

Passage: Genesis 50

Title: From Paradise to Prison: The Story That Ends in a Coffin but Promises So Much More

Summary: The book of Genesis opens with the magnificent words, "Let there be light." It closes with a coffin in Egypt. From the glory of God's creation to the darkness of death—this is the trajectory of humanity's story after the fall. Yet within this descent lies an incredible thread of hope, woven through generations of imperfect people who clung to an unshakeable promise from God!

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Recap

We left off seeing Jacob the patriarch pronouncing blessings and prophecy upon his sons.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

God has a Unique Blessing for Each of Us Individually (49:28)

(Genesis 49:28 NKJV) All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

His Own Blessing

Just to point that out to you, each one of the 12 received their own blessing, and no two blessings were alike. I believe that is important for us to see, that God has a special blessing for each one of us, and they are different blessings. So the blessing I receive from the Lord will not be the same as yours. Though they may be alike, they are not the same. That is important to remember, for we are so apt to compare blessings; why is he blessed in that way, yet I am not, and we can become discouraged or envious. God gives different blessings, so we have something to give to one another. You see the children of Israel will need each other when they enter the Promised Land, when they endure 400 years of slavery, they will need each other. So too for us, we need each other, for we are strangers in the land, just sojourners passing through, and God gives us all our own blessing, and we in turn are to use those special blessings to bless one another.

Bury Me Next to Leah: Something Deeper in the End (49:29-32)

(Genesis 49:29 NKJV) Then he 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,

(Genesis 49:30 NKJV) "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.

(Genesis 49:31 NKJV) "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

(Genesis 49:32 NKJV) "The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the sons of Heth."

Final Wish – Bury Me at Machpelah / No Monument in Egypt / Sojourner

Now after passing blessing upon them, he passes his final wish, to be buried back in the Land that God had promised him. Do you realize with his son being second in the land Jacob could have said build me a monument and bury me there before all the people of Egypt, but he doesn't, he said bury me back home. Jacob was not looking to make his mark on this world, but looking for the world to come:

(Hebrews 11:13 NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

(Hebrews 11:14 NKJV) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

(Hebrews 11:15 NKJV) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

(Hebrews 11:16 NKJV) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Remember the Story / Switcharoo / 14 Years Total

Verse 31 - and there I buried Leah - Leah was Jacob's first wife, but not by desire. You remember the story, Jacob sees Rachel and falls in love with her, ask for her hand in marriage and agrees to work 7 years for her, and the Bible says they only seemed like a few days to Jacob for he loved her so much. You know the story that on the wedding night Uncle Laban did the ole switcharoo, for the wedding custom the bride would be veiled during the wedding and then they would go back to the dark tent and consummate the marriage. In the morning Jacob awoke to a rude awakening (Leah means teary eyed - or make your eyes tear). Jacob would say what gives, how could you do such a thing, and Laban would say it is custom to marry the older before the younger. So Jacob would work 7 more years for Rachael, a total of 14.

2 Wives – 1 Didn't ask For / Bury me with Leah

So Jacob now finds himself with 2 wives, and one wife he didn't ask for. But it is interesting, that when Rachael died, Jacob buried her outside Bethlehem, not at Machpelah with Abraham and Sarah, and Isaac and Rebekah. But when Leah dies, he buries her there at Machpelah, and when Jacob is about to die, his last request is to be buried at Machpelah, where Leah is buried, not outside Bethlehem where Rachael is buried.

Felt Tricked Buy – Bury me Buy / From Leah came Judah – David - Jesus

How interesting that the woman he felt tricked by, is the one he wants to be buried by. You see from Leah came a child named Judah, and from Judah would come the great King David, and through the lineage of David will come the one who would fulfil the promise, the Messiah:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

If I Knew Like That / Feel Tricked – Trapped / Want Out / What Need to See Jesus

It is an interesting suggestion in this passage. When you hear the words, or are considering saying them yourself, if I know that he/she was going to be like that, or turn out like this, I would have never married them. I feel tricked, I feel trapped, I want out of here, remember this story. All too often people want to get out of the relationship that they feel trapped in, but if they will hang in there, trust that the Lord is working, they will see as time goes by, as the months turn into years, they will see that that person was exactly what they needed to see Jesus. That Jesus was brought into the relation, that you were forced to look to the Lord, to walk with the Lord, in ways that I wasn't or wouldn't have had I just had the person I thought I was getting. It could very well be that if those things didn't happen in your relationship, you never would have sought the Lord like you have to.

