

## **FINAL STUDY NOTES - GENESIS CHAPTERS 49 & 50 - 9/23-24/2024**

### **CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:**

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**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)**  
**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).**

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, suggest using *WAZE* ([waze.com/live-map](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* ([mapquest.com](http://mapquest.com)),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

***Genesis Chapter 49 – Jacob’s Last Words to Sons - (vs. 1-28); Jacob’s Death and Burial- (vs. 29-33)!***  
***Genesis Chapter 50 – Jacob’s Death and Burial Continuing - (vs. 1-14); Joseph Reassures His Brothers – (vs. 15-21); Joseph’s Death – (vs. 22-26)!***

***Jacob Blesses His Sons – The Tribes Prophetically -***

**Gen 49:1 And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:**

- **Jacob is now one hundred and forty-seven years old.** He realizes that he is dying. What is so often a customary practice, he summons the family together that they might be by his bedside when death overtakes him. The twelve sons of Jacob gather to their father that he might prophesy over them, as he looks down the future of the various tribes and of those things that will transpire in the various tribes that will come from these twelve sons.

**Gen 49:2 "Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father.**

- **In verse two, he begins a sort of poem as far as the Hebrew literature is concerned.** It is called poetry. But in the Hebrew the poetry is not in rhyme as it is in English but is in the thought form and the repetitions.
- **Now his sons are gathered around the bed. Jacob is almost blind** at this point. He musters all of his strength that he has in order that he might sit up on the side of the bed. Looking around the room at these twelve sons, he first fastens his gaze upon Reuben, the eldest, the firstborn of Leah.

**Gen 49:3 "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.**

**Gen 49:4 Unstable (boiling) as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it—He went up to my couch.**

- **Unstable as water** (always does its own will, goes to the lowest place), **you shall not excel.** The potential was there, the firstborn. Usually, the birthright would fall to him, but his problem is his instability. James talks to us in the New Testament concerning the double-minded man who is unstable in all his ways, *let not that man suppose* that he is going to receive anything from God. The lack of excelling because of the instability. Unstable as water, quite a phrase.
- **When Reuben sinned in going into Bilhah, the concubine of Jacob,** Jacob did not say anything to him or against him at that time; however, this action had stuck in the mind of Jacob, and now he calls attention to it and deals with it.
- **He went up to my couch.** We have a first warning here; that is lust! Reuben traded away the blessings of the first born because of his lust. Jacob tells him the reason he did not get the birthright was the defiling of his father's bed. The tribe of Reuben never excelled. There was not a single leader who came from the tribe of Reuben, just a nothing tribe. They settled on good pastureland on the east banks of the Jordan River, saying. We do not want any inheritance within the land. No judge, prophet, nor prince, is found of that tribe.

**Gen 49:5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place.**

**Gen 49:6 Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.**

- **Next he turns to Simeon and Levi who are brothers, instruments of cruelty. In their anger they killed a man,** I do not want to be associated with them. ***In their self-will they hamstrung an ox.*** They cut the tendons and deliberately lamed an ox.

**Gen 49:7 Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them** (Simeon decreased by 2/3 during 40 year wilderness march) **in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.**

- **Cursed be their anger! We have the second warning here. That is anger!** Be careful of your temper when it lashes out! That does things foolishly and stupidly. Be careful of it because it is destructive. We can all be prone to it. There is enough Simeon and Levi in us that we all need this warning! We still get angry and lust because the problem is the heart!
- **When they came into the land there was no inheritance for the tribe of Levi,** but they were given cities throughout the entire land, so Levi was scattered in the land. Simeon settled in the area to the south of Judah, in the area of Beersheba. No significant leaders came from the tribe of Simeon.
- **The tribe of Levi did produce leaders. (Exo 32:26) then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the LORD's side—come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.** Moses, of course, was of the tribe of Levi. Because of Moses and Aaron and the descendants, the Levites were then chosen of God for the priesthood. Certainly, that was a demonstration of God's sovereign and grace in choosing the Levites for the priesthood.

