

Housekeeping...

- You can hear all classes at www.htchurch.com/genesis.
- No class until we begin *Prophets & Kings* on April 26th.
- Reading for Spring & Summer: *The Making Of A Man Of God*, by Alan Redpath.

Jacob is Gathered To His Fathers (Gen. 49:29-33)

29 Then he [Jacob] 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, 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. 31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah. 32 The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the sons of Heth."

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.

- Jacob had evidently prepared a grave in the burial complex of Machpelah.
- This was an act of faith in the promise of God. Jacob believed there would be a Resurrection in the Promised Land, and God would give that land to them.
- *Gathered to his people* can mean physical burial or spiritual reunion in Sheol.

Joseph Petitions Pharaoh (Gen. 50:1-6)

1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him, and kissed him. 2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians

for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

4 Now when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, 5 ‘My father made me swear, saying, “Behold, I am dying; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.” Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.’” 6 And Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear.”

- Joseph’s mourning: three aspects.
- Jacob and Joseph are the only two Hebrews we know of who were mummified. The total mourning period was almost as long as that for a Pharaoh, 72 days.
- Joseph gets permission from the Pharaoh to bury Jacob as he had requested.

Funeral Procession; Burial Of Jacob (Gen. 50:7-12)

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

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. 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, which is beyond the Jordan.

12 So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them. 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. 14 And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

- This was an immense and complicated expedition.
- The threshing floor of Atad is where the mourning took place. The word "atad" means a "thorn." Why does Moses relay this to us?
- Despite the change in the family status once Jacob passed away, it's significant that the family all returns to Egypt together.

God Meant It For Good (Gen. 50:15-21)

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." 16 So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, 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.

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

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

- The old fears are resurfacing. They cannot face Joseph.
- When Joseph hears the words of the messengers, he weeps one more time.
- Was Jacob also unsure about what Joseph might do?
- At one time they sold him as a slave, and now they are offering themselves to him as his servants.
- Joseph has a beautiful Romans 8 kind of faith.

The Covenant Promise (Gen. 50:22-26)

22 So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father’s household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. 23 Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph’s knees.

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.” 25 Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.” 26 So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

- The references to seeing his great-grandchildren (in other words the third generation) and to his great age show you the extent of the great blessings he received from God.
- His great age is a marker of the respect the Holy Spirit wanted the Jewish people to have for Joseph. The Egyptians also seemed to have a fondness or a reverence for people living to the age of 110.
- After Joseph’s 13 years of sufferings, he received in return 80 years of favor and blessing, and over 70 years that were spent reunited with his family.

- The book ends in hope and in faith, with Joseph's reminder of the covenant promise, and a reminder of the covenant-keeping God who stands behind it.
- *By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. (Hebrews 11:22)*
He trusted God for both the Exodus, and for the far-off day of Resurrection.

Aftermath & Exodus

God was waiting to bring them up out of Egypt until He had not only fashioned them into a people, but He was also waiting for the iniquity of the Amorites to be full.

A Change in Egyptian Leadership

1 Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; 4 Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. 5 All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already). 6 And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. 7 But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. 8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. (Exodus 1:1-8)

Burial of Joseph's Bones

And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you." (Exod. 13:19)

The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph. (Joshua 24:32)

What To Take Away From Genesis?

1. God is real.
2. God made everything.
3. God has a plan.
4. God will be faithful to His plan.
5. And God will always be faithful to you.

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