Don't Quit / Learn to be Like Jesus / Been through Hard Part – get Best Part

I say so often to Christians, don't bail out, don't quit, hang in there, for nothing will make you more like Jesus than marriage. Nothing will make you see Jesus more than marriage, for you will have to die to yourself, you will have to learn to forgive and forget like never before, you will learn and know grace like never before, and in all cases you will have to see Jesus like never before in order to do so. You quit, you are never grow. You never go, deeper in the things of the Lord. I tell people, don't quit now, you are working through the hard parts, don't let them go to waste, get through them and enjoy the best parts.

Bury Me Next to Leah

Jacob says bury me Leah. So too will you.

Jacob Leaned on His Staff all the Way to the End (49:33)

(Genesis 49:33 NKJV) 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.

Blast Off / Leaning on the Staff

Jacob tucked himself in, and blasted off. What a way to go. Hebrews gives us a little more insight into this blessing of the sons:

(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

End of Life / Genesis 32 / Beautiful Picture

At the end of his life, he still has his staff. Back in Genesis 32 he says Lord I am not worthy, I came into the land with nothing but this staff and now look at all you have done for me. Now all these years later Jacob still has that staff, and he leans on it, and worships the Lord. What a beautiful picture:

(Genesis 32:10 NKJV) "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.

Jacob has Total Peace

We see Jacob, no fear in death, for he knows the One he will see, and he sure of the Promise. Jacob in his last breaths worships the Lord, he takes his last energy and stands before his Lord. Then, he gets in the bed, tucks himself in, and in total peace breaths his last.

You will be Gathered to Your People / Free-will Honored on Earth & Heaven & Hell

Verse 33 - and was gathered to his people – Jacob had peace because he knew who he would be gathered to. Beloved, you will be "gathered to your people" the question is who are your people. Who are your people you? Let me just lay it out before you, if you have no interest in the things of God here on

earth, don't fool yourself, don't fool yourself. Your free-will will be honored in heaven or hell as it is on earth. By the way, hell is no party, the Scriptures make it clear:
(Matthew 25:30 NKJV) 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Who are your people?

Just as God Said it Would Be; No Limit What God Will do With You (50:1-3)

(Genesis 50:1 NKJV) Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him.

(Genesis 50:2 NKJV) And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel.

(Genesis 50:3 NKJV) Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

Just as God Said

Joseph was there to close his father's eyes just as God said he would be when he told Jacob to go.

God's words are always yes and amen:

(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there."

(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

Embalming Process – Sophisticated Process

The embalming process took about 40 days. It was a very sophisticated process, as with the pyramids we can see the Egyptians were a very intelligent and advanced people. Even today our scientist still fully do not understand how they did all these highly advanced things. Jacob a non-Egyptian honored in such a way because he is Joseph's fathers. They would mourn a King for 72 days, and here we see Jacob being honored for 70, that is such a high regard they had for Joseph.

Little Shepherd becomes 2nd in Land / No Formal Training / Whatever God Call You To

But you know what I like? A little shepherd boy with no formal training, no Bible College, no Chuck tapes, no youth group, became second in all the land. Believer there is no limit to what God can and will do with you, so never limit yourself. Whatever God calls you to do, step out in faith and allow Him to flow through you, in spite of what other people may be telling you, and do whatever it, for the glory of God:

(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

(Colossians 3:23 NKJV) And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

(Colossians 3:24 NKJV) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

(1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV) Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

(1 Corinthians 1:27 NKJV) But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

(1 Corinthians 1:28 NKJV) and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

(1 Corinthians 1:29 NKJV) that no flesh should glory in His presence.

(1 Corinthians 1:30 NKJV) But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God; and righteousness and sanctification and redemption;

(1 Corinthians 1:31 NKJV) that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

God says come Joseph, I am going to take you from the pit and place you in the palace, all for My glory. God will do the same for you.

Jacob's Legacy Based on His Relationship with the Son (50:4-11)

(Genesis 50:4 NKJV) And 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,

(Genesis 50:5 NKJV) '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.'"

(Genesis 50:6 NKJV) And Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."

Joseph Requests

Joseph requests of Pharaoh to fulfill his father Jacob's desire, and Pharaoh says go.

