

Genesis 50

Jacob Is Buried

Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him and kissed him. ² Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. ³ Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

⁴ 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, ⁵ '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 then, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.'" ⁶ Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."

⁷ 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, ⁸ 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.

⁹ Chariots with teams of horses also went up with him; and it was a very great company. ¹⁰ When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they mourned there with a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he observed seven days of mourning for his father. ¹¹ 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.

Burial at Machpelah

¹² And so his sons did for him as he had commanded them; ¹³ for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah opposite Mamre, which Abraham had bought along with the field as a burial site from Ephron the Hittite. ¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers had seen that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" ¹⁶ So they sent instructions to Joseph, saying, "Your father commanded *us* before he died, saying,

¹⁷ 'This is what you shall say to Joseph: "Please forgive, I beg you, the offense of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.'" And now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to keep many people alive. ²¹ So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Death of Joseph

²² Now Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father's household, and Joseph lived 110 years. ²³ Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees. ²⁴ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will assuredly 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." ²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will assuredly take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here."

²⁶ So Joseph died at the age of 110 years; and they embalmed him and placed him in a coffin in Egypt.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you? Did anything confuse you? Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something? Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Jacob Prophet Jacob, later given the name Israel, patriarch of the Israelites Born: 1791 BC
Died: 1644 BC, Egypt

Place of burial: Cave of the Patriarchs

Children: Joseph, Judah, Benjamin, Dinah, Reuben, Levi, Simeon, Issachar, Naphtali, Gad, As her, Zebulun, Dan

Parents: Isaac, Rebecca Siblings: Esau

1. Jacob is dead, he died at the age of 147 Sadly, death is still the great enemy of humanity – do we know where we are going when it comes?
2. To kiss a dead person is a very strange thing to do, touching a dead person is also strange.
3. The task of embalming was set into motion by Joseph. How common was this in Israel?
4. It took a total of forty days to embalm a body before it decomposed.
5. The whole of Egypt cried and wept for Jacob. Is there a difference between crying and weeping? Jesus wept and so did Paul.
6. Joseph asked Pharaoh's household to bury his father back in Israel, in the land of Canaan. Pharaoh consents but was he not concerned that Joseph would not return?
7. Joseph recalls the promise Joseph asks him to make to go home to be buried. Why was this so important?
8. Joseph said he will return. Do you think he is a man who would keep his promise to Pharaoh?
9. Anyone who was anyone took part in the ceremony. How different it was four hundred years later.
10. Was the leaving of the children and the flocks in Egypt, a condition of Joseph's promise to Pharaoh?
11. What is it to lament with a great sorrow, lamentations for seven days.
12. The people of the land recognised the importance of Jacob's ceremony as someone important who had died.

13. The sons of Jacob had been charged to do for their father, and they honoured their father's trust in them. Have you ever known this kind of responsibility?
14. It is strange how a tradition can start in a family. Abraham bought the field and now it becomes a place to rest in death.
15. Joseph keeps his word to Pharaoh and everyone returns to Egypt, but was there a temptation in them to stay?
16. The brothers were visited by the arrow that flows straight out of the camp of the evil one. A fear thought that drove them into panic.
17. It came when they questioned the motives and character of their brother Joseph.
18. 'What ifs', or 'did God say', or like to Jesus, 'if you are', are all invitations to undermine what God has said to you and torment your life by satan.
19. The doubt wasn't without reason, after all they had behaved rather harshly to their brother Joseph.
20. Unresolved forgiveness is a recipe for enemy attack. These fears drove them to lie and step into another level of deception.
21. The brothers say to Joseph, 'Dad said you must forgive your brothers'. But Joseph is so wise and understanding, a man who lives in the truth, he can see what is motivating them. He is a man who lives in peace.
22. Was the weeping of Joseph the same as when Joseph wept for his father Jacob.
23. His brothers are humbled by Joseph's mercy, they kneel before him and offer themselves as slaves, just like they did in Joseph's dream as a child.
24. Rather than take advantage of this Joseph says 'am I God that I should judge you or have you serve me'? He declares these famous words 'you meant it for evil, but God meant it for good. It was God's plan to protect His people and strengthen the nation of Israel, so don't be afraid'.
25. When you are afraid does it help that someone says 'don't be afraid'.
26. Joseph promised to take care of them with provision, but he stays in Egypt with his own family while his brothers live in the land of Gosham.
27. He died at the age of 110 years old, quite young compared to the rest of his family.
28. Was the good life of Egypt not so good after all? Although, he did see three generations of his family.
29. His brothers are charged with the responsibility of carrying his bones when Israel was to leave Egypt in four hundred years.
30. Joseph is gone but God will take care of Israel as a nation.
31. Like his father Jacob, Joseph was embalmed and placed in a coffin.