

The Book of Genesis / In The Beginning
Part Fourteen
Wednesday, May 12, 2010

CHAPTERS 47 - 50

Most scriptures used in tonight's study are taken from the New Living Bible.

As we approach the final study on Genesis, we are also considering the final chapters in the life of Jacob. When we first met him in chapter 25, we didn't like him very much. He was a me-first, conniving, arrogant cheater and liar. But in these final chapters we note Jacob's transition to a man of great faith and integrity - and we like him a lot! Jacob's life is a showcase for the amazing grace of God!

Joseph by now has revealed his identity to his brothers. Imagine their shock when they learned that:

- ▶ Their brother was alive after 21 years
- ▶ Their brother was the mighty Zaphnath-paaneah, second-in-command in Egypt
- ▶ The man standing in front of them at that moment, with the power of life or death over them was, indeed, their brother Joseph.

Joseph showed his brothers the mercy of God and brought them and all his family, including his father Jacob, to Egypt, where the Pharaoh received them warmly and provided fertile, productive property for them (except in the remaining years of the prophesied drought).

Chapter 47

Joseph Presents His Father And Brothers To Pharaoh

Genesis 47:1-2

So Joseph went to see Pharaoh and said, "My father and my brothers are here from Canaan. They came with all their flocks and herds and possessions, and they are now in the land of Goshen."

[2] Joseph took five of his brothers with him and presented them to Pharaoh.

I find it extremely interesting that Joseph did not take all eleven of his brothers for the meeting with the monarch - only five. Which five? We don't know. On what basis did he make that selection? We don't know. One writer surmises that moral and spiritual considerations were the primary factors. One thing is sure: all the brothers didn't meet the Pharaoh. A half dozen of them were left out, not unlike the five foolish

1 virgins of which Jesus spoke: Matthew 25:1-13 "God's kingdom is like ten young
2 virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. [2] Five were silly
3 and five were smart. [3] The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. [4] The smart
4 virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. [5] The bridegroom didn't show up when
5 they expected him, and they all fell asleep.

6 [6] "In the middle of the night someone yelled out, 'He's here! The bridegroom's
7 here! Go out and greet him!'

8 [7] "The ten virgins got up and got their lamps ready. [8] The silly virgins said to
9 the smart ones, 'Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.'

10 [9] "They answered, 'There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.'

11 [10] "They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When
12 everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was
13 locked.

14 [11] "Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the
15 door, saying, 'Master, we're here. Let us in.'

16 [12] "He answered, 'Do I know you? I don't think I know you.'

17 [13] "So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive.
18
19

Please note that the following is only my opinion, not orthodox AG doctrine: Just as over half of Joseph's brothers failed to meet the Pharaoh and half of the virgins missed the bridegroom, I believe many Christians - saved, redeemed and heaven-bound because of the grace of God - will MISS THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB. This is the time when the Bride of Christ, the Church, will be presented before the Throne. Do we truly believe that believers with lukewarm hearts and disobedient attitudes will be honored along with Paul and other great saints at the Marriage Supper? No, of course not, good works do not get us into heaven; but I believe good works WILL get you into the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. 1 Cor. 3:13-15 **Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. [14] If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [15] If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.** The Marriage Supper of the Lamb attendance is not a salvation issue, in my opinion, but rather a discipleship issue.

20
21 Genesis 47:5-10

22 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Now that your family has joined you here, [6]
23 choose any place you like for them to live. Give them the best land of Egypt—the
24 land of Goshen will be fine. And if any of them have special skills, put them in
25 charge of my livestock, too." [7] Then Joseph brought his father, Jacob, and

1 **presented him to Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. [8] "How old are you?"**
2 **Pharaoh asked him.**

3 **[9] Jacob replied, "I have lived for 130 hard years, but I am still not nearly as old**
4 **as many of my ancestors." [10] Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh again before he left.**

5
6 We know that Jacob was 130 when he moved to Egypt and he died there at the age of
7 147, so he had 17 marvelous years living "in plenty" with his huge family.

