

Genesis 49.29 – 50.14

A Good Death



How do you FACE DEATH? Question EVERYONE will have to ANSWER
 Painting depicts DEATH of SOCRATES – Story was told by PLATO
 Convicted by Athenians: Corrupting the Youth & Introducing Strange gods
 Sentenced to Die by Drinking Poison Hemlock

70 yr Old – TEACHER to Very End – EMBRACES Death as Teaching Moment
 Believed IMMORTALITY of SOUL – Eager Escape from Body to FREEDOM

Some FRIENDS and FOLLOWERS in Picture were NOT SO CONFIDENT
 Some CANNOT WATCH - Others WEEP- One Wants to Take Cup Away

Modern WESTERN Culture described as DEATH-DENYING

We stay FOREVER YOUNG because we hide ELDERLY in CARE HOMES!

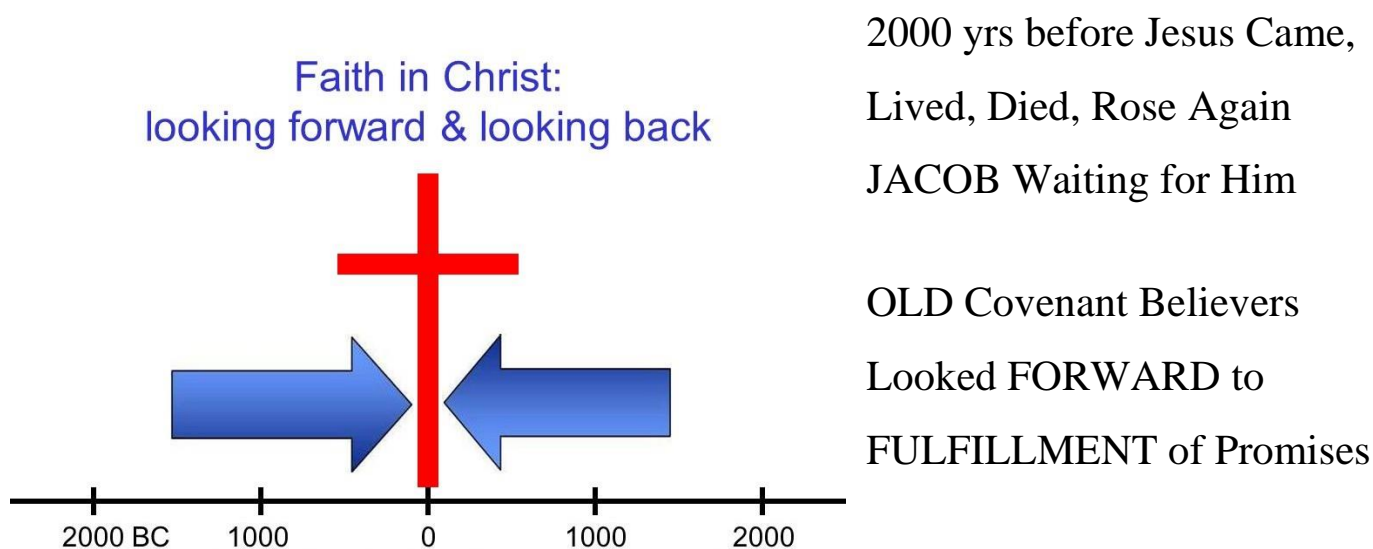
BIBLE describes DEATH-TRANSFORMING Perspective...

APOSTLE PAUL believed RESURRECTION of Jesus was Game Changer...

“Death is swallowed up in victory.
O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?” 1 Corinthians 15.54,55

PAUL faced his OWN Death with Confidence like SOCRATES

But with MORE SOLID HOPE – HISTORICAL FACT of Jesus Resurrection
the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life
and immortality to light through the gospel 2 Timothy 1.10,11



Step back 4000 yrs GENESIS - See GOOD DEATH – Learn from Jacob & Sons

1. Confident Farewell

a. Changing Addresses

Some Commentators say OT Not Said Much about AFTERLIFE Yet

TRUE – Theology is PROGRESSIVE – More & More Truth Revealed > NT

HOPE is Birthed in CRIME SCENE of Garden of Eden

God NOT Only Prosecutor and Judge > He is their SAVIOR

DEATH Penalty must be PAID – But NOT End of their Relationship w/ GOD

People of Faith must go thru DOORWAY of Death, Life w/ GOD on Other Side

FIRST Person to DIE on PLANET Earth – ABEL, Murdered – Transcends Death

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. *And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.* Hebrews 11.4

Another MAN OF FAITH taken DIRECTLY into HEAVEN without Death...

