Zaphenath-Paneah: God Speaks and He Lives

Genesis 41: 45

Arkansas Loving Church, Pastor Sungtae Hong, 5/10/2020

Some names come up in the latter part of Genesis chapter 41. The first is the new name of Joseph, Zaphenath-Paneah, which was an Egyptian name given by Pharaoh, king of Egypt. The others are the names of the two sons of Joseph, Egyptian prime minister: Manasseh and Ephraim.

The meaning of Zaphenath-Paneah was "God speaks and He lives." The name reflected the shock that Pharaoh had gotten from Joseph. Both Pharaoh and his kingdom, Egypt, were in a serious crisis, but the crisis was completely overcome by Joseph's interpretation. How? Joseph not only interpreted Pharaoh's dreams but also told the perfect solution of the future problems. Neither the seven years of great abundance nor the seven years of famine started as yet! However, Pharaoh had the interpretation of the dreams and the solution of the problems! Therefore, he did not have to worry about the future problems. All he had to do was to prepare well according to the prescription.

Pharaoh realized that all crises came to an end because of Joseph. Because of Joseph, he also realized that God lived. When he gave the new name to Joseph, Pharaoh meant to confess: "I have met the wisest man! To him God revealed His plans! This man provided me with a solution! He has the heavenly wisdom!"

Pharaoh immediately decided to get hold of this man who was standing before him.

Genesis 41:40 "You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." (NIV)

Pharaoh realized that the One inside Joseph was real God even though Joseph, on the surface, was a Hebrew servant and criminal. He also realized that he, in fact, was nothing although he was king and was called the son of a god. He realized that the words spoken to him through Joseph was the words of God and that Joseph's God was real and lived.

Pharaoh was deeply moved after seeing the man of Godly wisdom, and gave Joseph all power. Actually, what Pharaoh did challenges us! With whom or by what do we get moved? To what do we give all of our power? To God? Or to something else? Don't we get moved by the power of someone's money? Don't we live such lives that give all our power to the money?

There is only one thing that we should be moved, get shocked, and give all of our power: Jesus Christ! HE is the only wisdom to us! And HE is the only solution to our problems! We are to discover that God lives through His Words. Only when we do so, we will be gratified.

See how Pharaoh got hold of Joseph! As such should we do with Jesus! See how Pharaoh gave all of his power to Joseph and asked him to govern everything he owned! We should also do that!

"Jesus! As I was listening to your words, I came to realize that God still lives. You are the only wisdom and the only solution for me. I give everything I have to You. Lead me. Rule everything inside me. You are my Zaphenath-Paneah."

See what Pharaoh did! He had Joseph ride in the chariot of honor, dressed him in his robes, and took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. We can see his strong determination that he would bet everything to the voice of God that he heard from Joseph. We could add one more to them. Why not give our thrones to God? Let's set the goal of our lives to attending at what God says to us. That will renew our lives. As we live our lives like that, people will learn that God lives: We will become a good tool for God. Then, we shall experience an amazing glory that, because of us, somebody confesses, "God still speaks and lives!"