8
9 Now we learn that Joseph became a great money producer for the Pharaoh:

10
11 Genesis 47:14-20

12 **Joseph collected all the money in Egypt and Canaan in exchange for grain, and he**
13 **brought the money to Pharaoh's treasure-house. [15] When the people of Egypt and**
14 **Canaan ran out of money, they came to Joseph crying again for food. "Our money is**
15 **gone," they said, "but give us bread. Why should we die?"**

16 **[16] "Well, then," Joseph replied, "since your money is gone, give me your**
17 **livestock. I will give you food in exchange." [17] So they gave their livestock to**
18 **Joseph in exchange for food. Soon all the horses, flocks, herds, and donkeys of Egypt**
19 **were in Pharaoh's possession. But at least they were able to purchase food for that**
20 **year.**

21 **[18] The next year they came again and said, "Our money is gone, and our**
22 **livestock are yours. We have nothing left but our bodies and land. [19] Why should**
23 **we die before your very eyes? Buy us and our land in exchange for food; we will**
24 **then become servants to Pharaoh. Just give us grain so that our lives may be saved**
25 **and so the land will not become empty and desolate."**

26 **[20] So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh. All the Egyptians sold**
27 **him their fields because the famine was so severe, and their land then belonged to**
28 **Pharaoh.**

29
30 Here is a glorious truth: When Jacob and his family reached Egypt, the famine and
31 drought were at their very worst. Any thinking Egyptian understood that the only hope
32 he or she had for survival rested upon JOSEPH. So, whatever the terms, as we have just
33 read in the previous verses, they were willing to pay.

34
35 All around us today is massive chaos: bankruptcies, earthquakes, floods, shaky
36 governments, Europe in crisis, the abandonment of God in this country - factor that is
37 now growing exponentially, THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE IS IN JESUS CHRIST.
38 When our Lord returns at the Second Coming, He will arrive to see a pathetic planet,
39 careening into extinction. But Jesus will bring into being THE MILLENNIUM, the
40 1,000 year reign of our Lord that bring to the earth unprecedented glory, health and

1 riches!

2
3 JACOB'S DEATH

4
5 Genesis 47:27-31

6 **So the people of Israel settled in the land of Goshen in Egypt. And before long,**
7 **they began to prosper there, and their population grew rapidly. [28] Jacob lived for**
8 **seventeen years after his arrival in Egypt, so he was 147 years old when he died. [29]**
9 **As the time of his death drew near, he called for his son Joseph and said to him, "If**
10 **you are pleased with me, swear most solemnly that you will honor this, my last**
11 **request: Do not bury me in Egypt. [30] When I am dead, take me out of Egypt and**
12 **bury me beside my ancestors." So Joseph promised that he would. [31] "Swear that**
13 **you will do it," Jacob insisted. So Joseph gave his oath, and Jacob bowed in worship**
14 **as he leaned on his staff.**

15
16 It made a big difference to Jacob where he was buried. He did not want it in Egypt. He
17 made Joseph promise, "Take my body back to my country, to my land." Theologically it
18 doesn't really matter much where you're buried. However, I want to be buried next to
19 my father in Memorial Cemetery in Sioux City, Iowa. Darlene and I have purchased two
20 plots there just next to his. Will that make any difference in my eternal destiny? No.

21
22 CHAPTER 48

23
24 In this chapter we read of Jacob's terminal illness and the old man's blessing upon
25 Joseph's two sons. What a spiritual journey Jacob made!

26
27 Sometimes new or fairly-new converts think spiritual maturity happens overnight, but it
28 doesn't. It is the faithful discipleship THROUGH THE YEARS that molds the person
29 as God wants him or her to be.

