

Genesis 50.15-26

A Promise Kept

We all NEED to PREPARE for Death > More Pressing, How to Get Thru LIFE

After Jacob's Death OLD WORRIES Resurfaced in minds of his FAMILY

Many Families Disintegrate when BOTH Parents DIE, Nothing to Hold Together

## 1. Our Sins will be Pardoned

### a. Fake Devotion

vs. 15-17 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father."

Just FINISHED 70 days of MOURNING – United in Loyalty to their FATHER

Now they're UNITED in LYING About their FATHER to their BROTHER

When I was in Elementary School > Needed Note from Parents if Absent or Late

Some of MOST Influential Students those who could FAKE Adult Handwriting

If Needed NOTE that LOOKED like REAL ADULT Handwriting You Paid!

I'm Not Saying I HIRED these Scribes – sharing ANCIENT HISTORIC FACTS

NOT told who Brothers got to Write JACOB Note to Joseph, Smells like Forgery

One thing VERY CLEAR in Last Chapters of Genesis – Jacob NOT Bashful

NOT Afraid to say what NEEDS to be Said to Each Son – No Matter how Tough

Father had MOST TIME with Joseph – PLENTY of Time to Say All Wanted Say

Became Xtian age 16 – Non-Christian Family, All Friends Not Christian

Heard Gospel by SURPRISE at Camp, No idea C in YMCA stood for Christian!

Mustard Seed of Faith but Thoughts, Words, Actions, Habits were NOT Changed

Found little Church down Street from Home and Went Most Sundays  
 Most of Time Showed Up HUNG OVER, Sometimes still a bit DRUNK  
 BAD MOVIES had WATCHED were Still PLAYING in my HEAD  
 As sat in CHURCH was PLANNING how I could go do MORE BAD THINGS

Going into BAKERY Not make Someone LOAF of BREAD  
 Just Going into CHURCH was NOT Making Me MORE LIKE JESUS  
 It is RELATIONSHIP with him that Changes Us – Not RITUALS and Traditions  
 Great thing about God's Word & Spirit > Power to get into SINFUL HEARTS!

PROMISE of God was on these BROTHERS but still PLAYING Games w/ God  
 Sent PHONY MESSAGE to TEST the Waters with POWERFUL BROTHER

Brother with enough GUANXI to get them BEST Land of EGYPT

Brother made sure they FLOURISHED while Egyptians Suffered FAMINE  
 Joseph said to his brothers, "...God sent me before you to preserve life...God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God...You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you"...And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them.

Genesis 45.4-15

17 yrs PASSED and they were Still Eating FREE LUNCHESES from Joseph  
 Still PLAYING this HYPOCRITICAL Game with their HONEST Brother

b. Full Disclosure v. 17 Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Joseph WEPT Again – First for his FATHER, NOW for his BROTHERS  
 After 17 yrs of KINDNESS, they Still DOUBT his Sincere FORGIVENESS

In all those Years – ONLY CONFESSION we READ was to THEMSELVES

Then they said to one another, “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.” Genesis 42.21

They UNWITTINGLY Unknowingly Confessed to JOSEPH Understood Hebrew  
More Worried about What Sin did to THEM than to JOSEPH or to GOD!

NOW since “the Letter” showed Joseph OPEN, Make PERSONAL Appearance

v. 18 His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.”

As they COME they Offer themselves as his SLAVES

They had LITERALLY made JOSEPH a SLAVE Decades Earlier

Brothers WAITED 17 years to FORMALLY ask Joseph for FORGIVENESS

v. 19 But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?”

Joseph had FORGIVEN Them and MOVED ON – For his OWN PEACE

Am I in the place of God? OF COURSE NOT!

REGARD Joseph as God’s SURROGATE – Represents Him – Joseph says NO

SIN is ULTIMATELY and PRIMARILY AGAINST God

v. 20 As for you, you meant evil against me...

