

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Time To Mourn"
Genesis 50:1-14
Study-81

God Said Sin Would Result In Death: Genesis 2:17 you will surely die."

**The Bible records the deaths of God's people.
The Bible's longest recorded death is that of Jacob.
God designates three chapters. Genesis 47- 49 Genesis 49:33**

Genesis 50:1

Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him and kissed him.

**This funeral of Jacob is the most descriptive funeral in all of Scripture.
As to the details that are given.**

Thought Of Our Passage: "Believers Mourn, But Our Hope In God Wins Out Because We Rest In The Sure Promises Of God To Us."

- 1. Verses 1-3 The Preparation:**
- 2. Verses 4-6 The Permission:**
- 3. Verses 7-14 The Procession:**

1. Verses 1-3 The Preparation:

Genesis 50:1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face,

Context – Jacob has just given the 12 blessings to his 12 sons.

Genesis 49:33

God allowed Jacob to finish his blessings of all 12 sons before he breathed his last. Mid-way through, it got really sketchy, because Jacob's strength was failing him - **Genesis 49:18**

Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept and kissed him.

Literally "*fell on his father's face and bathed it with tears.*"

The only recorded tears of Joseph were for his brothers and his father, not for himself!

Genesis 46:4 God had said, **and Joseph will close your eyes."** (Joseph did)

Death – means "*Separation*" the separation of the spirit/soul from the body.

Our Society Is So Lost, We Reject The Very One (God) That Can Save Us!

Society's Obsession With Youthfulness – emphasizes the worship of youthfulness;

Psychological – Sigmund Freud's

“Death as a great unconscious fear of man”

Religion – “death is a part of life”

Secular Worldview has crept in

Grief Is Universal: and wept over him and kissed him.

Joseph was a godly man who suffered greatly in his faith in God, but he was not exempt from grief.

Genesis 23:2 (Abraham’s Wife Sarah died) and to weep for her.

1st time the word “Weep” Is In Scripture, and it is in conjunction with death.

Psalm 103:14

weep – “*shed tears.*” Some believe this is wrong. It’s *a lack of faith. Death is to be faced stoically. Tears need to be held back.*

Luke 19:41 When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, John 11:35 Jesus wept. death of Lazarus Isaiah 53:3 A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;

mourn – “*feel or show deep sorrow or regret for (someone, their death), lament for, shed tears for, wail.*” **We acknowledge a loss, for the Christian temporary, but still a loss!**

Psalm 30:5

Why does Joseph weep at his father’s death?

Because death is an enemy.

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

Romans 8:22-23; Hebrews 2:14-15; Revelation 21:4

Nation of Israel wept for Moses - **Deuteronomy 34:8**

David weeps over the death of his commander Abner - **2 Samuel 3:31**

Stephen was murdered by the religious, Believers Mourn - **Acts 8:2**

Genesis 50:2 Joseph commanded his servants the physicians

It’s just like Joseph to take action.

When death arrives, its time to make some decisions.

We note **So the physicians embalmed Israel.**

It was not the “**Embalmers,**” probably because they would have done all the pagan religious rituals.

Genesis 50:3 Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming.

This embalming was reserved for Pharaoh's, but Joseph was second in Egypt. (National mourning, 72 days for Pharaoh but for Jacob it was 70)

2. Verses 4-6 The Permission:

Genesis 50:4 When the days of mourning for him were past, 40 days were required for embalming, and then 70 days the Egyptians mourned for Jacob.

Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, Notice how gracious Joseph was in his asking for leave to bury his father

Genesis 50:5 'My father made me swear, Jacob made his last wishes very clear, he repeated them twice.

1st Time Jacob Made His Wishes Very Clear To Joseph: Genesis 47:29-31
2nd Time Jacob Made His Wishes Very Clear To Joseph: Genesis 49:29-32

Jacob's Witness Of God's Promise And Hope: in the land of Canaan, *Canaan is the promised land. I want to be buried in hope and faith in God.*

I dug – "*hewed out, bought*" we know that Abraham purchased the land.

Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will return." Joseph was indispensable to Pharaoh and all of Egypt.

Genesis 50:6 Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear." How gracious of Pharaoh to give the time away for Joseph along with the resources

3. Verses 7-14 The Procession:

Verse 7 Egypt's Elite: Genesis 50:7

These were the key people in the Egyptian nation that were leaving their posts to attend a funeral for several months' time. **all the elders of the land of Egypt,**

Verse 8 Jacob's Family:

Genesis 50:8 and all the household of Joseph and his brothers and his father's household;

It was no doubt inconvenient for all the people to make such a journey.

Verse 9 Military: Genesis 50:9

Genesis 50:10 threshing floor – was an elevated place that was used to separate the chaff from the grain. It made a natural flat place for a meeting of people.

very great and sorrowful lamentation; the Egyptians were loud.

Genesis 50:11 “This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians.”
The Canaanites misinterpret what was taking place.
Canaanites thought that it was an Egyptian funeral.
Reality is it was actually a Hebrew funeral.

Abel-mizraim, “mourning of Egypt” or “meadow of Egypt”

Christian funerals are so different from those of the world (Egypt)

Genesis 50:12-13 for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan
The 12 sons were the pallbearers and carried the body to the cave.

Genesis 50:14 Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers,

“Not To Mourn Is A Great Failure, But To Mourn Indefinitely Is Equally An Error. Life Must Go On. We Need To Mourn, Then To Get On With The Business Of Living”

(NLT) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

“The best way to honor the dead is to live and take care of the living”

Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers,
God had said to Abraham that Israel would remain for 400 years
Genesis 15:13-16

Application:

- 1.** We Make Careful Plans For Our Vacations And Our Business Trips, But When It Comes To Our Last And Most Important Journey (Death), We Don't Plan, And We Should.
- 2.** Not To Mourn Is A Great Failure, But To Mourn Indefinitely Is Equally An Error. Life Must Go On. We Need To Mourn, Then To Get On With The Business Of Living.
- 3.** The Best Way To Honor The Dead Is To Live And Take Care Of The Living.