30
31 So tonight we reach the last act in the book of Genesis. During this sojourn, we have:

- 32 ▶ ...walked with Adam in the Garden of Eden
- 33 ▶ ...viewed with horror the first murder by Cain
- 34 ▶ ...built and rode on an ark with Noah
- 35 ▶ ...watched the awesome destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
- 36 ▶ ...climbed Mt. Moriah with Abraham and his son Isaac
- 37 ▶ ...attended the wedding of Isaac and Rebekah
- 38 ▶ ...were present at the birth of their twins, Esau and Jacob
- 39 ▶ ...smelled the aroma of Jacob's chili - the most expensive chili in the world
- 40 ▶ ...hidden in the rocks with Jacob, hiding from Esau

- 1 ▶ ...stifled a moan when Jacob married the wrong woman
- 2 ▶ ...seen Joseph leave in chains for Egypt
- 3 ▶ ...beheld with joy Joseph become the prime minister of Egypt
- 4 ▶ ...attended the grand reunion when Joseph brought his family to the Nile
- 5 ▶ AND SO THE GENESIS JOURNEY IS ALMOST OVER, BUT WE HAVE
- 6 TWO FUNERALS TO ATTEND FIRST.

Somewhere I read this line: Jacob was in Egypt....but Egypt never got into Jacob! The world had nothing to offer this man of faith. Wealth? He had lived for 130 years without extravagance. The Pyramids? He cared nothing for them but yearned for a cave in Hebron. Prestige? His son might be the Governor, the Grand Vizier....but HIS FATHER was the King of the Universe. Jacob never lost this perspective.

9
10 Genesis 48:1-2

11 **One day not long after this, word came to Joseph that his father was failing**
 12 **rapidly. So Joseph went to visit him, and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh**
 13 **and Ephraim. [2] When Jacob heard that Joseph had arrived, he gathered his**
 14 **strength and sat up in bed to greet him.**

15
16 You remember that shortly after Joseph was made Grand Vizier (governor, prime
 17 minister, etc.) that he married Asenath and she bore Joseph two sons.

18 Genesis 41:51-52 *Joseph named his older son*
 19 *Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my*
 20 *troubles and the family of my father." [52] Joseph named*
 21 *his second son Ephraim, for he said, "God has made me*
 22 *fruitful in this land of my suffering."*

23
24 Joseph brought his sons with him for this last time with his father several reasons. I
 25 believe the chief one was that he wanted Manasseh and Ephraim to see how Jacob entered
 26 eternity. Oh, the urgency of PERPETUATING THE WORK OF GOD FROM
 27 GENERATION TO GENERATION!

It is vital that we connect – the past – with the present – to the future. Take away any one of those three ingredients and we fade into oblivion.

- ▶ Jacob had walked with God for a century - a century of learning, of accumulated knowledge, of experience, of first-hand training
- ▶ Jacob was the link to his father Isaac and to his father Abraham

I am greatly concerned about our Assemblies of God fellowship today because so many of our young leaders have virtually no connection to the past.

1 You hear me speak of my childhood and early ministry many times. Why? Because
2 those are my ROOTS. Those roots run very deep. And when the winds of adversity or
3 sickness or confusion blow, the TREE STILL STANDS because the roots are so deep!
4

5 Genesis 48:3-6

6 **Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of**
7 **Canaan and blessed me. [4] He said to me, 'I will make you a multitude of nations,**
8 **and I will give this land of Canaan to you and your descendants as an everlasting**
9 **possession.' [5] Now I am adopting as my own sons these two boys of yours,**
10 **Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born here in the land of Egypt before I arrived.**
11 **They will inherit from me just as Reuben and Simeon will. [6] But the children born**
12 **to you in the future will be your own. The land they inherit will be within the**
13 **territories of Ephraim and Manasseh.**
14

15 Now we see why the 12 tribes of Israel included Ephraim and Manasseh. Jacob made
16 sure those two boys were legal inheritors of the blessing. Now, in this narrative, Joseph
17 brings his two sons to Jacob's death bed:
18

19 Genesis 48:10-12

20 **Now Jacob was half blind because of his age and could hardly see. So Joseph**
21 **brought the boys close to him, and Jacob kissed and embraced them. [11] Then**
22 **Jacob said to Joseph, "I never thought I would see you again, but now God has let**
23 **me see your children, too." [12] Joseph took the boys from their grandfather's**
24 **knees, and he bowed low to him.**
25

