

The Finale of Jacob and Joseph

Genesis 50:1-26

I. THE BURIAL OF JACOB (Genesis 50:1-13)

A. The Preparation of the Body for Burial (Genesis 50:1-3)

1. Joseph's mourning for his father (Genesis 50:1)
 - a. *"Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him."*
 - b. Joseph's mourning showed his great affection for his father.
 - (1) His affection was unaffected by his splendour—despite of his high position in the land, he did not reject his shepherd-father [Note: Joseph as a type of Christ: The LORD has respect unto the lowly (Psalm 138:6)].
 - (2) His affection was unequaled by his siblings—his brothers did not have the same amount of affection for their father at least in the early years as seen by their evil to their father.
2. The mortuary for Jacob's body (Genesis 50:2-3a)
 - a. Jacob's body was embalmed.
 - b. This was done at the direction of Joseph (Genesis 50:2)
 - (1) Done by the Egyptian physicians.
 - (2) Took a period of forty days.
3. The memorial for Jacob (Genesis 50:3)
 - a. The Egyptians mourned for Jacob seventy days (Genesis 50:3b)
 - b. Mourning for the dead
 - (1) Thirty days—the amount of time that they wept for Moses (Deuteronomy 34:8) and Aaron (Numbers 20:29)
 - (2) Seven days—the common time of mourning for the Jews (Genesis 50:8-10; 1 Samuel 31:11-13)
 - (3) Seventy days—possibly the standard amount of time the Egyptians mourned (Genesis 50:2-3)
 - (4) Notice that the Jews did not mourn for their dead in the same fashion as the Egyptians. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Christians are told not to sorrow like those who have no hope: *"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."*

B. The Plans Made to Transport the Body (Genesis 50:4-6)

1. The request to transport (Genesis 50:4-5)
 - a. Joseph made request of Pharaoh (Genesis 50:4)
 - b. Joseph asked to be able to honour his father's request to be buried in the land of Canaan (Genesis 50:5)
 - c. Joseph promised to return (Genesis 50:5)
2. The permission to transport (Genesis 50:6)

C. The Burial Party to Transport the Body (Genesis 50:7-11)

1. The burial party left the land of Egypt (Genesis 50:7-9)
 - a. The demographic of the burial party (Genesis 50:7-8)
 - (1) All the servants of Pharaoh
 - (2) The elders of Pharaoh's house
 - (3) The elders of the land of Egypt
 - (4) All the house of Joseph
 - (5) Joseph's brethren
 - b. The burial party included chariots and horsemen (Genesis 50:9) [Note: This indicates that they had a military escort (Exodus 14:7, 17, 28)].
2. The mourning lasted seven days at the floor of Atad (Genesis 50:10-11).
 - a. Upon arriving at the threshingfloor of Atad, Joseph lamented sore for the loss of his father (Genesis 50:10).
 - b. The Canaanites dwelling in the land witnessed the mourning and changed the name of the place to Abel-mizraim (Genesis 50:11).

D. The Burial of Jacob in the Cave of Machpelah (Genesis 50:12-13)

1. Under Joseph's obvious direction, the brothers fulfilled their father's dying commands (Genesis 50:12).
2. He was buried in the cave of Machpelah (Genesis 50:13).
 - a. Where Abraham was buried.
 - b. Where Sarah was buried.
 - c. Where Isaac was buried.
 - d. And where Rebekah and Leah were buried.

II. THE FEAR OF JOSEPH BY HIS BROTHERS (Genesis 50:14-21)

A. The Return of Joseph and His Brothers to Egypt (Genesis 50:14)

1. Joseph and his brethren returned into the land of Egypt after the burial of Jacob.
2. The servants and elders also returned with them.

B. The Approach of Joseph's Brothers to Him in Fear (Genesis 50:15-18)

1. Joseph's brothers became very afraid of him.
2. They feared he would seek revenge now that their father was dead (Genesis 50:15) [Note: Vengeance belongs to God (Hebrews 10:30)].
 - a. They assumed their father was the only reason that Joseph accepted them.
 - b. They assumed that Joseph was like most men, seeking revenge upon others.
3. They spoke in their father's name (Genesis 50:16).
 - a. They used their father's name for authority.
 - b. They sent word through a messenger (Proverbs 29:25).
4. They sought forgiveness for their sin toward Joseph (Genesis 50:17). –
Note: It is unknown whether these were truly Jacob's words or if the brothers were using Jacob's name for leverage.
5. They offered themselves as servants to Joseph (Genesis 50:18).

C. The Assurance by Joseph of Their Safety (Genesis 50:19-21)

1. Joseph immediately calmed their fears and assured them that he would not usurp God's authority by taking judgment into his hands (Genesis 50:19).
2. In everything that had taken place, Joseph recognized that it was God's purpose (Genesis 50:20).
3. He desired to only nourish and comfort them (Genesis 50:21), something that he had already been doing (Genesis 47:12). Truly Joseph is a great example of what the NT believer should be (Romans 12:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 Peter 3:9).

III. THE FINALE OF JOSEPH (Genesis 50:22-26)

A. Joseph's Blessed Life (Genesis 50:22-23)

1. Joseph lived to the age of 110 yrs. old (Genesis 50:22)
2. Joseph would see his grandchildren and great-grandchildren (Genesis 50:23).

B. Joseph's Secured Promise from His Family (Genesis 50:24-25)

1. Joseph approached the time of his death (Genesis 50:24).
2. Joseph foretold of God's deliverance (Genesis 50:24).
3. Joseph wanted his bones taken to the promised land when the children of Israel returned there (Hebrews 11:22).

C. Joseph's Death in the Land of Egypt (Genesis 50:26)

1. Genesis began with a man in the garden and ends with a man in a coffin.
2. These extremes are indicative of the curse of sin.