

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 26th March 2022

**Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymns Ps 24:1-6 T
Winchester, 615, 289 Read: Genesis 41:44-52 Text
Genesis 41:44-52**

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph's Wife Asenath

In considering Joseph's exaltation, **Genesis 41** lists certain rewards that Pharaoh gave to Joseph in ruling over Egypt.

These rewards included, **the ring of authority, the fine linen vestures of appointment, the golden chain of accomplishment.**

The chariot where he was praised and revered, as way was made for him.

Overall Joseph was given a Kingdom to rule by his word.

Another reward which Pharaoh gave to Joseph was a wife, named Asenath.

When Pharaoh gave Joseph, Asenath, an Egyptian woman, Joseph didn't refuse and reject her.

Joseph didn't cast out her away, rather he received her unto himself.

Joseph accepted Pharaoh's choice to be his wife. He received her just as she was. Asenath was brought from the people into the palace to be one with Joseph.

Once again in the life of Joseph our minds are lifted heavenward, to a greater than Joseph, Jesus Christ.

Joseph's marriage to an Egyptian bride sets before us our Saviour's union with Gentiles given to Him.

He is the bridegroom, and His people His bride.

Jesus receiveth sinners, all kinds of sinners, from all languages, and walks of life, He will never turn away sinners given to him. He will not turn you away if you come unto Him, just as you are.

I FIRST, ASENATH WAS GIVEN TO JOSEPH.

Verse 41 *and he (Pharaoh) gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Poti-phares priest of On...."*

The Power from which she was given **Verse 41** *and he (Pharaoh) gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Poti-phares priest of On...."*

Pharaoh in speaking with Joseph rewards him with a kingdom, a household, a wife. Pharaoh has all power to do so.

Pharaoh sovereignly chose her for Joseph to be his wife.

King Pharaoh commanded and willed according to his pleasure that Asenath be given to Joseph and she was given.

Asenath had nothing to do with Joseph marrying her. She did not arrange, work or make promises to Pharaoh. Asenath did not choose Joseph.

Nor was she chosen because of her father's religious position.

Also, nothing is said about Asenath regarding her looks, her talents, ability, possessions, or anything else.

Asenath was as all the woman in the crowd, with equal standing living the Egyptian way of life.

However, Pharaoh bypassing all other woman, chose Asenath and gave her to Joseph as his wife.

Asenath was given to Joseph by sovereign power.

Therefore, believer, in thinking of our heavenly Joseph, Jesus Christ and the wife or bride given to Him, who is the church.

The church was given by sovereign command, by power, by heaven's authority.

We are not chosen because of anything that is in us, or any bargaining that we could have done.

There were no works of righteousness that we did to earn God's favour.

There is no natural, or spiritual beauty within ourselves that caused us to stand out from the rest of fallen humanity.

We were on equal standing, walking the course of this present evil world.

We, as, all men and woman, were born in sin and sharpen in iniquity, walking the broad road that leads to eternal destruction.

But God according to His power, He chose us out from the crowd of sinners and gave us to His beloved Son to be His wife, His bride.

Paul said in **Ephesians 1:4 According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world.**"

The Lord Jesus makes this clear when He prays in **John 17:2 "As thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him."**

Through His high priestly prayer we read expressions such as, ***which thou gavest me, for them which thou hast given me.***

Believer you are chosen by sovereign power, because it pleased Him.

You are set apart by God for Christ, as His reward in fulfilling the blood of the everlasting covenant.

The place from which she was given-

while there is no specific place mentioned in this verse, yet remember the whole account takes place in Egypt.

Since in Egypt then Asenath is not a Jew, but a Gentile in Egypt, a heathen woman.

Egypt in the Bible is a type, a picture of the world, with its burdens and bondage, its sin and slavery, its continual trials, tests and temptations, its agendas, accusations antagonists, attractions, allurements, and activities.

Its carnal philosophy, practises, pursuits and pleasures, against God and His word.

Remember, God has sent Joseph into Egypt for a purpose. He is in the will of God. Egypt is part of his humiliation, but now he is exalted.

The first occasion in Egypt, Joseph is a man of sorrow acquainted with grief.

God sent Joseph into Egypt to save a people, from among the Jews, and surrounding gentile, areas in the very place of suffering, shame and sorrow.

But when his humiliation had ended, Joseph having won the victory, over every accusation, Joseph is exalted and given a wife as His reward.

Therefore, believer, the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world, a world under the curse and displeasure of God, to save a people, as we learn not only Jews but also Gentiles, to deliver them from this present evil world.

One day Christ will return to earth with ten thousands of His saints and gather His wife, bride, His church that was given to

Him, from N, S, E W, all believers even from the time of Adam, into one fold, they shall all be with Him, and they will fellowship together, at the marriage supper of the lamb,

Rev 19:7-8 “for the marriage of the lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready, and to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean, and white for the linen is the righteousness of the saints.

The practises from which she was given-

Verse 41 and he (Pharaoh) gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Poti-phares priest of On....”

Asenath’s Father is “**Poti-phares priest of On....**” As stated many times, names in the Bible, and their meanings when referring to a person or place are purposeful.

The name **Asenath**, means “**Belonging to the goddess Neith.**”

The goddess Neith was known as **the mother earth of the Delta**. She was worshiped as the mother of many Egyptian gods such as Isis, Horus, and Osiris.