(Genesis 50:7 NKJV) 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,

(Genesis 50:8 NKJV) 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.

(Genesis 50:9 NKJV) And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen, and it was a very great gathering.

(Genesis 50:10 NKJV) 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.

(Genesis 50:11 NKJV) 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.

Atad – Means Threshing

Atad, was a place of the threshing floor. A threshing was to separate by beating, the seed from the husk. Interesting picture regarding death of the believer, as the threshing Jesus endured is what separate our soul from this body, unto new life.

[*Isaiah 53:5-7 \(NKJV\)*](#)⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

Great Funeral Process / Canaanites Blown Away / President Reagan

So they have this funeral process if you would, and there was great mourning. The Canaanites saw this and were blown away, who was this man, he must have been some one great in the land. Maybe you recall the funeral of President, it would be such as that.

Jacob's Greatness based on Relationship with Joseph / Our Legacy

The fact of the matter is, Jacob's greatness in Egypt was based on one thing, his relationship to Joseph. Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ. A picture for us, when we die, what will we be remembered for. What will be our legacy?

David's Legacy

May our legacy be that of David:

[*\(Acts 13:22 NKJV\)*](#) "And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.**'"

Solomon's Legacy

Sadly his son Solomon had a legacy:

[*\(1 Kings 11:4 NKJV\)*](#) For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; **and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.**

Our Legacy – Our Relationship / No Matter How Great- God's Own Heart

May our legacy be of whom we followed, who our relationship was with, Jesus Christ. It won't matter how great we were at work, or in high school, as good as those things may be; but may people remember us to whom we loved and served, who we had a relationship with, who we were linked to. May they say of us that we were a man/woman after God's own heart, who did His will. When it is all said and done, what else will matter.

Jacob's Best Chapters Were His Last Chapters (50:12-14)

(Genesis 50:12 NKJV) So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them.

(Genesis 50:13 NKJV) 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.

(Genesis 50:14 NKJV) 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.

His Best Chapters / Finish Well

The end of the life of Jacob. He finished well, his last chapters were his best chapters, and may that be so with us:

(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Leaning on His Staff

Jacob ends his life doing 3 things, blessing, worshipping, and leaning. Leaning on the back of Jesus, the one who had broken him, and the One that made him whole:

(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

Girl from Afghanistan

I heard a tremendous story of a young girl who leaned on her staff and the Lord. She was working with the missionary group that I met when I was in the Paul she was from Afghanistan and the country they were in had made the determination that all people of refugees from Afghanistan had to leave the country and return to Afghanistan. There for her to return to Afghanistan as a bold Christian and one who lives her faith outwardly the probability of death was great for her. The American missionary as he tells me the story told her we can get you into America to which she readily said yes to. And a few days later the missionary came back and said to her everything is looking good with the people we've talked to about getting you refugee status in America but then he went on to say but my concern is that when you come to America your fire and love that you have for Jesus Christ will grow lukewarm and you'll get absorbed more into the culture of America and lose that zeal. To which this young adult woman said then I decline if there's even a possibility that my love for Jesus could grow cold as I would rather go to Afghanistan and die a martyr's death and go to America and die a spiritual death.

When You Forgive – Forget

When You are Forgiven – Receive It (50:15-17)

(Genesis 50:15 NKJV) 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."

(Genesis 50:16 NKJV) So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying,

(Genesis 50:17 NKJV) '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.

Payback Time / Joseph Wept / They Just Didn't get It

Now the brothers are afraid it is payback time, so they tell Joseph dad said to forgive us, so please forgive us. And, Joseph wept. They thought Joseph was waiting for his time of revenge that he had bottled up bitterness and hatred towards them, but Joseph just wept, because they just didn't get it.

Picture of Jesus / People's Concept of God – Keeping a Record

Joseph is a picture of Jesus. So many people have this concept of God, that He is keeping a record and at some point says that is enough, I'm going to let my fury fly on you. The Lord says I will remember your sins no more, they are wiped clean, past, present, and future:

(Hebrews 8:12 NKJV) "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

God want's to Draw You Near / Touch You / God Weeps

Christian know this, if you are here tonight, and maybe you are not doing well, know that the Lord wants to touch you, and draw you close to Himself and love on you, not step on you to teach you a lesson or two. How that must break the heart of God when we question His love, acceptance, and forgiveness. I wonder if He weeps.

