

## ***Joseph's Bones -- Genesis 50:22-26***

### Introduction

- Many important lessons can be learned from the life of Joseph.
- In our text we see the end of his life.
  - Lived to be 110 years old.
  - He saw his great great-grandchildren before his death.
  - He gave instructions that his bones were to be taken to the land of promise.
- In the instructions of Joseph concerning his bones, we can learn some lessons that we need.

### ***I. Mortality***

- All of us will be in the same position that we see Joseph in here. Death is a fact of life.
  - Physical death, a consequence of sin in the garden. Adam and Eve were separated from the tree of life.
  - From that time on – Heb. 9:27, with the exceptions of Enoch and Elijah.
  - Challenge: to resist fostering a false sense of security about our own mortality. (Lk. 12:15ff)
    - Not a matter of being morbid.
    - But an issue of careful reflection so that we 1) put first things first, and 2) are ready when we die.
    - The rich man is a fool for failure to consider his own mortality. He was presumptuous about the future. (Js. 4:13-14)
  - Eccl. 7:2; 9:5; Ps. 90:12
- Joseph's bones remind us of our own mortality.

### ***II. No One Is Indispensable To God's Plan***

- The vital role that Joseph played in God's overall plan of redemption.
- God's plan proceeded after Joseph died.
  - Fulfillment of the promises goes on without interruption.
  - The same could be said of others: Moses, Joshua, David, etc.

### ***III. The Hope of Deliverance***

- Some 400 years from the time of Joseph's words till the fulfillment.
- Joseph had great faith in the promise of God.
  - You will leave here and go to the land of promise.
  - Carry my bones with you.
  - Joseph dies, another Pharaoh arises which does not know him, and the Israelites are enslaved. The Israelites were delivered in the 4<sup>th</sup> generation.
  - The bones of Joseph would be a reminder to the Israelites of God's promise.

### ***IV. God Will Do What He Says***

- It does not matter how long from the time of the promise till the fulfillment – God keeps his word.
  - Joseph believed what God said. (Heb. 11:22)
  - 400 years later it came to pass as God had promised. (Gen. 15)
  - They carried the bones of Joseph with them. (Ex. 13:19) For 40 years...Buried in a parcel of ground his father, Jacob, had purchased 100's of years earlier. (Josh. 24:32)
  - Other examples of such great faith: Abraham. (Rom 4:19-21) Sarah. (Heb. 11:11)

### ***V. Consider The Death Of Jesus...***

- Immortality → Everyone of us will live again.
  - John 11:11; 24-26; 43-44; I Cor. 15:22; Jn. 5:28-29
  - Christ's death brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (II Tim. 1:10)
  - Jesus answers Job: If a man die, will he live again. (Job 10:10)
- There is One who was indispensable to God's plan.

—God's plan was Jesus Christ before the beginning. (II Pet. 1:18-20). Nothing else would suffice.

—Our salvation is dependent on Him. (Heb. 10:11-14; Jn. 14:6)

•The Hope of Deliverance.

—The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus are the basis for our hope.

—Romans 6:5 → we are raised in the likeness of his resurrection.

—I Cor. 6:14 → God raised up Jesus and will raise us up. (II Cor. 4:14)

—Phil. 3:20-21

—Col. 1:27 → Christ in you, the hope of glory.

•God always does what he says:

—The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus remind us of that.

—God always keeps his word.

—Lk. 24:44 → The death of Jesus was prophesied and intended by God.

•God has said...

—Jesus will come again.

—This world will be destroyed.

—All will be raised from the dead.

—All will stand before Christ in judgment.

—All will have an eternal destiny – heaven or hell