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. Hebrews 11.5

One Day God and Enoch went on LONG WALK – Enoch was Far from Home

God said “My house is much closer...why don’t you come on over!”

So JACOB is Setting Out on a JOURNEY – Forward his MAIL on to HEAVEN

v. 33 When Jacob had finished giving instructions to his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

People in OLD AGE begin to LOSE their MIND or BODY > I’m Losing Both
Jacob’s 147 yr old Body is FADING FAST – MIND still Clear and FOCUSED

Handed BATON of ABRAHAMIC BLESSING to SONS and GRANDsons
REBUKED their SIN and REMINDED them of the SAVING Mercies of GOD

His FEET had Journeyed many MILES – Now gathered Feet in the Bed to DIE

He DECEIVED his Blind Father, but he Cannot Deceived DEATH

He FLED from his Brother ESAU, but he Cannot flee from the GRAVE

Seen ANGELS Climbing Ladder to Heaven, Now Climbs that Ladder to See God

Says GOOD-BYE to SONS and HELLO to Father, Mother, Grandfather

Gathered w/ People: COVENANT People, REDEEMED People, People FAITH

Abel, Enock, Methuselah, Noah > VAST COMPANY of O.T. SAINTS

Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people. Genesis 25.8

Isaac...breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people, old and full of years. Genesis 35.28-29

Jacob's Focus on NEXT WORLD - Gathered to my Peeps, Hang with HOMIES

Jacob had LIVED 15 years with GRANDFATHER ABRAHAM

He lived WITH or NEAR his Father ISAAC for 100 years

Now they are EVER LIVING SAINTS with an EVER LIVING GOD

JESUS told the SADDUCEES

“As for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” Matthew 22.31,32

b. Commands

v. 29 Then he commanded them / v. 33 When Jacob finished commanding his sons

Not every OLD MAN on his DEATH BED is OBEYED when Shouts ORDERS

Esp FATHER did BAD JOB for Most of his PARENTAL CAREER

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons...when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him. Genesis 37.3,4

Many Shout Death Bed Commands Today – Given another Injection Pain Killer

FATHER Jacob just Spoken BLESSING to each of 12 Sons and their Families

v. 28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him.

FINAL Years GREW in his FAITH – FATHERLY CARE for ALL 12 SONS

Last 17 yrs Worked on Getting RIGHT with God and his FAMILY

FAMILY wants to be AROUND his DYING BED for FINAL GOODBYES

STRENGTH of COMMAND and CONVICTION – Made PLANS a SUCCESS

vs. 4-6 Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, My father made me swear, saying, ‘I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me.’ Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return.” And Pharaoh answered, “Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear.”

Even PHARAOH of Egypt RESPECTED the FIRE in OLD MAN Jacob’s EYES

HEAVEN May be ANOTHER REALM > Jesus THRONE Closer than we Think

Just because We Cannot HEAR or SEE Something – Not Mean, does Not EXIST

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Acts 7.55

Stephen DID NOT have TELESCOPE > NAKED EYE > Saw Heaven and Jesus

Elementary School FATHER had STORE IN SHOPPING MALL in California

PET SHOP > POODLES HAIRCUT AND MADE BEAUTIFUL

Friends & I used to sit with DOG WHISTLES – Watching and Blowing

DOG WHISTLE – Sound BEYOND RANGE of Human Ear

Piercingly Clear to more Sensitive Ears of a Dog / IMPOSSIBLE TO GROOM

Sounds & Sights in Another Realm / JESUS IN GLORY > REAL as You & Me

BIBLE Commends PATRIARCHS – Abe, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, and JACOB

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. Hebrews 11.13-16

c. Cave

vs. 29-32 bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah—the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the Hittites.”