**Gen 49:8** "Judah (means praise), you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you.

- **Now coming to Judah, Jacob is passing the blessing on to him.** *You are he whom your brothers shall praise!* The name Judah means praise. You are the ones your brothers will praise. Or he is saying literally, *Praise, you are the one whom your brothers shall praise.*
- **It was Judah that said if I do not bring them back, let me die!** Let me be the slave of Pharaoh. It was Judah who took that place of Benjamin, who like Christ and said let me suffer in his place. Let me be the one who bears the reproach. Let me be the one who suffers forever if I do not bring him back. And Judah had stepped up to the plate, even in the face of Joseph before he knew it was him. There was genuine repentance in the life of Judah. The blessing comes now, flowing out of Jacob. Jacob would rather have given in to his carnal nature, giving it to Joseph. But this blessing was not to go to Joseph. It was to go to Judah, from whom the Messiah would come!

**Gen 49:9** *Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?*

**Gen 49:10** *The scepter shall not depart from Judah (such an important prophecy!), Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh (Messianic) comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.*

**Gen 49:11** *Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.*

**Gen 49:12** *His eyes are darker than wine (sparkling), And his teeth whiter than milk.*

- **Now a beautiful prophecy concerning Judah.** This is the tribe that the brothers shall praise. This did not happen for several hundred years, until David finally ascended to the throne, but then Judah became the dominant tribe in the southern kingdom.
- **The scepter shall not depart from Judah....Until Shiloh comes; But the prophecy is that Shiloh (related to shalom, peace in Hebrew), that from Judah the Messiah was to come and the prophecy is that the scepter shall not depart from Judah....until Shiloh comes!** The prediction that there would be from the tribe of Judah, the ruling body, until the Messiah would come. The lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh comes.
- **In the year 4 or 6 A.D., Rome took from the nation of Israel the right of capital punishment.** You remember when they brought Jesus to Pilate, (*Joh 18:31*) *Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death, signifying that Israel's power of capital punishment had been stripped by Rome about 6 A.D.*
- **At that time, rabbis were shattered that God's word had failed, covered with sackcloth and ashes, went through the streets saying, "God's Word has failed. We no longer have the authority of law, and the Messiah has not come."** **"Woe unto us for the scepter has departed from Judah and the Messiah has not come!" – (Jerusalem Talmud Sanhedrin, 1:24)!** They were unaware that the Messiah was growing up in Nazareth!
- **In 70 A.D., the scepter was taken and there was no longer a lawgiver, which means that the Messiah had to come some time before 70 A.D., or the Word of God did indeed fail!** If Jesus is not the promised Messiah of Israel, there is none!
- **And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. That is a prophecy that was repeated, (Isa 7:14; 9:6-7)** *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. [9:6] For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [7] Of the increase of His government and peace **There will be no end**, Upon the **throne of David** and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*
- **There would seem to be in the latter portion of this prophecy, also picked up in (Isa 63:1-3)** *Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?—"I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save. [2] Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? [3 ]"I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in*

*My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments*, speaking of that second coming of Jesus after the Great Tribulation.

**Gen 49:13** *"Zebulun shall dwell by (toward) the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon.*

- **Not actually on the seacoast, but by the haven of the sea.** Zebulun settled in the northern part of the land, which today is called the Galilee region. They did not stretch as far as the coast. But he will dwell by the haven of the sea, up in that northern area.

**Gen 49:14** *"Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens;*

**Gen 49:15** *He saw that rest was good (strong but docile and lazy), And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves.*

- **Issachar inherited the area that is known as the valley of Megiddo.** That is one of the most fertile areas in the land. They did not have to do much work, just throw out your seed and everything grew up in that area. It is called the breadbasket of Israel. That area produces, even to the present day, just a abundance of beautiful crops up in the area near Mount Gilboa.
- **In the days of David, (1Ch 12:32a) of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.** They become faithful to David. Issachar has some great things in their future.