Brothers CONFESSION “we did evil”/ Jo’s CONFIRMATION “you meant evil”

EVIL does not just EVAPORATE - It STICKS – Seen by God – Kept in Books

EVIL was Really DONE – No SHALLOW Denial or Pretending Evil NOT Done

No BLAMING – Jacob as BAD DAD or Brother as Tattle-Tale BRAT

Just because we ESCAPE Earthly Consequences – Not Mean OFF God’s Hook

If want to be Saved: FACE Reality of SIN > Against God and One ANOTHER

You can FAKE your Way thru CHURCH – No Faking when stand before Christ!

Our Sin NOT just ACCIDENTAL but Often Very INTENTIONAL  
 Others SEE our BEHAVIOR but God sees our HEARTS --- NOT Pretty!  
 TO RECEIVE Forgiveness > We must ACKNOWLEDGE Our OWN Sin

### c. Final Deliverance

v. 21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Joseph NO NEED to FORGIVE Them – Already DID - does REASSURE Them  
 “I” Emphatic, Joseph HIMSELF PROVIDES - Speaks to their HEART “kindly”

Genesis Begins w/ CAIN killing Brother – Ends Joseph IS his Brother’s Keeper

If they had not repented, they would still have been under divine wrath. Judas Iscariot also served God’s purpose, but it would have been better for him had he never been born. Bruce Waltke

It is GOD’S Place to JUDGE EVIL > Only HE is HOLY and RIGHTEOUS  
 As Grandpa ABE pled for SODOM, He knew God’s WAYS are PERFECT  
 “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” Genesis 18.25

Like the BROTHERS – Sometimes its HARD to BELIEVE We are FORGIVEN  
 Joseph shown them 20 yrs of FORGIVENESS – STILL did NOT Believe him  
 Some of US Today DOUBT God’s Forgiveness – Very AWARE of our SIN

Something BAD Happens – Fail Exam, Lose Job or Loved One – Start Doubting  
 DARK Cloud covers our Horizon, Sure “God is really OUT to GET ME!”

Look at CROSS! Clearest PORTRAIT of AWESOME LOVE of Amazing God!  
 ONLY Son – Beloved Son – SINLESS Son – NOTHING More PRECIOUS  
 Sins were NAILED to CROSS and BURIED in Ocean Depths of God’s LOVE

Our ON-Going SIN and FAILURE will NEVER Change That FACT

God CONDEMNS the HYPOCRITES, but he COMFORTS the HUMBLE

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. Psalm 103.8-12

More than 1000 yrs After Jacob DIED, God still PROMISES Full PARDON

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob... Micah 7.18-20

Through Christ, God's mercy now rests on aliens and strangers from all nations... In Christ, you do not get what you deserve. Instead, you get something so amazing that you could never deserve it: God's overwhelming grace. Iain Duguid

## 2. Our Sufferings have a Purpose

Joseph's FORGIVENESS was NO SMALL Gesture – Swallowed a lot of PAIN

a. Our Pain - Joseph Suffered different Forms of ABUSE

1) Hatred of Brothers Joseph was Self-Centered DREAMER as Teenager

But their RESPONSE was Way BEYOND what he Needed or Deserved

Poured Out their Hatred of Joseph & Jacob > Broke Family, STOLE Jo's LIFE

No Wonder – Almost 100 yrs Later – Still AFRAID Face their Wronged Brother

2) Cruelty of Employer – Joseph LANDED on his FEET in Egypt

Responsible JOB for Respected Leader – Steward Everything Potiphar Owned

But NOT his WIFE – Joseph joined #MeToo – Sexual Attack in WORKPLACE

### 3) Forgetfulness of Friend – FALSELY Imprisoned on RAPE Charges

Soon TRUSTED there TOO – Cheers INMATES – Calls on God to Bless Them

Good News for Pharaoh’s CUPBEARER – Soon RELEASED

Joseph asks Cupbearer for Some Good News > Help him get RELEASED Too!

Soon has to UNPACK his BAGS – Stays ROTTING in Prison 2 More Years!

