

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"God Meant It For Good"
Genesis 50:15-26
Study-82

We have certainly seen God's providence in our studies in Genesis and very much so in the closing verses with Joseph and his brothers. Genesis 50:20

Brothers **doubted** Joseph's Word (**Lack Faith**), and then questioned His **Love**, which resulted in the brothers having no **Hope** for the future. (**Faith, Hope and Love**)
1 Corinthians 13:13

Thought Of Our Passage: "In God's Great Love And Grace, He Overrides What Is Evil To Bring About Good To His Glory."

- 1. Verses 15-21 Burial Of The Past:**
- 2. Verses 22-26 Burial For Joseph:**

1. Verses 15-21 Burial Of The Past:

Genesis 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, **Context - Genesis 49:33** Then follows the burial of Jacob, **Genesis 50:1-14**. Joseph leads a state funeral (Egyptian) for his father Jacob that takes place in Canaan.

Genesis 50:14

they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!"
(There are no answers for "What If?" Questions)

Genesis 45:4-11

Brothers misjudged Joseph, what an insult against Joseph!
(What more could Joseph do?)

The brothers did not surrender their guilt to God.
We must receive God's forgiveness! 1 John 3:20

Some believers still battle with the **concept of assurance, whether God really loves them James 1:6**

What we need is for God to speak loud and clear to us.
This is what He does when we turn to the Bible and read His spoken Word.
We need to lay hold of God's promises. **1 John 1:9-10**

Sit down and review all that God has done for us.
Hold on to His promises. 1 John 4:18

Verses 16-18 Appeal:

Genesis 50:16 So they sent a message to Joseph,

Possibly through Judah (Changed Man) or Benjamin.

It was circumstances that brought up this fear in the brothers' lives:

"Your father charged before he died, saying,

There is no record of this being said

Genesis 50:17 'Thus you shall say to Joseph,

There is no record of this being said

"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." This time the brothers are calling sin a sin, **transgression** – *"the crossing of a known boundary, crossing the line"*

please forgive

(twice) – the transgression of your brothers and their sin,

admission of sin, knowing that the boundary was crossed.

Forgiveness is both a Promise/Exercise:

The offended is promising

(1) "not to dwell upon the past sin,"

(2) "not to tell others,"

(3) "not to bring it back up to the offender."

of the servants of the God of your father."

There has been a profound change in the hearts and lives of these brothers.

Notice the mention of **"God" of your father**

And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Joseph wept when he saw his broken brothers and the fact that they owned up to their wrong.

**Joseph saw through their scheme and saw their need for forgiveness.
(Hurting sinners needing forgiveness)**

Genesis 50:18 "Behold, we are your servants."

We will become your slaves.

Only people God can forgive are repentant sinners: Ephesians 2:8-9

Verses 19-21 Assurance: Genesis 50:19 "Do not be afraid

This fear was a result of not having genuine forgiveness.

Joseph Would Not Play God: for am I in God's place?

We are not God! When we take vengeance, we are taking God's place!

Romans 12:19

Genesis 50:20 "As for you, you meant evil against me

Joseph did not minimize their sin.

The brothers hated Joseph and wanted to kill him.

Joseph Discerned God's Providence In Their Evil:

but God meant it for good God can use the hardest and most difficult events of our lives to bring about God's best for us! **Secret: Joseph was God conscience; he was ever speaking of God! (God is sovereign & Good)**

Romans 8:28 This is a pillow to lie our head upon!

in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

God overruled the brother's evil intentions. God had a plan for preserving Israel.

Psalms 76:10 For the wrath of man shall praise You;

Genesis 50:21 "So therefore, do not be afraid;

What is the **therefore, therefore?** *We are not in "The Place of God (Vengeance, Play God) God overruled your evil plan, and as a result, God preserved many people's lives. do not be afraid;*

I will provide for you and your little ones."

Joseph forgave by his word and assured of constant care for them.

Faithful to His Word!

How can sinners find assurance?

The only way to find assurance is the way Joseph's brothers found it through the Word. We have the Scriptures. **John 6:37**

Hebrews 10:17

2. Verses 22-26 Burial For Joseph:

Genesis 50:22 Now Joseph stayed in Egypt,

There is a gap of over 54 years between **Verses 21- 22.**

Joseph spent 93 years of his life in Egypt.

(Lived with his father Jacob 17 years)

Verses 22-23 Family: he and his father's household,

His 11 brothers, their children, their children's children.

and Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.

Abraham 175, Isaac 180, Jacob 147

Genesis 50:23 Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons;

(great-grandchildren) **Ephraim** – "*twice fruitful*" **Genesis 41:52**

also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, -

"forgetfulness" **were born on Joseph's knees.**

Joseph even adopted some of his grandchildren as his own. **Proverbs 17:6**

Verses 24-25 Joseph's Faith In God's Promises:

Genesis 50:24 Joseph said to his brothers,

Only Benjamin was younger than Joseph.

This would be his children, his great-grandchildren.

"I am about to die,

Joseph, just like Jacob, faces death with no regrets, no fear, but faith

(Twice Joseph says "God will surely take care of you") but God will surely take care of you, Philippians 4:19

and bring you up from this land – Through Moses, God would deliver the nation of Israel. **Exodus 3:16-17**

to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob."

Genesis 50:25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear,

Placed them under an oath

saying, "God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here." Exodus 13:19; Joshua 24:32; Hebrews 11:22

Genesis 50:26 So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years;

According to Egyptian culture this was a blessed ripe age.

he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

What a way to close the book!

Joseph was dead, but his witness was still going forth!

Application:

1. Do You Believe That In God's Great Love And Grace, He Overrules What Is Evil To Bring About Good To His Glory?
2. How Can Sinners Find Assurance? The Only Way To Find Assurance Is The Same Way Joseph's Brothers Found It Through The Word. We Have The Scripture.
3. Warren W. Wiersbe, "God's Will Is His goodness; God's Goodness Is Expressed In His Will."