**Gen 49:16** *Dan shall judge his people As one of the tribes of Israel.*

**Gen 49:17** *Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path (who introduced idolatry?), That bites the horse's heels So that its rider shall fall backward.*

- **Dan, whose name means judge.** Now he leaves the sons of Leah at this point. These were the sons of Leah up till now. Now he leaves a chronological order as far as their age. Dan was the second born of the maiden of Rachel. This probably was the order they are standing in the room.

**Gen 49:18** *I have waited for your salvation, O LORD!*

- **This statement seems to be thrown in without any reference to Dan,** sort of a little afterthought. But Dan judging his people like a serpent by the way. The tribe of Dan introduced idolatry to the children of Israel, setting up golden calves in Bethel, in the south and in Dan up in the Upper Galilee region, near the base of Mount Herman. Dan was one of the first tribes to go into idolatry, so a viper, a serpent, he sort of fits the pattern.
- **"I have waited for your salvation, O LORD."** The word *salvation* there in Hebrew interestingly enough is *Yeshua*. Jacob said literally, "I have waited for Yeshua," or "I have waited for Jesus." Yeshua is the Hebrew word for Jesus.
- **Jacob, almost spent, and ready to faint, relieves himself with those words,** "I have waited for Your salvation, O Lord!" The salvation he waited for was Christ, the promised Seed; now that he was going to be gathered to his people, he breathes after Him to whom the gathering of the people shall be. He declared plainly that he sought heaven, the better country. Now he is going to enjoy salvation, he comforts himself that he had waited for it. It is the comfort of a dying saint thus to have waited for the salvation of the Lord; for then he shall have what he has been waiting for.
- **Will that be my song to my family and loved ones on that day? The most important thing in my life is that I have salvation, promised by my LORD! I will be in His house forever!**

**Gen 49:19** *"Gad, a troop shall tramp (attack) upon him, But he shall triumph (attack) at last (repel, press on the heel).*

- **Gad means troop,** and so next in order is Gad, one of Zilpah's sons. Gad was one of the tribes that chose his inheritance outside of the land, thus becoming the most vulnerable to the invaders from the east. They would be defeated at times, but *he shall triumph at last!*

**Gen 49:20** *"Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties.*

- **They will be the bakers, providing the land with cookies and pastries.**

**Gen 49:21** *"Naphtali is a deer let loose (known for swiftness); He uses beautiful words.*

- **They will be the poets. They will be the speechmakers, The victory son of Deborah and Barak.**

**Gen 49:22** *"Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall.*

- **Now he comes to Joseph, Rachel's firstborn, the son that he loved** and the son that he had in his mind established as the heir. The one to whom he gave the double portion by claiming his two sons as his own, Ephraim and Manasseh; and thus, by dividing the portions and giving portions to both.
- **Joseph is a fruitful bough.** *A blessing comparable only to that of Judah. (Psa 1:3a) He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water.* Joseph, a tree that is loaded with fruit, probably referring to the opulent life, second only to Pharaoh.
- **His branches run over the wall, meaning that he does not hoard it all to himself.** He is willing to share that which God has blessed him with others, which can also partake of the benefit and the blessing that God has bestowed upon him. This is always the purpose of God. If He has blessed your life, it is that you might share those blessings with others!
- **How much am I sharing the blessings that God has bestowed upon my life with others?**

*Gen 49:23 The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him.*

- **Though he was prospered abundantly, having the great wealth of Egypt at his fingertips,** he had gone through some heavy trials. *The archers have bitterly grieved him!* He had experienced a lot of grief in his lifetime; betrayed by his brothers; having them plot together to kill him; of being sold by his brothers as a slave; of being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife of rape; the grief of spending years in prison because of these false charges. He has been shot at, arrows of jealousy, arrows of envy, arrows of hatred from his brothers, lies from Potiphar's wife, forgetfulness from the butler!

