

Joseph--Genesis 49 and 50

Jacob Dies; Joseph Dies

I. Additional Scriptures...

1. Christ Jesus came out of Judah (Matthew 2:1-6).
2. Burial site purchased by Abraham (Gen 23:16-20).
3. Return of Joseph's remains to Canaan (Ex 13:19; Joshua 24:32; Hebrews 11:22).
4. Definition of faith (Hebrews 11:1).

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Patriarchy.**

About 400 years pass between the events of this ending of the Book of Genesis and the beginning of the Book of Exodus. Exodus 1:8 tells us... *Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.*

III. Summary.

After spending 17 years with his son Joseph in the land of Egypt, now comes the time of Jacob's death. Both Jacob and Joseph must have thoroughly enjoyed those 17 years. In chapter 49, the patriarch gathers his children to "tell you that which shall befall you in the last days" (49:1). Jacob has something to say about each of his twelve sons. Some of it is complimentary and some of it is not. Perhaps the most important pronouncement from Jacob was what he said to Judah—"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, UNTIL SHILOH COME" (49:10). After his words to his sons he charged them to bury him at Machpelah. Jacob died—"was gathered to his people" (49:33).

In chapter 50 the grief of the family is detailed. Joseph has his father embalmed, which process takes 40 days. The Egyptians mourn over him for 70 days, then Joseph obtains permission from Pharaoh to go to Canaan to bury his father, so that he might comply with his father's request. That permission is granted. There was a large group of Pharaoh's servants and the elders in his house and in Egypt who traveled with Joseph and his family.

After the burial of their father, the brothers of Joseph began to fear that Joseph would now hate them because of what they had done to him when he was a teenager. When they asked for Joseph's forgiveness, Joseph wept and assured his brothers that he would take care of them. He said—"ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good" (50:20). Joseph could see the providential care of God in his own life and he spoke kindly to his brothers.

Joseph lived 110 years and during that period was able to see his grandchildren. Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel that they should carry up his bones from Egypt when God visited them. Joseph dies and is put in a coffin in Egypt.

IV. Outline.

1. Chapter 49
 - 1) Jacob has parting words for his children (1-2).
 - 2) To Reuben (3-4).
 - 3) To Simeon (5-7).

- 4) To Levi (5-7).
- 5) To Judah (8-12).
- 6) To Zebulun (13).
- 7) To Issachar (14-15).
- 8) Dan (16-18).
- 9) Gad (19).
- 10) Asher (20).
- 11) Naphtali (21).
- 12) Joseph (22-26).
- 13) Benjamin (27)
- 14) Jacob charges his sons to bury him with his fathers at Machpelah (28-32).
- 15) Jacob dies (33).

2. Chapter 50

- 1) Joseph gains permission to bury his father in Canaan (1-6).
- 2) Many Egyptians went with Joseph and his family to grieve over and bury Jacob (7-14).
- 3) The brothers fear that Joseph will hate them after the death of their father and ask forgiveness (15-18).
- 4) Joseph promises to continue to nourish his brothers and notes that God has used their evil deed to produce good—he speaks kindly to them (19-21).
- 5) Joseph lives to 110 and sees his grandchildren (22-23).
- 6) Joseph takes an oath of his family to take his body with them when they leave Egypt (24).
- 7) Joseph dies (25).

V. **Questions.**

True or False

01. _____ Joseph lived 93 years in Egypt.
02. _____ Two of the brothers received the same “blessing” from their father.
03. _____ The sceptre was to go to Joseph.
04. _____ Only the children of Israel grieved for him at the threshing floor of Atad.
05. _____ The expression “twelve tribes” is not mentioned in this reading.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ The one whom the brethren would praise was: (a) Reuben; (b) Gad; (c) Judah.
07. _____ The one to divide the spoil would be: (a) Reuben; (b) Joseph; (c) Benjamin.
08. _____ The person who sold Abraham a burial place was: (a) Abelmizraim; (b) Ephron; (c) Pharaoh.
09. _____ The period of mourning for Jacob in Egypt was: (a) 70 days; (b) 40 days; (c) there was none.
10. _____ The expression “gathered to my people” in this context refers to: (a) a reunion in Canaan; (b) physical death; (c) spiritual death.

Fill in the Blanks

11. “And Pharaoh said, Go up, and _____ thy father, according as he made thee _____.”
12. Joshua 24:____--“And the bones of _____, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in _____, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.”
13. “Joseph is a _____ bough...”

