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# CARAVAN TO EGYPT

## JOSEPH: LIFE-AND-DEATH DECISIONS

### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered what you will be when you grow up? Me too. Most people get to choose what kind of job they will have, but it didn't work out that way for me. When I was growing up, I worked as a shepherd in Palestine. When I was in my late teens and early twenties, I worked in Egypt as a slave to a man who was a soldier in Pharaoh's army. Later, I was accused of a crime I didn't commit and wound up in an Egyptian prison for a few years. But no matter where I was, God was with me. Even in prison, He was blessing me.

When I got out of prison, I was 30 years old. Pharaoh discovered that God had blessed me with special abilities that Pharaoh could use, so I was given a big promotion. Pharaoh made me the second most important person in the kingdom. Only Pharaoh was more important than I.

Pharaoh gave me several things. He gave me an Egyptian name, Zaphnath-Paaneah. He gave me a wife. Her name was Asenath. She was the daughter of a man named Potiphera. My father-in-law was a priest who worshiped the sun god, Amen-Re. He lived in the city of On. That city was also called Heliopolis.

- Potiphara means “given by the sun god.”<sup>1</sup>
- Many people came to the city of On to worship the sun god.<sup>2</sup>

My Egyptian name, Zaphnath-Paaneah, has several different meanings. One meaning is “one who decides between life and death.” In my new job, God helped me make very important decisions. If I did not do my job well, many people would die. I did not choose my career. God chose it for me. Through me, God let Pharaoh know about a terrible famine that was coming to Egypt. Pharaoh put me in charge of storing food during the seven good years and selling it to the people during the seven years when crops would not grow. Many people would have starved to death if God had not worked through me to save them.



**ENGAGING THE TEXT**

Zaphnath-Paaneah is my Egyptian name. Have you figured out my Hebrew name?

1. Read Genesis 41:45.
  - a. Write my Hebrew name. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Now that you know my Hebrew name, write the names of my father and brothers. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Madeline and J. Lane Miller, *Harper’s Bible Dictionary* (NY, NY: Harper and Row, 1961) 568.

2 *Ibid.*, 507

2. Read Genesis 35:10.

a. My father used to be known as Jacob. Write his new name.

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Because of my father's name change, all of his offspring are known as Israelites. You will read about the Israelites many times in the Bible.

3. Read Genesis 35:23–26 and Genesis 30:19–21.

a. My father had four wives. Write the names of their children under the name of the wife.

**Wife #1—Leah**

**Wife #2—Rachel**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Wife #3—Zilpah**

**Wife #4—Bilhah**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. In all, my father had \_\_\_\_\_ children.

c. How many daughters did my father have? \_\_\_\_\_

d. What was her name? \_\_\_\_\_

e. Who was her mother? \_\_\_\_\_

4. The twelve sons are known as the patriarchs. Use a dictionary to find out the meaning of that word. A patriarch is a \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Read Genesis 41:50–52. My wife Asenath and I had two sons.

a. Our older son was \_\_\_\_\_.

b. His name means \_\_\_\_\_.

c. Our younger son was \_\_\_\_\_.

d. His name means \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Read Genesis 39. I told you I had to go to prison for a crime I did not commit. In your own words, tell what happened.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Read Genesis 41:17–27. Pharaoh had some dreams he did not understand. God gave me the meanings of the dreams so I could help Pharaoh and save my father’s family.

a. The first dream was about seven \_\_\_\_\_ cows eating seven \_\_\_\_\_ cows.

b. The second dream was about seven \_\_\_\_\_ heads of grain eating seven \_\_\_\_\_ heads of grain.

8. Read Genesis 41:28–32.

a. The dreams mean that there will be \_\_\_\_\_ years when there is \_\_\_\_\_ of food in Egypt. After the time when there will be a lot of food, there will be \_\_\_\_\_ years of famine.

b. What is a famine? \_\_\_\_\_.



Men and women always wore green eye shadow. The eye shadow was made from malachite stones that had been ground. The eye shadow was supposed to kill germs and it was supposed to keep insects from getting into a person's eyes.



### BECOMING A ROOKIE CARTOGRAPHER

1. Draw a line under the city of Gaza on the map on page 30.
2. From last week, you know that Gaza was a city of the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Find Beersheba. Mark it by drawing a tiny well beside it.
4. Draw the route the camel caravan might have taken from Beersheba to Memphis.
5. Using the scale on the map, how far was it from Beersheba to Memphis? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Trace the world's longest river—it's in Egypt—as far as you can. What is the name of that river? \_\_\_\_\_







# FROM FREEDOM TO SLAVERY IN GOSHÉN

## SHIPHRAH AND PUAH: WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO WHAT?

### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever known someone who didn't love little babies? This is the story of a horrible pharaoh who not only didn't love babies, but he commanded that my friend and I kill the baby boys!

My name is Shiphrah, and my friend is Puah. She and I were Hebrew midwives in Egypt. Back then, there were no hospitals and very few doctors, so women gave birth at home. The other women in the family helped her. Midwives were women who specialized in delivering babies. When we knew a mom was apt to have a hard time with the delivery, Puah and I stayed with the family until after the birth of the baby. It was a wonderful job. Nothing is more precious than bringing a new baby into the world—even into a world of slavery.

There was a new pharaoh ruling Egypt. He was a very wicked, ruthless man. One day Puah and I were summoned to appear before him. We had no idea why he wanted to see us, but when the pharaoh says, "Come here," the only choice is to obey.

When we appeared at the palace, we were escorted into the throne room. Talk about scary! All the magicians, advisors, and important Egyptians were there. We were just poor Hebrew slaves. Pharaoh knew we were midwives and that we delivered many babies each year. He told us that when we delivered a baby, if it was a baby girl, we could