26 The next verses are very moving as we read of the actual blessing:
27

28 Genesis 48:13-22

29 **Then he positioned the boys so Ephraim was at Jacob's left hand and Manasseh**
30 **was at his right hand. [14] But Jacob crossed his arms as he reached out to lay his**
31 **hands on the boys' heads. So his right hand was on the head of Ephraim, the**
32 **younger boy, and his left hand was on the head of Manasseh, the older.**

33 **[15] Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May God, the God before whom my**
34 **grandfather Abraham and my father, Isaac, walked, the God who has been my**
35 **shepherd all my life, [16] and the angel who has kept me from all harm—may he**
36 **bless these boys. May they preserve my name and the names of my grandfather**
37 **Abraham and my father, Isaac. And may they become a mighty nation."**

38 **[17] But Joseph was upset when he saw that his father had laid his right hand on**
39 **Ephraim's head. So he lifted it to place it on Manasseh's head instead. [18] "No,**
40 **Father," he said, "this one over here is older. Put your right hand on his head."**

41 **[19] But his father refused. "I know what I'm doing, my son," he said.**

1 **"Manasseh, too, will become a great people, but his younger brother will become**
2 **even greater. His descendants will become a multitude of nations!" [20] So Jacob**
3 **blessed the boys that day with this blessing: "The people of Israel will use your**
4 **names to bless each other. They will say, 'May God make you as prosperous as**
5 **Ephraim and Manasseh.' " In this way, Jacob put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.**

6 [21] Then Jacob said to Joseph, "I am about to die, but God will be with you and
7 will bring you again to Canaan, the land of your ancestors. [22] And I give you an
8 extra portion beyond what I have given your brothers—the portion that I took from
9 the Amorites with my sword and bow."

10
11 Remember, it was the custom for the oldest son to receive "the birthright" or chief
12 inheritance. But Jacob said, "No, it will be the younger boy." And Joseph had to accept
13 that verdict because he himself was not the oldest son of Jacob. So Joseph's inheritance
14 from Jacob - through his two sons - was greater than that of his other brothers. What
15 was that inheritance? *It was a ridge near Sychar where Joseph was buried. It was a*
16 *large piece of land which Jacob first bought from the Amorites who later retook it by*
17 *force. Jacob then returned at that time and conquered the land again. That "area"*
18 *is still under incredible controversy. We know it (for the most part) as "the west*
19 *bank" of Israel.*

20 21 CHAPTER 49

22 The Deathbed Scene of Jacob

23
24 We will read Jacob's last words to his sons. His words are prophetic as they foretell
25 what will happen to the twelve sons when they become Jewish tribes. His counsel made
26 it clear that the future of the Jews was NOT in Egypt but in Canaan (Israel) - a time that
27 was over four centuries in the future.

28 29 REUBEN

30 31 Genesis 49:1-4

32 Then Jacob called together all his sons and said, "Gather around me, and I will
33 tell you what is going to happen to you in the days to come. [2] "Come and listen,
34 O sons of Jacob; listen to Israel, your father. [3] "Reuben, you are my oldest son,
35 the child of my vigorous youth. You are first on the list in rank and honor. [4] But
36 you are as unruly as the waves of the sea (I like the King James Version here better:
37 "Reuben, you are as unstable as water", and you will be first no longer. For you slept
38 with one of my wives; you dishonored me in my own bed. Water always seeks its
39 own level; it will never go higher on its own initiative.

40
41 The incest of which Jacob accused his son Reuben is found in: Genesis 35:22

1 **While he was there, Reuben slept with Bilhah, his father's concubine, and**
2 **someone told Jacob about it.** Incest is a vile offense to God (see Leviticus 20:10-17).
3 Reuben's offense was four decades earlier and thought perhaps his old father had
4 forgotten it. Never in those forty years did Reuben confess or repent. It cost him the
5 birthright. *Reuben's tribe never excelled and not one of his family ever did anything*
6 *great or notable.*

8 SIMEON AND LEVI

9
10 Genesis 49:5-7

11 **"Simeon and Levi are two of a kind—men of violence. [6] O my soul, stay away**
12 **from them. May I never be a party to their wicked plans. For in their anger they**
13 **murdered men, and they crippled oxen just for sport. [7] Cursed be their anger,**
14 **for it is fierce; cursed be their wrath, for it is cruel. Therefore, I will scatter their**
15 **descendants throughout the nation of Israel."**

