

GOD INTENDED IT FOR GOOD! ~ Genesis 49:29 - 50:26

→ Scripture Reading Gen. 50:15-21

THE DEATH and BURIAL OF JACOB ~ Genesis 49:28- 50:14

[29] Then he gave them these instructions: "I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite, ...[33] When Jacob had finished giving instructions to his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last and was gathered to his people. ...[50:1] Joseph threw himself upon his father and wept over him and kissed him. [2] Then Joseph directed the physicians in his service to embalm his father Israel. So the physicians embalmed him, [3] taking a full forty days, for that was the time required for embalming. And the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

VERY IMPRESSIVE PROCESSION

- **VIP's** - Officials and dignitaries of Pharaoh's court and Egypt vs. 7
- **Family** - his own household and his brothers vs. 8
- **Military** - chariots and cavalry vs. 9

[12] So Jacob's sons DID as he had COMMANDED them: [13] They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, which Abraham had bought as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite, along with the field. [14] After burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, together with his brothers and all the others who had gone with him to bury his father.

APPLICATION

Genesis 15:5-6 (NIV) ...Look up at the heavens and count the stars - if indeed you can count them. Then he said to him, "So SHALL YOUR OFFSPRING BE." [6] **Abram BELIEVED the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.**

Genesis 15:13, 18 (NIV) Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. ...[18] On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "**To your descendants I GIVE this land...**

JACOB MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE

- had FAITH God would make them into a NATION
- understood that they would be IN Egypt for MANY years
- believed God had ALREADY GIVEN them the Land of Promise
- trusted God to LEAD them OUT of Egypt

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NET) Therefore we do not DESPAIR, but even if our physical body is wearing away, our INNER PERSON is being renewed day by day. [17] For our MOMENTARY, light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison [18] because we are NOT looking at what CAN be seen but at what CANNOT be SEEN. For what can be seen is temporary, but what CANNOT BE SEEN IS ETERNAL.

REMEMBERING THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL ~ Genesis 50:15-21

[15] When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" [16] So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: [17] 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the SINS of the servants of the God of your father." WHEN their message came to him, Joseph WEPT. [18] His brothers THEN CAME and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. [19] But Joseph said to them, "DON'T BE AFRAID. Am I in the place of God? [20] You INTENDED to harm me, but God INTENDED it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. [21] So then, DON'T BE AFRAID. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

JOSEPH'S REACTION...

- WEPT when he heard the message vs. 17
- told them NOT to FEAR vs. 19
- you INTENDED it if for EVIL vs. 20
- God INTENDED it for GOOD vs. 20
- promised to CARE for them REASSURED them vs. 22

THE DEATH OF JOSEPH ~ Genesis 50:22-26

[22] Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father's family. He lived a hundred and ten years [23] and saw the third generation of Ephraim's children. Also the children of Makir son of Manasseh were placed at birth on Joseph's knees. [24] Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you UP OUT OF THIS LAND to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." [25] And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place." [26] So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

APPLICATION

Hebrews 11:22 (NIV) By FAITH Joseph, when his end was near, **spoke about the EXODUS** of the Israelites **from Egypt** and gave instructions about his bones.

WE SEE JOSEPH'S TRUST AND FAITH HE...

- Never GAVE UP Hope
- FORGAVE His Brothers
- Trusted GOD with the FUTURE
- Believed God had a PLAN
- TRUSTED God to Keep His PROMISES

Jeremiah 18:1-6 (NLT) The LORD gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, [2] "Go down to the potter's shop, and I will speak to you there." [3] So I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel. [4] **But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he CRUSHED it into a lump of clay again and started over.** [5] Then the LORD gave me this message: [6] "O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? **As the clay is in the potter's hand, SO ARE YOU in MY HAND.**

TAKE AWAY ??

In Joseph we see that to leave all the righting of wrongs to God, to see God's providence in man's evil, and to **REPAY EVIL** not only **WITH FORGIVENESS** but also with affection and care, are attitudes which anticipate the description "Christ-like". Constable

Psalms 11:1-4 (NLT) I trust in the Lord for protection. So why do you say to me, "Fly to the mountains for safety! [2] The wicked are stringing their bows and setting their arrows in the bowstrings. They shoot from the shadows at those who do right. [3] The foundations of law and order have collapsed. What can the righteous do?" [4] **But the Lord is in his holy Temple; the Lord still rules from heaven...**