

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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