Hatred of Brothers / Cruelty of Employer / Forgetfulness of Friend

Not much has CHANGED in last 4000 yrs – Life Still Serves up a lot of PAIN

May the Lord give us more people in Africa who have a kind and gracious heart like that of Joseph. We should not nurture our hurts, but should let them go and live in peace.

Samuel Ngewa

#### b. God’s Providence

v. 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Joseph has MODELED 2 Truths about GOD – He is Sovereign & He is Good

#### 1) God is Working for the Good of those who Love Him

Chinese Friend shared her Parents Too Practical to Follow Jesus

When LOOK at Christian’s Lives ALSO Have Problems – What Good is He?

Elizabeth Elliot had ONE Husband MURDERED by Auca Indians

And ANOTHER Husband SLOWLY EATEN AWAY by TERRIBLE CANCER

“The experiences of my life are not such that I could infer from them that God is good, gracious, and merciful necessarily. To have one husband murdered and another one disintegrate, body, soul, and spirit, through cancer is not what you would call proof of the love of God. In fact, there are many times when it looked like just the opposite.”

Elizabeth Elliot

Joseph's Life SHOWS Clearly > Does NOT Mean ONLY Good Things Happen

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son Romans 8.28,29

We LOVE Romans 8.28 – God's LOVING, GOOD, PROVIDENCE for Us

But Romans 8.29 CLARIFIES WHAT is the GOOD – Made LIKE Jesus!

No way to BE LIKE Jesus without a CROSS – SUFFERING is SANCTIFYING FIRES of Affliction are FORGING the Gold – Burning DROSS & PURIFYING

2) All things are Controlled by God, so He can Work them for Good

Joseph could CLEARLY See that Pharaoh's Dream was FROM GOD

But by FAITH he Attributes to GOD ALL Things – Even what he Can't SEE!

The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.  
Proverbs 16.4

“All things” really means “all things” – God is not a liar, there is nothing in your life than can possibly be excluded...the experiences of your childhood...your parents...where you were born...your education...your employment...the house you live in...the furniture, your friends, your church, and even your appearance – the face that stares back at you from your mirror in the morning...everything is being used of God for your good as well as the good of others. James Boice

3) We can Know that God is Sovereign and Good and Live like its True

Many people have RIGHT Theology and WRONG Hearts

ANGRY – BITTER – DISAPPOINTED – COMPLAINING – COMPARING

Joseph can CRY for his Brothers because his Heart was CLEAN and KIND

If you – Like Joseph – have been SINNED Against – Need to Learn to Forgive

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12.21

We cannot REPAIR Every Relationship or MAKE Peace with EVERYONE

But we can SHOW Gospel-Driven KINDNESS, as we've Received from God

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12.14-18

CROSS bears Fruit in our Lives so we can FORGIVE as we've been Forgiven

Last Sunday some of us Learned about CATECHISM

Getting VITAL Truths into our HEADS so GOD use them to Change HEARTS

Catechisms of REFORMATION remind us of the PROVIDENCE of our GOD

1. Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

The Heidelberg Catechism, 1563



### 3. Our Savior will be Praised

#### a. Waiting in a Coffin

vs. 22,23 ...Joseph lived 110 years. And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own.

Egyptian MUMMIES show Life EXPECTANCY was btwn 40 and 50 years  
 IDEAL Age for an Egyptian was 110 years – Sign of BLESSING to JOSEPH  
 To LIVE to see Grandkids Kids in Ancient Near East “reward of righteousness”  
 So JOSEPH is DOUBLY BLESSED by God and Man

v. 24 And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Confidence of Joseph > Expects his sons to Enter into Land > God PROMISED  
 First Time BIBLE links Names Abraham, Isaac, Jacob – Patriarchs we Follow  
 We can TRUST Absolute Truthfulness and Historicity of God's Word  
 Little Graveyard in Little Field in Canaan > Beckons them Back Promised Land

vs. 25,26 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.” So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Even tho Joseph lived 93 years in Egypt > Still ON Mission in FOREIGN Land  
 Knew his REAL HOMELAND was God’s PROMISED Land  
 Believed PROMISE God spoke to his FATHER JACOB

God appeared to Jacob...and blessed him...“no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name...A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.”  
 Genesis 35.9-12

## Covenant Promises frame Beginning & End of Joseph's Life

### Joseph TRUSTS Promises of God to the Very End

Absolutely Confident God Faithfully Bring His People Out of Egypt / In Canaan

Nation of ISRAEL Stayed in Egypt 400 yrs.