*Gen 49:24 But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel).*

- **But his bow remained in strength.** That is, it is there. It is ready. He could release the arrow. He could destroy those that had sought to destroy him, but he does not. *His bow remained in strength. It takes great strength not to get even when it is in your capacity to do so.* His brothers had sold him as a slave. He had the capacity now to make them his slaves. He does not do it. He does not get even.
- **Many times, when I am shot, an arrow sticks in my side, I turn, and I let fly with everything I have before I even find out who shot it. I have been wounded. I am hurt. I want revenge; to get even. Who did that? I just start shooting at anything that is moving. It is part of our nature to desire revenge, to get even.**
- **How often when an arrow sticks in my side, do I turn and let fly with everything I have before I even find out who shot it? I want revenge. I want to get even! How much of the old man is still in my desire to get revenge, to get even?**
- **From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel.** God in the figure of a shepherd, it is something that becomes quite common as we move through the scriptures.
- **Then the stone and the first reference to God as a rock or God as a stone.** The rock was a symbol of strength, the symbol of protection. "Hide me in the rock that is higher than I." The place of defense, the place of protection, the place of safety, and that is what God becomes to us, the place of safety, the place of defense, sheltered in the rock.
- **But for Israel there came a special symbolism of the rock.** In the book of Daniel, you have that dream of Nebuchadnezzar seeing the progressive kingdoms that would rule over the world. Until he came to the ten toes, which are ten kings, and during the reign of these ten kings I saw a rock, out of the mountain, not cut with hands. It hit the great image in the feet so that the whole image crumbled, and the rock grew into a mountain that covered the world. In the interpretation of Daniel for that dream, that rock was the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to establish God's reign over the earth. And in the time of those ten kings shall the Lord come and establish a kingdom that shall never end—the Rock.
- **When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, perishing because of thirst, Moses went in before the Lord and said, "Lord, they are out there complaining; they need water." God said, "Take your rod and strike the rock and water will come forth." Moses went out and he took his rod and smote the rock, and the water came flowing forth and the people drank, and they were saved. Paul said in (1Co 10:4b) and that Rock was Christ!** So, Jesus the rock from which the water of life flows.

- The second time they came to Moses again saying, “We’re thirsty, we are going to die,” he went in before God and said, “God, I can’t take it. I have had it! God said, Moses, they are thirsty. Go out and **speak to the rock** that it might give forth water.” But Moses was angry. He did not want to just go out and speak to the rock. He struck the rock the second time. The water came forth. God said, “Moses, come here, son. You cannot lead the children of Israel into the promise land.” You failed to represent Me before the people!
- **Misrepresenting God to His people is a very serious thing! How frequently do I do that?**
- The Rock, Jesus, once He was struck never needs to be struck again! (*Heb 7:27c*) *for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.* He suffered once and for all; once. In smiting the rock the second time, Moses destroyed the beautiful symbol that God was setting up. Moses paid heavily for that little outburst where he let his arrows fly, and did not hold his bow in strength.

**Gen 49:25** *By the God of your father (Jacob) who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.*

- *By the God of your father who will help you.... the Almighty, who will bless you.* Your hands are being held by the Almighty God. God is holding your hand, making you strong! Your hand is being held by the God of your fathers, or your father, singular, Jacob, who will help you; the Almighty God, who will bless you. The blessings that were to come upon Joseph.
- *With the blessings of heaven above, the rain that shall come down, the blessings of the deep that lies beneath*, referring to the subterranean waters, the wells of water.
- *Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.* The multiplying of the tribes, the people, large tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. Ephraim became a dominant tribe.