16
17 We discussed their crime back in Genesis 34 when they spawned a massacre of some
18 innocent men in Shechem to avenge their sister Dinah. They thought vengeance was up
19 them, but it's not - it belongs to God alone. **THE TRIBE OF SIMEON WAS LATER**
20 **GIVEN NO INHERITANCE PROMISED LAND AND FINALLY DISAPPEARED.**

21
22 Levi, on the other hand, seemed to profit from his father's discipline and his tribe rose to
23 fame as the priests of Israel (the Levites). It's what a person does with the light of the
24 Gospel that counts.

26 JUDAH

27
28 Genesis 49:8-10

29 **"Judah, your brothers will praise you. You will defeat your enemies. All your**
30 **relatives will bow before you. [9] Judah is a young lion that has finished eating its**
31 **prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who will dare to rouse**
32 **him? [10] The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his**
33 **descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all**
34 **nations will obey."**

35
36 Now, in his later years, Judah was certainly the leader among Joseph's brothers. Had he
37 ever sinned? Oh yes, grievously. But looking now at his son, Jacob saw **THE LION.**
38 Judah would be the royal tribe. **EVER KING WHO EVER SAT ON THE THRONE OF**
39 **JERUSALEM CAME FROM JUDAH.**

40
41 Verse 10 is one of the greatest Messianic prophecies to be found in the Old Testament.

1 Jacob declared that Jewish kings would always come from Judah's lineage UNTIL
2 SHILOH comes! Shiloh means "He who has the right to rule in peace." In Revelation
3 5 we see the fulfillment of that as THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, Christ
4 Himself, takes the book from God's hands.

6 ZEBULUN AND ISSACHAR

8 Genesis 49:13-15

9 **"Zebulun will settle on the shores of the sea and will be a harbor for ships;**
10 **his borders will extend to Sidon. [14] "Issachar is a strong beast of burden,**
11 **resting among the sheepfolds. [15] When he sees how good the countryside is,**
12 **how pleasant the land, he will bend his shoulder to the task and submit to forced**
13 **labor."**

14
15 Zebulun became the tribe that settled along the Israeli coast. Obviously from Jacob's
16 prophet word we understand that Issachar's people were hard workers. We don't read a
17 lot about them in Scripture; however, we have enough information to know this tribe was
18 the "behind-the-scenes" persons who made their world function in practical ways.

20 DAN, GAD, ASHER AND NAPHTALI

22 Genesis 49:16-21

23 **"Dan will govern his people like any other tribe in Israel. [17] He will be a snake**
24 **beside the road, a poisonous viper along the path, that bites the horse's heels so the**
25 **rider is thrown off. [18] I trust in you for salvation, O Lord! [19] "Gad will be**
26 **plundered by marauding bands, but he will turn and plunder them. [20] "Asher**
27 **will produce rich foods, food fit for kings. [21] "Naphtali is a deer let loose,**
28 **producing magnificent fawns.**

29
30 Dan - will be a rebellious warrior. The area he settled in the northern part of Galilee has
31 a lot of water. It's a beautiful area through which I've hiked many times. You have
32 perhaps heard the expression from "Dan to Beersheba." Dan was the most northern
33 community in the O.T. and Beersheba was the most southern.

34
35 Gad - was yet another northern tribe eventually.

36
37 Asher - many Israelis (and others) have drilled for oil in that territory near Haifa, but so
38 far nothing has been found outside of natural gas.