This goddess was known as the source of all wisdom.

The Egyptians believed that all the other gods would go to Neith for counsel when they had a dispute among themselves.

Potiphar gave his daughter a name to exalt the false god, they worshipped.

Asenath was the daughter of **Potiphar, the priest of On**. His name means “**Given by the sun god**”.

On, was also known as Heliopolis, one of the most important religious cities in Egypt. The great temple to Ra, the sun god, was there.

Ra was depicted as a falcon wearing a gold disk as a crown. This temple also housed a sacred bull that was worshiped by the Egyptians.

Taking these names and meanings within Egypt, Asenath would have been raised in deep heathenism, paganism, idolatry and deep spiritual darkness. Asenath was raised to worship false, pagan gods.

Such false worship meant in the eyes of God she was guilty of breaking His law, her life was full of idols.

Whether or not Asenath, was still actively practicing the gods her priestly father in vain worshipped,

yet the fact his daughter was growing up under his care, in her earliest days she would have learned the way of the heathen and walk in their ways, her heart was given over to false gods.

This is the one who Pharaoh gave to Joseph as his wife.

In receiving Asenath, Joseph must forget her past. He must cast her past away, blot it out from his mind in order to enter this marriage and take Asenath to be his wife.

Therefore, men and woman, Asenath is a picture of lost humanity, ungodly and unrighteousness sinners who have been given to Jesus Christ as His bride.

The bible teaches that Jesus said in **Luke 5:32** *"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* **Luke 15:2** *This man receiveth sinners,* **Romans 5:6** *"Christ died for the ungodly"*

If God was to mark iniquity none would stand, all are born in the depth of spiritual darkness, and deadness to God, but alive to the practise of sin.

However, within the everlasting covenant of grace, as a reward for labours, God gave Christ a wife, a bride, a people, a kingdom, a household, adopted sons and daughters, Jews and Gentiles, His church, for His own possession.

Though they are unworthy, and undeserving of this marriage to Him, yet we read in **Ephesians 5:25** **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;**

The church is made up of Asenaths' as such were some of you, all types of sinners brought out of all types of places, backgrounds and sins.

*But our past, our sins as **Isaiah 38:17** teaches are cast... behind (Christ's) back,*

*He has promised in **Hebrews 10:17** "their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*

He blotted out, erased our past sin, our guilt by His grace and mercy.

II SECOND, ASENATH WAS BLESSED THROUGH JOSEPH.

This passage is not authorising a marriage between the saved and unsaved.

Also Joseph is not being rebuked or chastised by God.

Rather the lesson to learn is this, when Asenath is brought into union with Joseph, she becomes one with him, and accepted in him.

This Gentile woman is brought into union with this Hebrew man.

They become one flesh, and one under God.

Immediately she enjoys his presence. She has continual and direct access to Joseph.

By her marriage union and oneness with Joseph, Asenath has entered into all the rights, privileges as the rulers wife.

All that belongs to Joseph belongs to his wife. All the riches of Joseph belong to her. Asenath will have Joseph's presence, power, protection and provision.

They are one and cannot be separated.

Asenath now shares in and with Joseph's, success, exaltation, inheritance. She rules and she reigns with him. She is raised to higher ground with him.

And so, it is believer, having been given to Christ, and He blotting out our sins, we have obtained mercy.

We have entered into marriage union with Christ. We are His treasure. In inheritance. All His riches in Glory are ours to enjoy.

Romans 8:16-17 we are the children of God, and if children then heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ,....also glorified together.

He is the head we are the body. He is the bridegroom and the church His bride. All that belongs to Christ belongs to His people, we share with Him, and shall rule and reign with Him. We shall forever be with the Lord.

We enjoy His presence, power, protection and provision on earth and for all eternity.

All that God has promised Christ in inheriting the earth, the conquering of His enemies, New Jerusalem, belongs to His people. His Bride inherits through Him and conquers by Him and glories in Him.

Our eternal inheritance will never corrupt or fade away, the deeds are signed by blood, because above all Christ is our inheritance, our treasure, our Home.

Just as Asenath belonged to Joseph, so the church belongs to Christ.

Just as Joseph took Asenath to himself, so Christ has taken His church unto Himself.

Just as Joseph would not cast Asenath his wife away, so Christ will never cast His church away.

Asenath was blessed, and enriched through Joseph, we are blessed and enriched through Christ forever.

III THIRD, ASENATH WAS FRUITFUL BY JOSEPH.

Verse 50 *“and unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potiphera priest of On bare unto him.*

Asenath bear Joseph’s children, **v51-52** Manasseh, and Ephraim. We will come to their names on another occasion in greater detail and focus on the sons.

But this purpose, Asenath’s womb was fruitful, it brought forth life.

The children were the fruit of her womb. These two boys would grow up and become the heads of two of the tribes of Israel. They would replace Joseph and Levi as part of the twelve.

The point I make, the fruit or life produced in her womb came by Joseph. The marriage union with Joseph produced life.

See once again a wonderful picture, or type of Christ’s people, the church who is the fruit of Christ and are also fruitful by Christ.

The people of God bear fruit by their union in Jesus Christ, all spiritual birth and life comes from Him.

Christ makes this clear in **John 15:1** *“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”*

Christ said in **John 15:16** *“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain*

Spiritual Fruit, spiritual life and growth is by Christ. The work begun in us will be matured on earth, and perfected in glory.