

## A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1. Title

The Final Revelation in Genesis

Genesis 50:14-21

Slide 2: Scripture

Genesis 50:14-21 (ESV)

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.

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." ' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.'" Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Slide 3:

How Should We Then Live?

Slide 4:

People fall away, or refuse to believe in God for emotional/personal reasons.

The problem of evil. Why?

Slide 5:

I. Why Is Joseph Crying? (Context)

II. What Does Joseph Say? (Engine for life)

Slide 6:

Why is Joseph crying?

Understanding Tribe/Clan Cultures

Slide 7:

Joseph is weeping because:

1) He knows they are lying

Slide 8:

Joseph is weeping because:

1) He knows they are lying

2) They still don't know Joseph

Slide 9:

Joseph is weeping because:

- 1) He knows they are lying
- 2) they still don't know Joseph
- 3) They don't know God

Slide 10:

What does Joseph say?

- 1) Know who you are, and Who God Is, and they are not the same  
"Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?"

Slide 11:

Joseph is asserting that an unwillingness to forgive is because we are putting ourselves in the place of God.

Slide 12:

What does Joseph say?

- 1) Know who you are, and Who God Is, and they are not the same
  - 2) Know how God works His good will
- "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

Slide 13:

God's silence does not equal incompetence. His hiddenness does not equal impotence.

Slide 14:

No privilege, no pit  
No pit, no Potiphar  
No Potiphar, no prison  
No prison, no promotion  
No process through suffering, no person of faith...no salvation

Slide 15:

Acts 2:23 (ESV)

"...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men."

Slide 16:

What does Joseph say?

- 1) Know who you are, and Who God Is, and they are not the same
  - 2) Know how God works His good will
  - 3) We must respond to evil with goodness
- "So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones."

Slide 17:

Joseph's choices in the world he lived in:

1) Repay evil with evil

Slide 18:

1) Repay evil with evil

2) Repay "evil" with good (but never call it evil)

Slide 19:

1) Repay evil with evil

2) Repay "evil" with good (but never call it evil)

3) Repay evil with good (the way of the Gospel)

Slide 20:

Jesus shows us the way...becomes the way.

## **B. GROUP RESOURCE**

1) Read Genesis 49 and 50 if you have time. What stories are being concluded? What theology is being proclaimed? What ideas are being presented to foreshadow and prepare us for the Exodus story?

2) What issues have happened in our culture the last 2 years that have caused Christians to ask the question "How should we be living in this new world?" What have been some of the answers to that question for people?

3) Why do you think the brothers are so worried about Joseph's revenge? What are the cultural reasons for that, and what are the emotional reasons as well.

4) When the brothers beg for mercy and Joseph announces that he does not stand in the place of God, what are the implications of theology being tied to forgiveness? Tease that theology out as a group. So what does unforgiveness imply about one's theology?

5) Do you feel uncomfortable with God using and planning evil to do good? Does it feel more comfortable to have a God who wants to stop evil but can't, or a God who can stop evil but chooses not to?

6) Why is it so difficult to respond to evil with goodness, to comfort the very ones who hurt us? Do you think this is the most effective way to reveal the heart of our God? Why or why not?

7) Prayer and praise