39
40 And finally Jacob speaks of his two beloved sons by Rebekah, Joseph and Benjamin:
41

1 Genesis 49:22-27

2 "Joseph is a fruitful tree, a fruitful tree beside a fountain. His branches reach
3 over the wall. [23] He has been attacked by archers, who shot at him and harassed
4 him. [24] But his bow remained strong, and his arms were strengthened by the
5 Mighty One of Jacob, the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel. [25] May the God of your
6 ancestors help you; may the Almighty bless you with the blessings of the heavens
7 above, blessings of the earth beneath, and blessings of the breasts and womb. [26]
8 May the blessings of your ancestors be greater than the blessings of the eternal
9 mountains, reaching to the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills. These blessings
10 will fall on the head of Joseph, who is a prince among his brothers. [27] Benjamin
11 is a wolf that prowls. He devours his enemies in the morning, and in the evening
12 he divides the plunder."
13

14 Joseph never had a tribe named for him. His sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, did,
15 however. Their territory was Samaria. In his blessing (v. 25) Jacob ties his family
16 back to the God of their fathers, attempting to insulate them from idolatry. The tribe of
17 Benjamin became closely allied with the Israeli monarch. King Saul was a Benjamite.
18

19 JACOB'S FINAL WORDS

20
21 Genesis 49:29-33

22 Then Jacob told them, "Soon I will die. Bury me with my father and grandfather
23 in the cave in Ephron's field. [30] This is the cave in the field of Machpelah, near
24 Mamre in Canaan, which Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite for a
25 permanent burial place. [31] There Abraham and his wife Sarah are buried. There
26 Isaac and his wife, Rebekah, are buried. And there I buried Leah. [32] It is the cave
27 that my grandfather Abraham bought from the Hittites." [33] Then when Jacob had
28 finished this charge to his sons, he lay back in the bed, breathed his last, and died.
29

30 Thus the earthly saga of this amazing man came to its end. Jacob is one of those
31 referred to in Hebrews 11:13. All these faithful ones died without receiving what
32 God had promised them, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed the
33 promises of God. They agreed that they were no more than foreigners and nomads
34 here on earth.
35

36 CHAPTER 50

37
38 Genesis 50:1-3

39 Joseph threw himself on his father and wept over him and kissed him. [2] Then
40 Joseph told his morticians to embalm the body. [3] The embalming process took
41 forty days, and there was a period of national mourning for seventy days.

1 It took about two months to complete the process of embalming a body. First the brain
2 was drawn by hook out of the skull through the nostrils. Then, through an incision made
3 in the flank, the vital organs were extracted. The body was then cleansed with palm
4 wine and purified with pounded incense. The hollowed-out body was filled with spices
5 and perfumes - pure myrrh and cassia - and similar items, and soaked in nitron for weeks
6 on end. After the proper period of saturation, the corpse was washed and wrapped in
7 strips of fine linen, smeared with gum the Egyptians used for glue. The body was then
8 placed in a wood box, fashioned in human shape, and taken to the sepulchre.
9

*Thus ends Genesis. It began with CREATION and ends with a COFFIN. It begins with
GLORY and ends with a GRAVE. It begins with the vastness of ETERNITY and ends with the
shortness of TIME. It begins with a living GOD and ends with a DEAD MAN. It begins with a
blaze of BRIGHTNESS IN HEAVEN and ends with a BOX OF BONES in Egypt. That is the
Holy Spirit's final comment in the book on the nature and tragedy of human sin. That is the
final exposure of the devil's lie, "Thou shalt not surely die."*

10 Observation by Dr. John Phillips

11
12 Genesis 50:4-6

13 **[4] When the period of mourning was over, Joseph approached Pharaoh's advisers**
14 **and asked them to speak to Pharaoh on his behalf. [5] He told them, "Tell Pharaoh**
15 **that my father made me swear an oath. He said to me, 'I am about to die; take my**
16 **body back to the land of Canaan, and bury me in our family's burial cave.' Now I**
17 **need to go and bury my father. After his burial is complete, I will return without**
18 **delay."**

19 **[6] Pharaoh agreed to Joseph's request. "Go and bury your father, as you**
20 **promised," he said.**

21
22 The death of a righteous, redeemed person is not a frightening situation. It is sad and
23 sobering for those left behind; however, the person who has died is now safely in eternity
24 with God. Note the pomp with which Joseph had his father buried:

25
26 Genesis 50:8-13

27 **Joseph also took his brothers and the entire household of Jacob. But they left their**
28 **little children and flocks and herds in the land of Goshen. [9] So a great number of**
29 **chariots, cavalry, and people accompanied Joseph.**

