

Genesis Chapter Fifty

Genesis 50:1-5

Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him and kissed him. And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days. And when the days of mourning for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your sight, please speak to Pharaoh, saying, "My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am about to die; 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; then I will return."

- Egyptians would mourn for their kings for 72 days
- Joseph speaks to Pharaoh through intermediaries due to his contact with the dead
- His body is embalmed for the sake of the long journey
- Embalming required at least a month to accomplish

Genesis 50:6-11

And Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear." So Joseph went up to bury his father, and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household and all the elders of the land of Egypt, and all the household of Joseph and his brothers and his father's household; they left only their little ones and their flocks and their herds in the land of Goshen. There also went up with him both chariots and horsemen; and it was a very great company. When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he observed seven days mourning for his father. Now when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians." Therefore it was named Abel-mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan.

- Elders in land of Egypt—senior members; dignitaries
- Atad=bramble

- Abel-Mizraim=mourning of the Egyptians (this sight is unknown—but position implies a detour around the Dead Sea—to approach Hebron from the NE instead of SW)
- Mention of Canaanites—indicates that this all takes place west of Jordan
- 7 days of mourning—normal among Hebrews
- Large party of Egyptians accompany this family in the burial of their father. Local Canaanites are amazed—and name the place after the event
- See Is 66:20

Genesis 50:12-14

And thus his sons did for him as he had charged them; 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 had bought along with the field for a burial site from Ephron the Hittite. And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

- In being buried here—he is taking his place among the patriarchs—though his heart was always toward Rachel

Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph should bear a grudge against us and pay us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong." And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

- Brothers return to deceptive, manipulative behavior—fall before him one final time. This is also the first time that they ask for forgiveness
- Joseph's brothers have never been free from the guilt they had experienced. Joseph's behavior is an indication but not proof of his heart toward them

- Each sentence in Joseph's reply is significant: the righting of one's wrongs belong to God, His Providence is seen in spite of man's malice, and evil is repaid with forgiveness and practical affection.

Genesis 50:22-26

Now Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father's household, and Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. And Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees. And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you, and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob." Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here." So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

- No loud lamentations among the Egyptians described—though he had served them his whole life
- Genesis begins in Eden and ends in a coffin
- Ex 13:19 indicates Joseph's bones are carried out of Egypt at the Exodus
- Interval between death of Joseph and Exodus under Moses will become a dark season of suffering
- He died in old age—having seen his great grandchildren born
- See Ex 13:19, Josh 24:32, Heb 11:22

Genesis Chapter Fifty Workbook

Key Words:

Harmonize:

Read Exodus 1-2 to see this family many generations later.

Dig:

- 1) What action guaranteed that the brothers would return to Egypt?
- 2) What indicates the state of the brother's hearts toward Joseph?
- 3) How does the Book of Genesis begin? How does it end?
- 4) What emotions are expressed in chapter 50? By whom? Why?
- 5) How is Joseph's last request tied to God's promises?

Discuss:

- 1) What has been the most meaningful part of this Genesis story to you?
- 2) Why would Genesis 50 speak of the death of Jacob with more fanfare than the death of Joseph?

Point of Prayer:

Pray for Jody as she prepares Bible study for next year.

Integrate:

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

Application:

- 1) Have you ever had a difficult time moving on from shame, guilt, rejection, etc?

- 2) What makes guilt or rejection so difficult to free ourselves from?

- 3) Have you experienced a 'lingering judgment' after someone has sought your forgiveness? Explain.

- 4) How is your life similar to an aspect of Joseph's life?

- 5) Where has God required mercy of you instead of judgment?