NOT RAMBLINGS of Dying Man > but RIGHT DIRECTIONS for LIVING
Wants FAMILY to know they OWN Property in Promised Land – Where it IS!

BURIED with FATHERS because he EMBRACED FAITH of his FATHERS

More than a DEATH-BED FAITH – LIFE TRANSFORMING Faith

BEEN a BAD BOY but RECEIVED MERCY and GRACE of FORGIVENESS

JACOB focused on TINY PIECE of Land he and family OWNED Then

OUR FOCUS is on ALL WORLD > WON by our SAVIOR Right Hand of God
the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world...
through the righteousness of faith Romans 4.13

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” Matthew 5.5

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!” Abraham Kuyper

d. Culture

v. 2,3 Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Forty days were required for it, for that is how many are required for embalming.

Egyptians EMBALMED and HONORED Dead to Assist their Afterlife Journey

Israelites did NOT Embalm Bodies > Handle Corpse Honorably

HEBREWS respectfully placed in Graves waiting for Resurrection DAY

JOSEPH wants to Extend HONOR & DIGNITY to Father for Journey to Canaan

We are not to think that Joseph was motivated by Egypt's view of death and the afterlife. He did not think he was preserving Jacob's body for the land of shades. But neither did he forego the normal decent preparation and honoring that was customary in that culture.

James Boice

DIFFERENT Cultures & CUSTOMS of Burial Today – Even among Christians

One thing CLEAR in Scripture – God not gonna Use Old Bodies in HEAVEN

There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another...So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

1 Corinthians 15.40-43

2. Comfort of Faith

a. Sobbing – No CONFLICT between FAITH and FEELINGS

v. 1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him.

DEATH is an ENEMY – Separation > Soul and Body – Living and Dead

NO Matter how STRONG our FAITH - To LOSE a LOVED ONE still SHOCK

TO LOSE A LOVED ONE IS TO LOSE PART OF YOUR VERY SELF

Joseph was Man of DEEP COMPASSION – LOVES & Shows AFFECTION

Joseph became MOURNER in CHIEF for ENTIRE NATION

They had GROWN to Love & Appreciate JOSEPH > HONORED his Father

v. 10, 11 they lamented there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days. When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians." Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim

Abel-mizraim = MOURNING at a BROOK i.e. Historical / Geographic FACT –

Not a MYTH but TRUE EVENTS – Real People in Real Place

1983 Lived at Kuluva Hospital Arua, Uganda – Church HOSPITAL

CUSTOM of Some Lugbara WAIL AT DEATH, HOPELESS / DESPERATION

ALL NIGHT LONG / SOMETIMES FOR DAYS

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4.13

Paul NOT Saying Don't CRY > CRY with HOPE – Informed! Jesus has RISEN!

USA --- One KEY Enjoyable to Funeral Service – Get it OVER WITH Quick!

MOURNING for 70 Days... Today? Mentally Deranged, Intolerably MORBID

People that Mourn SO LONG need MEDICATION – Maybe Need LOCKED UP

ADMIT it Takes YEARS to get OVER Death of Loved One – Never Completely

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” John 14.1-3

NOT FAIRYLAND or DREAM > REAL PLACE

NEVER seen Moscow or Manila > KNOW Exist > Trusted People been There

Heaven is a Real Place > Jesus BEEN THERE Came from There to Tell Us

Jesus: “For I have come down from heaven....”

John 6.38

NOTHING HARDER than LEAVING HOME > PAIN felt by MANY HERE

MOVE IN to APT. > OWNER wants it BACK > or Rent will BANKRUPT You

HEAVEN NOT EASY to GET IN > But IMPOSSIBLE to GET EVICTED

Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ

Philippians 3.20

b. Serving v. 2 Joseph commanded his servants...

v. 4 Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh...