30 **[10] When they arrived at the threshing floor of Atad, near the Jordan River, they**
31 **held a very great and solemn funeral, with a seven-day period of mourning for**
32 **Joseph's father. [11] The local residents, the Canaanites, renamed the place**
33 **Abel-mizraim, for they said, "This is a place of very deep mourning for these**
34 **Egyptians." [12] So Jacob's sons did as he had commanded them. [13] They carried**
35 **his body to the land of Canaan and buried it there in the cave of Machpelah. This is**

1 **the cave that Abraham had bought for a permanent burial place in the field of**
2 **Ephron the Hittite, near Mamre.**

3
4 It is of passing interest that Jacob did not wish to be buried in Bethlehem by his beloved
5 Rachel, but instead wanted to be buried in the cave of Machpelah in Hebron. That was
6 the cave bought decades earlier by Abraham. Jacob believed it would be a secure place.
7 He did not know of the 20th century when Israel would be declared a nation and eight
8 Arab nations would rise to drive the Jews out of the land. Even today Hebron is a hot
9 spot and almost always dangerous to visit. (Which is why I do not take my tour groups
10 there.)

11
12 Now Joseph's brothers start to panic:

13
14 Genesis 50:14-17

15 **Then Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied**
16 **him to his father's funeral. [15] But now that their father was dead, Joseph's**
17 **brothers became afraid. "Now Joseph will pay us back for all the evil we did to**
18 **him," they said. [16] So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died,**
19 **he instructed us [17] to say to you: 'Forgive your brothers for the great evil they did**
20 **to you.' So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive us." When**
21 **Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept.**

22
23 Seventeen years had passed since the brothers learned that Joseph was alive and indeed
24 the governor of Egypt. They had lived securely knowing their father would Jacob
25 would protect them. But now Jacob was gone. What would Joseph do? When Joseph
26 learned of their concern, it broke his heart and he wept.

27
28 Genesis 50:18-23

29 **Then his brothers came and bowed low before him. "We are your slaves," they**
30 **said.**

31 **[19] But Joseph told them, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, to judge and punish**
32 **you? [20] As far as I am concerned, God turned into good what you meant for evil.**
33 **He brought me to the high position I have today so I could save the lives of many**
34 **people. [21] No, don't be afraid. Indeed, I myself will take care of you and your**
35 **families." And he spoke very kindly to them, reassuring them.**

36 **[22] So Joseph and his brothers and their families continued to live in Egypt.**
37 **Joseph was 110 years old when he died. [23] He lived to see three generations of**
38 **descendants of his son Ephraim and the children of Manasseh's son Makir, who**
39 **were treated as if they were his own.**

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41 If we truly believe our lives are in God's hands, why do we fret so when troublesome

1 times fall upon us? God is bigger than the problems, first of all, and, secondly, He is
2 SOVEREIGN - which means He can do anything with anyone at anytime, anywhere, that
3 conforms to His divine nature and brings about His holy purposes.
4

5 Years go by and Joseph is now an old man and realizes his time is short. He calls all his
6 family together and gives this incredible prophecy:
7

8 Genesis 50:24-26

9 "Soon I will die," Joseph told his brothers, "but God will surely come for you, to
10 lead you out of this land of Egypt. He will bring you back to the land he vowed to
11 give to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

12 [25] Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath, and he said, "When God
13 comes to lead us back to Canaan, you must take my body back with you." [26] So
14 Joseph died at the age of 110. They embalmed him, and his body was placed in a
15 coffin in Egypt.
16

17 Why was Joseph not buried immediately in Canaan? Because he was a national hero in
18 Egypt and it probably would not have been permitted. But God had revealed to Joseph
19 that the day would come (though it took another 400 years or so) that someone would lead
20 the Jews out of Egypt. And the 13th chapter of Exodus informs us that when Moses led
21 Israel out of Egypt, they carried with them the bones of Joseph to the Promised Land.
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24 *Next week, I am addressing the Ohio District Council of the Assemblies of God in*
25 *Dayton. But two weeks from tonight, we begin the fantastic study of EXODUS.*
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