Mark 3 / Jesus Touched Him – in the Church

In Mark 3, there came a man into the synagogue, the church if you will, and his hand was withered; Jesus spoke to him and said step forward, and Jesus touched him:

(Mark 3:1 NKJV) And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand.

(Mark 3:2 NKJV) So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.

(Mark 3:3 NKJV) And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward."

(Mark 3:4 NKJV) Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent.

(Mark 3:5 NKJV) And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

Maybe you are Withered – Dry / Jesus Interested Seeing you Whole / Not Withered

Jesus touched him, and healed him. Maybe you feel all withered up, dried out, wondering why I even bother with this church stuff; Jesus says step forward, stretch out your hand to Me, and I will touch. Jesus is always interested in seeing you whole, seeing you healthy, and He is always ready to touch so that you might do well, and be well. He never wants to leave you in that withered condition (yes there may be consequences to your sin, but that is the result of living in a fallen world, bit God pouring wrath out upon you)

(Romans 8:1 NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

He says Reach Out / I want to Give You Joy

God says reach out, let me touch you, receive from Me the things I want to give you, love, joy, and peace. He will not leave us, even when we are not doing well:

(Hebrews 13:5 NKJV) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

He wants to Gather You to His Heart / No Doubt – Look at Cross / No Condemnation

The Lord wants to gather you to Himself and nestle you close to His heart. If you doubt that, look to the cross. If you ever wonder or doubt His love, look to the cross. There is therefore now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus:

(Romans 8:1 NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

(Romans 8:2 NKJV) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

No Charge / Paid at Cross / Now He Freely Gives

Nothing can separate us from his love, for He is for us, and brings no charge against us for it was all His wrath was poured out there upon the cross:

(Romans 8:31 NKJV) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

(Romans 8:32 NKJV) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

(Romans 8:33 NKJV) Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Set Yourself Free; Let God be the Judge (50:18-19)

(Genesis 50:18 NKJV) Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."

(Genesis 50:19 NKJV) Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?"

Fear Not – I'm not God / Wonderful Place not to Judge / Love & Judge

Joseph says "fear not", am I in the place of God, it is not for me to judge you. It is a wonderful day when a person comes to the place and realization that they do not have to be the judge of people. God will say to us, you love them, and let me judge them. So often the church has it backwards, we think it is up to us to judge them, and up to God to love them.

The Whole Story / Impossible to Know Heart / Actions & Intentions

It is amazing how your judgement can change when you have the whole story. It is impossible for us to know what is in a man's heart, what they are thinking and struggling with. I can see their actions, but I can never know what their intentions truly were. I'll look at a situation, get an overview of what is currently going on, I can be so quick to judge them and right them off, not knowing that there is so much more to the story.

Joseph Knew Big Picture

Joseph knew so much more to the story than these boys did, verse 20:

The Plan is Always Greater than the Pain (50:20-21)

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "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."

All Brothers Knew / Joseph Knew 20 year Picture / Egypt – Prison - You

Hey, even though you meant it for evil, but God meant it for God. For these boys all they knew was they sold their brother off. But Joseph saw a bigger plan that took some 20 years to develop. First God had to get me to Egypt, hence where you boys came in. Then God had to get me to palace, hence where Potiphar's wife came in. Then God had to get you to Egypt, hence where I came in. God worked it all together because He had to preserve a people (Nation of Israel), He had to preserve the lineage of the Messiah (Judah), and He had to preserve a world (thus we are today).

Joseph Preserves Lineage / Forgive – They Know Not / Religious Leaders - Redemption

Hey I would have said death to them all Joseph, judge them so all can see you are not to be messed with, but guess what I would have destroyed the lineage of the Messiah. Our greater than Joseph, Jesus, there that day cried to the Father, "forgive them, they know not what they do". The religious leaders meant it for evil, but God had a plan; a plan for you, a plan for me, to buy us back, redeem us from the evil task master that we were in bondage to, so that He might preserve our lives for all of eternity, and provide for us daily through any feast or famine.

(Genesis 50:21 NKJV) "Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Spoke Kindly – Picture of Jesus

Joseph spoke kindly to them, and comforted them. Oh what a picture of our Jesus.

Grandparents Now is Your Greatest Opportunity (50:22-23)

(Genesis 50:22 NKJV) So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.

(Genesis 50:23 NKJV) 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.

