



# The Last Words of Joseph

Genesis 50:22-26

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- 22 And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived an hundred and ten years.
- 23 And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third *generation*: the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were brought up upon Joseph's knees.
- 24 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.
- 25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.
- 26 So Joseph died, *being* an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

# *Joseph's Death → Mortality*

- The mortality of humanity.
  - Physical death to all, a consequence of sin in the garden. Adam and Eve were separated from the tree of life. (Gen. 3:22-24)
  - From that time on all die. – Eccl. 7:2; 9:4; Heb. 9:27
  - Challenge: to resist a false sense of security about our own lives. (Lk. 12:15ff)
    - Such knowledge should produce careful reflection on our own lives so that we 1) put first things first, and 2) are ready when we leave this world.
    - The rich man is a fool for failure to consider his own physical frailty. He was presumptuous about the future. (Js. 4:13-14)
  - Ps. 90:12 → So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.

# *Joseph's Place → God's Providence*

- The vital role that Joseph played in God's overall plan of redemption.
- We see the providence of God in the life of Joseph.  
(Gen. 45:5; 50:20)
- God's plan proceeded after the death of Joseph.
  - Fulfillment of the promises continues on God's schedule.
  - The same could be said of others:
    - Moses
    - Joshua
    - David
    - Esther, etc.

# *Joseph's Hope → Deliverance*

- Some 400 years from the time of Joseph's words till the fulfillment.
- Joseph last words showed great faith in the promise of God. (v. 24: cf. Gen. 12:1-7; 15:12-20)
  - 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.

# *Joseph's Faith → God Keeps His Promises*

- It matters not 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)

# *Consider The Death of Jesus*

- Immortality → Everyone will live again.
  - I Cor. 15:20-22; Jn. 5:28-29; II Tim. 1:10
- God provided the Savior → Indispensable to His plan.
  - II Pet. 1:18-20; Jn. 8:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12
- Deliverance from bondage → By His death, burial and resurrection.
  - Rom. 6:3-5; 17-18
- God keeps His promises → Things yet to come:
  - Jesus will return (Jn. 14:1-3); All will be raised. (Acts 24:15); This world will be destroyed. (II Pet. 3:10-13); All will be judged. (Rom. 14:12)
  - Eternity in either heaven or hell. (Matt. 25:46)