve Dixon  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

## Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Andrew Dow

## Zaphenathpaneah

By Andrew Dow

The Bible is full of wonderful characters who teach us valuable lessons. The godly men and women found in both the Old and the New Testaments encourage us to press on toward our heavenly goal. After briefly mentioning a few prominent characters, the Hebrew author says, “**Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us... let us run with endurance...**” (Hebrews 12:1, NASU). It’s almost as if we are in a sporting arena being cheered on by some of the greatest to have ever run the race. What an encouragement!

Zaphenathpaneah is one of these great men of faith with whom most of us are familiar. We have probably heard countless character studies based on his life and circumstances. We often make a diligent effort to tell our children the extraordinary stories in which he played a part. He truly plays an integral part in God’s scheme of redemption.

While everything you just read about Zaphenathpaneah is true, you may not recognize him by that name. You see, Zaphenathpaneah is more commonly known to us as Joseph. In fact, Joseph is only referred to as Zaphenathpaneah once in the entire Bi-

ble. In this article, I'd like to notice the significance of Joseph's other name: Zaphenathpaneah.

### The Life of Joseph

While you may be familiar with the various stories that involve Joseph, allow me to remind you of a few of the highlights. First, recall that Joseph was one of twelve sons born to Jacob. Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife, was barren until "**God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb**" (Genesis 30:22). Being the oldest son of his favorite wife, Jacob "**loved Joseph more than all his sons**" (Gen-

esis 37:3). The Scriptures tell us that Joseph's "**brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms**" (Genesis 37:4). As the story progresses, Joseph's resentful brothers sell him as a slave (Genesis 37:18-35).

Second, remember that Joseph found himself in Egypt as Potiphar's servant (Genesis 37:36). The text clearly teaches us that "**the Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man**" (Genesis 39:2). The Lord didn't just bless Joseph, but He also "**blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph**" (Genesis 39:5). It is while Joseph is in Potiphar's house that we see Joseph's love for God. When Potiphar's wife attempted to seduce Joseph, his response was powerful. Joseph said, "**behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge. There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?**" (Genesis 39:8-9). Unfortunately, due to the lies of Potiphar's wife, Joseph soon found himself imprisoned (Genesis 39:20).

Finally, when Joseph was put in jail, we find that "**the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer... the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made to prosper**" (Genesis 39:20-23). It wasn't long until Pharaoh had two of his servants cast into prison (Genesis 40:1-4). One night each of the servants had puzzling dreams. When Joseph came to them he said, "**Do not interpretations belong to God?**" (Genesis 40:8). Joseph proceeded to interpret the men's dreams,

which came to pass just as Joseph had said. A couple of years later Joseph had the opportunity to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh himself. The ruler of all Egypt spoke to Joseph and said, "**I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it**" (Genesis 41:15). Joseph humbly replied, "**It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer**" (Genesis 41:16). All that Joseph had said "**seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants**" (Genesis 41:37).

### An Egyptian Name

Until this point, Joseph's life had been like a roller coaster. He had undoubtedly experienced great joy and exceptional heartache. However, following the interpretation of his dream, Pharaoh gave Joseph an unparalleled honor. "**So Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you... See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt'**" (Genesis 41:39-41).

In order to give Joseph such a high position, Pharaoh needed to thoroughly Egyptianize him. Pharaoh placed his signet ring on Joseph's hand, clothed him in fine garments, placed a golden necklace around his neck, had him ride in a royal chariot, and gave him an Egyptian wife (Genesis 41:42-45). In the midst of all of these things, we are told that Pharaoh also gave



Theoretical Reconstruction of Zaphenathpaneah in Egyptian Hieroglyphics proposed by E. A. Wallis Budge

Joseph an Egyptian name. "**Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenathpaneah**" (Genesis 41:45).

It is unclear exactly what Zaphenathpaneah means. Some have suggested that it meant, "treasury of the glorious rest" (BDB), "revealer of hidden things" (LXX) or "savior of the world" (Jerome). Some Egyptologists have suggested that in the Egyptian language Zaphenathpaneah likely meant, "*God speaks, he lives*" (Steindorff). I suppose Pharaoh could have given Joseph any number of names, but he chose to call him by a name that recognized that God speaks and that God lives. What a wonderful testament to the life of Joseph!

Behind everything that happened to Joseph there was the recognition that God