Moses writes GENESIS to Israelites ruled by PHARAOH who Not Know Joseph  
More HARSH & DIFFICULT their Life Became > BONES of Joseph gave Hope  
Pharaoh may have FORGOTTEN Them – But have FAVOR of God of JOSEPH

FINAL Words of Genesis v. 26 and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Coffin – No word in Biblical Hebrew is EXACT Match – Jews wrap body Cloth

Word used SAME as ARK of the Covenant – MIGRANTS Carried 2 BOXES

1) REMAINS of JOSEPH, 2) of Covenant God >> God's Faithfulness

Joseph tied his whole hope to that of his people. If Israel stayed in exile forever in Egypt, so would he. If God brought them up out of Egypt into the Promised Land, then his bones would go up with them. He staked his future resting place entirely on the fulfillment of God's promise for all his people... The book of Genesis began with a man in a garden, enjoying God's presence; it ends with a man in a coffin, looking forward to a restoration of that presence. Iain Duguid

### b. Watching for the Cross

vs. 24,25 *God will visit you* and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, *“God will surely visit you...”*

Joseph's DYING WORDS was HOPE of the Nation “God will surely visit you”  
Spoken TWICE for EMPHASIS – Great CONFIDENCE of Joseph - Emmanuel

No funeral procession like Jacob's was to set out for Canaan; the matter could bide God's time and a better exodus. Derek Kidner

As Joseph was Gathered to his People – He saw Some of God’s Plan Fulfilled  
 By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the  
 Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones. Hebrews 11.22

MOSES the Author of Genesis & Ex, Lev, Num, Deut – Will LEAD the Exodus

God said to Moses, “Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them,  
 ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of  
 Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, “I have observed you and what has been done  
 to you in Egypt, and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction...””  
 Exodus 3.16,17

Not only do we have FIRST Book of Bible – We have FINAL Book of Bible

We READ Promises Made AND We SEE in CHRIST the Promises Kept

As he (*Jesus*) was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his  
 clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him,  
 Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his *exodus* which he was  
 about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Luke 9.29-31

Like Joseph we TRUST in God of PROMISE – Promises Now Yes & Amen in X

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him  
 that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. 2 Corinthians 1.20

For Both Sinners AND Sinned AGAINST > Evil DESERVES to be JUDGED

We do NOT Call Evil Good – Evil forever Remains EVIL – Sin stays SIN

Our SOVEREIGN and GOOD God can TRANSFORM Evil, SAVE from SIN

As long as the Cross stands in history, no one who knows its meaning will be  
 able to pronounce a limitation on God’s providence. James Boice

CROSS > Supreme Example God TURNING EVIL into GOOD

See EVIL Judged in Only Completely INNOCENT Person that ever Lived

God's OUTRAGE at SIN was Poured Out on His BELOVED SON

In that TERRIBLE Death we are SET FREE from WRATH and Judgment

He was SLAIN so the ETERNAL SMILE of God would remain ON US!

His BONES lay DEAD in a TOMB for 3 days > Rose Never to DIE Again

God can TURN EVIL to GOOD, FORGIVE SINNERS Instead of Condemning

Jesus the Judge says "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."  
John 8.11

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished. And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."  
Revelation 15.1-4

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Genesis 50.<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him."<sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died,<sup>17</sup>"Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.<sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."<sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?<sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.<sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.<sup>22</sup>So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years.<sup>23</sup>And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own.<sup>24</sup>And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."<sup>25</sup>Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."<sup>26</sup>So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.