**Gen 49:26** *The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills (the establishing of the boundaries to the ancient hills). *They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate (nazir - consecrated as prince, a Nazirite) from his brothers.**

- All of these blessings that God has bestowed on Jacob, they are going to be bestowed upon Joseph.
- **How often do I consider that I have to be one of the most blessed men alive?** That is only because of the grace of God, surely not because I deserve it! I look around at what God has done, the blessed privilege of being born again, forever to be in His presence! Also, I have had the privilege of being able to teach God’s Word and God’s truth during the last couple of decades. My privilege of being associated with you, being a part with you in this glorious, wonderful work of God! What a blessing! The blessings of God upon those who He holds in His hand, the strength of God, the abundance.
- **Joseph, you are the fruitful bough. God as a shepherd is related to the fruitful bough concept.** The obligation of the shepherd, really, was that of providing good pasture for the sheep so that the sheep might grow and be strong. The ability to be strong in the face of the temptation to take revenge. God is the Stone! Or the Rock! He is my defense. I do not need to defend myself. He will defend me. The beautiful blessings that Jacob pronounces upon Joseph, *the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.* The word is *nazir* in Hebrew, from which later came the Nazirite vow, which was the vow of separation or consecration unto God.

**Gen 49:27** *"Benjamin is a ravenous wolf (fierce, violent spirit); In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil."*

- Now Benjamin, who was another favorite of Jacob, because he also was the son of Rachel, does not really come in for much, in fact, very little. He is a ravenous wolf. In the morning, he will devour the prey, at night he will divide the spoil. Benjamin produced the tough fellows. You did not want to tangle with a Benjamite. They were tough, as history will unfold, the tribe of Benjamin was fierce in battle. The first king of Israel, Saul, came from the tribe of Benjamin. There was a group of Benjamites who were fighting with David and these fellows were skillful with the slingshot. They could split a hair at a hundred yards. These guys were tremendous!

***Jacob's Death and Burial***

***Gen 49:28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.***

***Gen 49:29 Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,***

***Gen 49:30 in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.***

***Gen 49:31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.***

***Gen 49:32 The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the sons of Heth."***

***Gen 49:33 And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.***

- This was Jacob's final action, looking around, pronouncing these prophecies and then commanding of the sons, "Look, take me back and bury me at the cave there at Machpelah." This was to be a testimony, to all the generations to come, that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had faith in God's promise that He would give the land to their seed!
- Jacob then pulls his feet up into the bed and that is it.
- Historically, we have already covered more than half of the time from Adam to Christ. His death was about 2,300 years after the creation of Adam. That means we have only 1,600 years or so left until the coming of Christ. In Genesis we cover more than half of the history of the Old Testament as far as chronology is concerned, all compressed into the book of Genesis. From Exodus on through to Malachi covers the other 1,600 hundred years. Historically we have already covered the broadest area.

***Gen 50:1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him, and kissed him.***

- We remember God saying to Jacob when he had stopped at Beersheba, to pray whether he should continue his journey into Egypt. He offered the sacrifices, and God spoke to him in the night, vision. God said to him, "Go down to Egypt. You will see your son and he shall close your eyes," which means that he will be there to perform upon you this final tender loving act of closing your eyes when you die.

***Gen 50:2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel.***

***Gen 50:3 Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed (takes forty days); and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days (customary for one of national importance, only two days less than the period of honoring the Pharaoh).***

- The art of embalming which the Egyptians had developed to this tremendous skill! Today we do not know how they were able to embalm the bodies to preserve them as they did. But it was not an easy process, and it took forty days to do so. Not everybody was embalmed, just the Pharaohs and people of great prominence. Jacob was embalmed, forty days to do the job.
- Now if you could get into the cave of Machpelah today, it would be most interesting to look around the cave until you found a mummy. Now the rest of them probably are all dissolved, they're gone. They are dust and you would not know Abraham's dust from Leah's. But Jacob's body is probably still preserved being embalmed after the manner of the Egyptians. The Pharaohs that were embalmed as was Jacob's, so you would probably be able to see it! **Seventy days they mourned** for him.