Grandkids on his Knees / Telling Stories God's Miracles / Grandparents Opportunity

I can only imagine Joseph having his grandkids on his knee, and telling them stories of all of God's miracles and goodness. What a wonderful place to be, having a youngster looking up to, listening to your words with respect, interested in hearing your stories. Grandparents have clout with their grandkids. Joseph would tell his grandkids what his father Jacob told him, and what was passed down from Abraham and Isaac. What a great opportunity for grandparents to minister to their kids telling them all about God's wonders. Take the opportunity whenever you, whether it is on your lap, or over the phone. Should you be separated from them because of the hatred and division so common in this selfish world, maybe barring you from seeing them, then raise them up on your knees, go to the Lord as often as you can and lift them up in prayer.

My Grand Dad

I can still remember stories my grandfather told me when I was a kid, I can remember many of them as if it was just yesterday, and it was 25-30 years ago. Even as a teenager I use to love just to sit with him

and hear his stories about the war, his boxing days, his real estate days. How much I remember them, I remembered them! But granddaddy never told me about Jesus, don't know if he knew Jesus, he never mentioned Him. Imagine, if I can remember so many stories 25-30 years later, just think if he would have been telling me about Jesus, how much of an impact that would have had in my life. Grandparents, don't miss this opportunity.

The Body and Bones of the Promise (50:24-26)

(Genesis 50:24 NKJV) 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."

(Genesis 50:25 NKJV) 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."

(Genesis 50:26 NKJV) So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Monuments & Pyramids / Look at heritage Passed On

All the other great Egyptian leaders had monuments and pyramids built for themselves, but not Joseph, he says bury me in the land, carry my bones up when you leave this place. Look how the heritage is passed down from father to son:

(Genesis 49:29 NKJV) Then he 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,

(Genesis 49:30 NKJV) "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.

(Genesis 49:31 NKJV) "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

Believed Promise / Sojourners / City of God

They believed the promises of God, and knew they were just sojourners in the land, and they were looking for a city whose builder and maker was God:

(Hebrews 11:13 NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

(Hebrews 11:14 NKJV) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

(Hebrews 11:15 NKJV) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

*(Hebrews 11:16 NKJV) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for He has prepared a city for them.***

Parents - Children - Follow

Parents, where will your children want their bones to be buried? May they follow in your footsteps.

Half of OT History

Joseph's death marks about half of the history of the OT. About 2350 years.

Genesis – Ends with a Coffin

Verse 26 - and he was put in a coffin in Egypt – We begin this book with the glory of God and His creation. He said let there be light, He said let us make man in our image. God walked with His creation in the garden in perfect sweet fellowship. We close this book with death, darkness, and separation.

Repercussion of Sin / Paradise to Prison / You shall Die

The repercussions of sin, from paradise to prison. Satan said if you eat you will not die; God says if you eat surely you will die:

(Genesis 2:16 NKJV) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

*(Genesis 2:17 NKJV) "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, **for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**"*

(Genesis 3:1 NKJV) Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

(Genesis 3:2 NKJV) And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

(Genesis 3:3 NKJV) "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die."

*(Genesis 3:4 NKJV) **Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.***

Moses Carry the Bones

It is interesting after 400 years of slavery who is the one that carries the bones of Joseph out of Egypt.

Moses himself would carry them out:

(Exodus 13:19 NKJV) 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."

Egyptians think this Crazy / For 400 yrs Slavery

The Egyptians must have thought this is ridiculous, why the bones, why carry them all the way up to the land of Caanan. They didn't know what the bones represented, they represented a promise, the promise of God, that He will come to His people, He will carry them out of the land into His Promised Land. For 400 years of slavery the children of Israel will have this coffin to look at as a Promise from God that He will carry them up out of the land:

(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there."

(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

Machpelah Means Double-Doors

Abraham bought it, the only piece of land he purchased, for it was a place of the promise that there is a door on the other side of the door of death, and that is through the cross of Christ, into His eternal arms.

*John 10:7–10 (NKJV)*⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

God's Promise today = Communion

God gives us that same promise today, take eat, this is My body that has been broken for you, do this in remembrance of Me:

(Matthew 26:26 NKJV) And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

(Matthew 26:27 NKJV) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."

(Matthew 26:28 NKJV) "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

(Matthew 26:29 NKJV) "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Take, eat; this is My body

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)*¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)*¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

(Numbers 6:23 NKJV) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;

(Numbers 6:25 NKJV) The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."