

Sermon Notes 9/26/21

## “God Intended it for Good”

### How should we respond to Genesis chapter 50?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in God’s promise of forgiveness.  
Genesis 50:15  
Colossians 2:12-13
2. \_\_\_\_\_ others as God forgives us.  
Genesis 50:19  
Colossians 3:12-13
3. \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s goodness in everything.  
Genesis 50:20  
Romans 8:28
4. \_\_\_\_\_ this world is NOT our home.  
Genesis 50:25  
Hebrews 11:22  
John 14:1-3

A large statue of an Asiatic man was discovered in the ruins of a small pyramid in the region of Goshen. Some archaeologists believe that this is a statue of Joseph. David Rohl notes,

This style of seated statue was often used to represent the Egyptian vizier wearing his long gown down to his ankles. Again, a colossal funerary statue is unheard of for anyone other than the king or, for a short time, a 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty nomarch.<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> David Rohl, *Exodus: Myth or History*, 112.

# Life Group Discussion Questions

## Week 50: September 26 – October 3 Genesis 50

The book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. It tells us about the beginning of God's creation, His plan for humanity, how sin and death came into the world, and God's promise to correct the curse caused by sin. While Satan was successful in bringing sin and suffering into the world, God would use those bad things to accomplish His greater purpose of redeeming the world through Jesus. In Genesis chapter 50, we see an example of how God can take bad situations in this world and use them to accomplish something good.

### Read Genesis 50:1-14

1. What did Joseph do in verse 1 when his father died?
2. Who did Joseph ask to embalm his father in verse 2?
3. How long did the Egyptians mourn for Jacob? (50:3)
4. What did Joseph ask Pharaoh? (50:4-5)
5. What was Pharaoh's response to Joseph's request? (50:6)
6. Where did Joseph go, and who went with him? (50:7-9)
7. What did Joseph do when he reached Atad? (50:10)

The Bible teaches us to respect and honor God's faithful servants both in life and in death (Ps. 116:15).

8. What did the Canaanites who saw Joseph think? (50:11)
9. What did Joseph do? (50:12-14)

When Sarah died, Abraham purchased the field of Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite (Genesis 23). Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah were all buried at this location.

## **Read Genesis 50:15-21**

10. What were the older brothers worried about in verse 15?
11. What message did the brothers send to Joseph? (50:16-17)
12. How did Joseph respond to his brothers' message in verse 17?

The Bible does not tell us if Jacob really said what the brothers reported to Joseph in verse 17. Paul Kissling writes,

Joseph sees through the transparent fiction of some message from his father for him after his death. He sees also the inability of his brothers to trust that he has in fact forgiven them. The fact that they would lie in such a transparent attempt to elicit mercy because they could not bring themselves to believe that Joseph had forgiven them saddens Joseph deeply, even to the point of weeping. In a family so fractured by favoritism, forgiveness, the acceptance of forgiveness, and the trust necessary to believe that forgiveness is possible are hard to obtain.<sup>2</sup>

13. What did the brothers do in verse 18?
14. What did Joseph tell his brothers in verse 19?
15. What did Joseph say about God's plan in verse 20?
16. What did Joseph promise to do for his brothers in verse 21?

## **Read Genesis 50:22-26**

17. How old was Joseph when he died? (50:22)
18. Who did Joseph get to see before he died in verse 23?
19. What did Joseph do when he was about to die? (50:22-25)

In his final days, Joseph assured his brothers and all their descendants that the promises of God were true, and that Egypt was not their permanent home. James Smith observes,

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<sup>2</sup> Paul Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 2* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2009), 620.

Joseph had the covenant idea. In prophetic spirit he predicted that someday God would take up his brothers (i.e., their families) out of Egypt to the Promised Land. This would not be a natural tribal migration but would be the result of divine intervention. Joseph insisted that when this day of deliverance came, his family should carry his bones with them to the Promised Land (50:24–25).<sup>3</sup>

20. What did they do with Joseph's body after he died? (50:26)

There is evidence of Joseph and his family in the excavations at Avaris. David Rohl believes they have found the palace of Joseph. It was a large building with twelve wooden columns across the front portico. On the estate there were twelve important tombs, eleven with vaulted chapels and one with a small pyramid.

This in itself was remarkable, because for the period of pharonic history up to the New Kingdom, pyramids were the exclusive prerogative of kings and their queens. No official or commoner had ever been granted a pyramid to house his mortal remains. Yet here, the high official who lived in Area F palace had been given just such an honor. This marked the man as someone very special.<sup>4</sup>

21. What makes it difficult to accept someone's forgiveness?

22. How have you seen God bring good out of a bad situation?

23. What bad situation will you ask God to use for good?

24. How can you show forgiveness to someone this week, even without him or her asking you to do so?

25. What will you do this week to remind yourself and others that this world is not our permanent home?

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<sup>3</sup> James Smith, *The Pentateuch* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996), 228.

<sup>4</sup> David Rohl, *Exodus: Myth or History*, (St Louis Park, MN: Thinking Man Media, 2015), 110.