***Gen 50:4 Now when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh (diplomatically, first gaining the support of Pharaoh's officers), saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying,***

***Gen 50:5 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am dying; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan (the land of the commitment made there! God's hand is on that land!), there you shall bury me." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.' "***

- Pharaoh may have been fearful that if they all leave maybe they won't come back. Joseph had proved to be very valuable to the Pharaoh, and thus, the Pharaoh would be reluctant to see him move back to the land of Canaan at this point. Joseph appealed to their strong sense of respect for the dead

by pointing out that his father had made them swear a solemn oath to bury him in the prepared grave back in Jacob's homeland of Canaan.

**Gen 50:6 And Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father" (recognizing it as an official Egyptian state funeral), as he made you swear."**

**Gen 50:7 So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,**

- **There was a huge entourage from Egypt. The elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, making this trek together.**

**Gen 50:8 as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's house. Only their little ones, their flocks, and their herds they left in the land of Goshen.**

- **Joseph was fifty-six years old when Jacob died. Ephraim and Manasseh were in their twenties or so. Joseph's sons, no doubt, went with him, as well as his brothers.**

**Gen 50:9 And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen, and it was a very great gathering.**

**Gen 50:10 Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.**

- **They went past the Red Sea, on over to the eastern side of the Dead Sea, and up until they came to the Jordan River; much the same route that their fathers will take later, under Joshua, crossing the Jordan River and then making their way the cave of Machpelah at Hebron where they were to bury him.**
- **They came to Atad, which is on the east side of the Jordan River in the area that today is called Jordan. It was the area of Moab at that earlier time.**

**Gen 50:11 And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians." Therefore its name was called Abel Mizraim, (meaning the mourning of the Egyptians) which is beyond the Jordan.**

**Gen 50:12 So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them.**

**Gen 50:13 For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place.**

**Gen 50:14 And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt (2nd time), he and his brothers (4th time) and all who went up with him to bury his father.**

- **The entourage went to Canaan, buried Jacob, and returned to Egypt.**

**God's Good Purposes**

**Gen 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him."**

- **Joseph's ten brothers are now thinking that he just waited till the old man died and now he is going to repay us for all the evil we have done. It is interesting that this guilt complex hangs on. For thirty-nine years these guys have been suffering guilt feelings for what they did! Guilt is so hard to get rid of. It hangs on. The only thing that can remove that guilt from your mind is the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, which washes and cleanses us from all sin!**

**Gen 50:16 So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying,**

**Gen 50:17 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.**

- **They said, "Dad told us before he died to come to you and ask you to please forgive our sin, the evil that we did." Joseph could not take it. He started weeping.**

**Gen 50:18 Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."**

- When the messengers came and told him this, he started weeping, so the brothers came in. They fell down before his face saying that we are at your mercy. We sold you as a slave, now we are guilty. We will be your slaves!

**Gen 50:19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?"**

- In the New Testament we read, (Heb 10:30) For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
- Joseph said, Am I in the place of God? Am I in the place to take vengeance? That is God's place. Judgment is God's place.

**Gen 50:20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.**

- Your intentions were bad, but God used your bad intentions to work His good. Often we find God reversing things, even done with wrong motives, but God is still able to use it for His glory. Though God intended good, Joseph went through years of real suffering and real testing before the good came out. Oftentimes in our own lives it is years before we see the real purpose of God for the hardships we have endured. During these times, not understanding, we find ourselves complaining against God. God, why? God does not tell us why. He just says, "Wait on Me, child."
- The only way I can wait is to have that faith in God that He is in control and that He is working. I do not know what He is doing; what His plan is, but I have committed my ways unto the Lord. I have committed my life to Him, and even though it looks like it is all over, it is all in God's hands, under His control! God is going to work, and when we see that come to pass, we rejoice in the Lord!