Perhaps Joseph looked so BAD after Long MOURNING, Not want See/Be Seen
 Christians in Thessalonica > Wrong View of Death > STOPPED Working!
 DEATH of Beloved Father – NOT END Joseph’s ZEAL to Serve

Thinking about HEAVEN // Thinking about the HERE AND NOW

Christian FOCUSED on HEAVEN is eager to be FRUITFUL on EARTH

We want More People on EARTH to Meet JESUS and GET to HEAVEN

When men forget the next world and concentrate only on the present life, this world becomes a kind of living hell, with confusion, lawlessness and immorality and vice rampant... The only man who really respects life in this world is the man who know that this world is the antechamber to the next. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

c. Saluting v. 3 And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

Moses emphasizes GRAND SIZE of FUNERAL CORTEGE

For DECADES Joseph was ONLY Believer in TRUE GOD in Entire NATION

Now NATION STOPS for 70 days – Funeral for KING – ISRAEL the Patriarch

vs. 7-9 So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen. And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very great company.

ISRAEL accorded ROYAL HONORS of a VISITING DIGNITARY

How far this little family of Abraham has progressed. God promised to make Abraham’s name great and to bless him. Now all Egypt stops and pays attention with great pomp and circumstance at the passing of his grandson. John Walton

d. Showing the Way

Jacob Trusted in Covenant Promises, even at Gates of Death

Final Charge of his Life > He Pointed his sons to those Promises

He Fights the Good Fight and he Finishes the Course

God calls us Trust those Promises > He calls us to Obey His Word

Jacob, who fought his way into life, departs just as dramatically. The life of Jacob, which stretched over half the book of Genesis, has seen the family through moments of trust and betrayal, sterility and fertility, feast and famine, separation and reunion, all within the promise and providence of God. E.F. Roop

1) Joseph

JOSEPH first Son get ARM TWISTED by DYING FATHER, Man on MISSION

When the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt, but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place." He answered, "I will do as you have said." And he said, "Swear to me"; and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself upon the head of his bed. Genesis 47.29-31

JOSEPH led the FAMILY to HONOR and OBEY Father's FINAL WISH

JOSEPH BELIEVED Dad Really was Going Somewhere, He wanted Come too!

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." Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." Genesis 50.24,25

2) Nation - MOSES is writing this 400 yrs AFTER the EVENTS

vs. 6,9 Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt...And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very great company.

1st Readers ISRAELITES, made SLAVES in Egypt by Pharaoh not know Joseph

REMINDS them THEIR GOD is LORD of PHARAOH and his CHARIOTS

Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15.1,2

v. 10 When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan
 ENTOURAGE follows CURIOUS Route – NOT MOST Direct Way to Canaan
 Jacob’s COURSE > Same ROUTE NATION of Israel would take 400 yrs Later

3) Believer

This grand funeral procession and this exaltation of Jacob as a king by the
 Egyptians foreshadows Israel’s exodus from the world and give a foretaste of the
 time when the nations hail a son of Jacob as King. Bruce Waltke

Our LIFE is GIFT: Begins w/ God’s Breath / Ends when God takes Breath Away

NO ONE Gave Life to GOD > HE IS LIFE > ETERNALLY ALIVE ‘I AM’

...God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it
 was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts 2.24

HE is AUTHOR of LIFE, He ALONE Gives Life

THROUGH His DEATH for US > He has the RIGHT to GRANT LIFE to US

Jesus: “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who
 sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from
 death to life.” John 5.24

God, not the grave, has the last word. If death had the last word for God’s saints,
 then death would be god. Bruce Waltke

Middle Ages - Jester in King's Court - FOOLISH REMARK

"Take this staff until you find a bigger fool than yourself"

Years Later - King on DEATHBED - CALLS FOR COURT

Jester "Your majesty, when you go on trips you prepare...

sending heralds, servants, nobles, diplomats BEFORE YOU

What preparations for this LAST, LONG JOURNEY?? – NONE!

Jester to KING > Take Staff - "YOU are bigger fool than I"

ARE You THAT Fool? Or have you Trusted in Christ and been FORGIVEN?

Many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 8.11

Genesis 49.²⁸All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him.

²⁹Then he commanded 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 at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place.³¹ There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah—³²the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the Hittites.”³³ When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

50:¹Then 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 embalmed Israel.³ Forty days were required for it, for that is how many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.⁴ And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying,⁵ My father made me swear, saying, ‘I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me.’ Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return.”⁶ And Pharaoh answered, “Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear.”⁷ So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,⁸ as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen.⁹ And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very great company.¹⁰ When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days.¹¹ When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians.” Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan.¹² Thus his sons did for him 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 at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place.¹⁴ After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.