

God Intended It For Good

Genesis 49:29-50:26

Introduction

I The Death Of Jacob

- A. He made his **wishes** known - Gen 47:29-31
 - 1. He wanted to be buried in Canaan
 - 2. He wanted to be buried with his family
- B. He **died** and was gathered to his people - 2 Cor 5:8
- C. Joseph responded to his father's death by:
 - 1. Grieving and making burial **arrangements** - 1Ths 4:13-14
 - 2. Requesting time off to bury his father
 - 3. **Fulfilling** his father's request - Acts 7:15-16

II The Fears Of Joseph's Brothers

- A. They were **afraid** that Joseph might:
 - 1. Hold a grudge against them
 - 2. Pay them back for their **sins** - Gen 27:41
- B. They sent word to Joseph saying: - Ps 103:12; Micah 7:19
 - 1. Jacob requested that Joseph **forgive** his brothers
- C. They **threw** themselves down before Joseph - Gen 37:5-9

III The Mercy And Grace Of Joseph

- A. He assured them of their **safety**:
 - 1. "Don't be afraid!"
 - 2. "Am I in the place of God?" - Rom 12:19
- B. He acknowledged their **evil** motives
 - 1. "You intended to harm me"
- C. He recognized that God intended it for **good** - Gen 45:5-8
 - 1. "To accomplish what is now being done" - Eph 1:11
 - a. "The saving of many **lives**" - Prov 16:4; Acts 2:23-24
- D. He **reassured** them of his protection:
 - 1. "Don't be afraid"
 - 2. "I will provide for you and your children" - Rom 12:17-21
- E. He spoke **kindly** to them - Lk 6:35-36

IV The Death Of Joseph

- A. He stayed in Egypt with his family
 - 1. He lived **110** years
 - 2. He enjoyed his great-great grandchildren
- B. He demonstrated remarkable **faith**: - Heb 11:22
 - 1. God would come to Israel's aid
 - 2. God would take them up out of **Egypt**
 - 3. God would bring them to the Promised Land
 - 4. God would fulfill his **oath** to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- C. He made his **wishes** known
 - 1. He wanted to be buried in the Promised Land - Ex 13:19
- D. He **died** and was placed in a coffin in Egypt - Heb 11:13-16

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Without mentioning names or details, share a time when God turned what someone meant for evil into a blessing in your life.
- 2. What preparations have you made for your death? Have you made a will? What will your funeral service be like?
- 3. The fear of life's "what ifs" crippled Joseph's brothers. What "what ifs" are you wrestling with today? What should you do? [Hint: Read Phil 4:6-7]
- 4. What can you learn from Joseph's response to his brothers' offense and fears? Is there a situation where you could put into practice what you have learned?
- 5. How is Joseph's response to his brothers' sin like Jesus' response to our sin? What can you learn from this? [Col 3:13]
- 6. Read James 1:2-4, Rom 5:3-5, 1 Pet 4:12-13; Prov 16:4, Rom 8:28, and Eph 1:11. What do these verses teach you about the sovereignty of God? Take a few minutes to express your thanks and confidence in God's power to use the challenges you are currently facing for His glory and eternal purposes.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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