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## Who is Asenath?

Asenath means "one who belongs to Neit, the heathen goddess of wisdom". She was the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On who lived in Egypt. Joseph, the youngest son of Jacob, after coming out of prison by interpreting the Pharaoh's dream, was made a high official in the office of Pharaoh. Pharaoh renamed Joseph as Zaphnath-Paaneah and gave him Asenath as wife. She bore two sons to Joseph and they were called Manasseh and Ephraim.

## **Bible Accounts:**

## Genesis 41:45, 50-52; 46:20;

Genesis 41:45, 50-52 NKJV - <sup>44</sup> Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I *am* Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." <sup>45</sup> And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-Paaneah. And he gave him as a wife <u>Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On</u>. So Joseph went out over *all* the land of Egypt.

<sup>50</sup> And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him. <sup>51</sup> Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house." <sup>52</sup> And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Genesis 46:20 NKJV - And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him.

## Lessons from Asenath:

Though Asenath was a Gentile, an Egyptian, she married Joseph who was not an Egyptian but a Jew. (Note: Pharaoh gave Joseph an Egyptian name.)

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