**Gen 50:21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.**

- Do not be afraid: I will provide for you, and your little ones, Joseph being a beautiful type of Christ. When Jesus comes again and the nation of Israel realizes and their eyes are open, the blindness is removed, they begin to mourn over Him. (Zec 12:10b) Then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. Jesus said, "I know that you intended it for evil, but God meant it for good. It was necessary that I die so that the world might be saved.
- Many people have wrongfully taken the position of God seeking recriminations against the Jews because of what they did to Jesus. No! No! You have to see beyond that. This is all a part of God's plan. Jesus said, "I have the power, no man takes my life from Me. I lay My life down." God is working it all for your good, "for all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

### ***The Death of Joseph***

**Gen 50:22 So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.**

**Gen 50:23 Joseph saw Ephraim's children (Joseph's great grandchildren) to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees.**

- That is, his great grandchildren. He had the privilege of bouncing his great grandkids on his knees and playing with them and watching them grow. Oh, how blessed.

**Gen 50:24 And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."**

**Gen 50:25 Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel (just as Jacob had commanded from him), saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."**

**Gen 50:26 So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.**

- God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here. That deliverance was not going to take place for another three hundred years, but when you leave, take these bones with you!
- This act of faith was enough to get him into the Faith Chapter, (Heb 11:22) By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions

concerning his bones. The faith that God is going to one day going to bring us out of this land and He is going to give us the land that He promised to Abraham: that faith in the promises of God.

- **So, when you leave, do not leave my bones here.** *Carry up my bones from here!* I want to be buried in the land of promise.” That is tremendous! Really, all of his life; all of the wealth, and all of his possessions were there in Egypt, but his heart was in the land of promise.
- **Where is my heart? Thinking about this life or is it in the land of promise? May it be totally so!**

## SUMMARY

- **Will that be my song to my family and loved ones on that day? The most important thing in my life is that I have salvation, promised by my LORD! I will be in His house forever!** (Gen 49:18) *I have waited for your salvation, O LORD!*
- **How much am I sharing the blessings that God has bestowed upon my life with others?** (Gen 49:22) *Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall.*
- **How often when an arrow sticks in my side, do I turn and let fly with everything I have before I even find out who shot it? I want revenge. I want to get even! How much of the old man is still in my desire to get revenge, to get even?**
- **Misrepresenting God to His people is a very serious thing! How frequently do I do that?** (Gen 49:24) *But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel).*
- **Where is my heart? Thinking about this life or is it in the land of promise? May it be totally so!** (Gen 50:25) *Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel (just as Jacob had commanded from him), saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."*
- **By faith Joseph...(Heb 11:22)** *By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.* The faith that God is going to one day going to bring us out of this land and He is going to give us the land that He promised to Abraham: that faith in the promises of God.
- **Faith in the promise of the Resurrection - (Joh 11:23-26)** *Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." [24] Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." [25] Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. [26] And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

## CLOSING SONG

**O PRAISE THE NAME (ANÁSTASIS -RESURRECTION)** (3:46/3:49) Hillsong

1 I cast my mind to Calvary Where Jesus bled and died for me.

I see His wounds, His hands, His feet, My Saviour on that cursed tree.

2 His body bound and drenched in tears; they laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.

The entrance sealed by heavy stone, Messiah still and all alone

(Refrain) O praise the name of the Lord our God O praise His name **forevermore**

For endless days we will sing Your praise Oh Lord, oh Lord our God.

3 And then on the third at break of dawn, The **Son of heaven rose again.**

O trampled death where is your sting? The angels roar for Christ the King (Refrain)

4 **He shall return** in robes of white the blazing sun shall pierce the night.

And **I will rise** among the saints, **my gaze transfixed on Jesus' face** (Refrain)

Oh Lord, oh Lord our God, Oh Lord, oh Lord our God.

## CLOSING PRAYER

**NEXT WEEK: Read and study Exodus Chapters 1-3!**