14. The one described as “unstable as water” was _____.
15. “_____ shall dwell at the haven of the sea...”

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be given on next week’s handout

ANSWERS for Lesson 01-12... [01—Jacob, 30; 02—five brothers, 3; 03—Joseph, Gen 37:2; 47:28; 04—Egyptians, 20; 05—Pharaoh, 26; 06—d, 1; 07—b, 29; 08—b, 9; 09—c, 17; 10—d, 11; 11—nourished, 12; 12—land, Egypt, 20; 13—8, Goshen, flies, midst; 14—sore, fainted, 13; 15—exceedingly, 27.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. *...until Shiloh come...* (Gen 49:10). Here is a reference to the coming Messiah through Whom all nations would be blessed. It is out of this tribe, the descendants of Judah, that the promise to Abraham would be fulfilled. That Jesus is later described as the “Lion of the Tribe of Judah,” (Rev 5:5) is quite interesting. Jesus is not only spoken of as the “Lion of the Tribe of Judah,” but also as the “Lamb that taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). These two figures applied to the same person surely help us to see the greatness and diversity of our Lord. As far as personal attacks, Jesus showed Himself to be gentle as a lamb; as far as attacks upon the doctrine or upon His apostles, he was more like a LION.
2. *...I am to be gathered unto my people...* (Gen 49:29). Surely this statement means more than just bones beside bones. Does not this expression seem to indicate a faith that there would be a reunion with his father and grandfather? It is true that God is dealing with the patriarchs in this age in a different way than with us, having provided us with the completed written revelation, but some things were revealed to these great men of God and there seems to be this hope of reunion with one another.
3. *Interesting comparisons between Jesus and Joseph...* [Data from *MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 89]

Joseph	Parallel	Jesus
37:2	A shepherd of his father’s sheep	John 10:11, 27-29
37:3	His father loved him dearly	Matthew 3:17
37:4	Hated by his brothers	John 7:4,5
37:13,14	Sent by father to brothers	Hebrews 2:11
37:20	Others plotted to harm them	John 11:53
37:23	Robes taken from them	John 19:23,24
37:26	Taken to Egypt	Matthew 2:14,15
37:28	Sold for the price of a slave	Matthew 26:15
39:7	Tempted	Matthew 4:1
39:16-18	Falsely Accused	Matthew 26:59,60
39:20	Bound in chains	Matthew 27:2
40:2,3	Placed with two other prisoners, one who was saved and one who was lost	Luke 23:32
41:41	Exalted after suffering	Philippians 2:9-11
41:46	Both 30 years old at the beginning of public recognition	Luke 3:23
45:1-15	Forgave those who wronged them	Luke 23:34
45:7	Saved their nation	Matthew 1:21
50:20	What men did to hurt them, God turned to good	1 Corinthians 2:7-8

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

P P R A I S E P O I U Y T R E W L K J H
 J H G F F D S A M N B V D A N T I E S V
 C G R A P E S X Z K H S H I L O H G F D
 P J O I U Y T R F V T B H U I O P L K M
 M J U Y H N B G T N R F V C D W H E L P
 C Q W D A Z X C E V B P U N M K J H G F
 O F D A G W E M D W O L F N C G H J K O
 U S P O I E U M J O U J N H S Y T G B V
 C E F R D R C E R C X C S W Q T A Z X C
 H L V B T H J T K P O R I U J Y A H N A
 I F B S G T R F V C D U E W S X C B V D
 N W N V B L N M H A V E N U I O P U L D
 G I T G B D I E E Q A L Z X C V B N M E
 I L O U Y G R O B C D T T Y U I O P L R
 M L J U Y T G B N R F Y V E A N G E R W
 A Z X S P W E R F V B G T Y H N O U J M
 A Z X E S W E L A W G I V E R T O Y U I
 O P C M B G T R F V E D C Q A Z D X C V
 E S R T B O U G H U I O P U J K L T G B
 E S E P A R T E G H N M V F R F Y E R T

[The words below come from the section of Genesis 49 where Jacob blesses his twelve sons.]

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| 01. unstable | 02. instruments |
| 03. cruelty | 04. anger |
| 05. selfwill | 06. praise |
| 07. whelp | 08. lion |
| 09. sceptre | 10. lawgiver |
| 11. Shiloh | 12. grapes |
| 13. haven | 14. couching |
| 15. judge | 16. adder |
| 17. troop | 18. dainties |
| 19. goodly | 20. bough |
| 21. separate | 22. wolf |