

## Genesis 50:1-26

**Understanding the Book of Genesis is essential to understanding the rest of the bible and the world as it is today.**

**1 ¶ And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him.** Jacob has just died, and Joseph loved his dad so much, lost 20+ years with him when he was sold into slavery, and now he weeps and grieves when Jacob dies.

**2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father: and the physicians embalmed Israel.** Embalming was the practice in Egypt at that time to prevent spread of disease.

**3 And forty days were fulfilled for him; for so are fulfilled the days of those which are embalmed: and the Egyptians mourned for him threescore and ten days.** They soaked the body in a preservative for 40 days for the process of embalming. After the embalming period was over, the Egyptians go into mourning for Jacob, a shepherd and farmer, for 70 days. Their normal mourning period for a pharaoh was 77 days. This is how much they respected and honored Joseph's father. This type of embalming and mourning was done for the elite. The common men were just thrown in a hole when they died.

**4 And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke unto the house of Pharaoh, saying, If now I have found grace in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying,** It appears here that Joseph went to Pharaoh's court and asked them to ask him to let him take Jacob back to their homeland for burial. Joseph didn't go to Pharaoh directly. We don't know why he didn't go directly to Pharaoh. We know how politics work – sometimes we go directly to the big boss, other times we send a messenger.

**5 My father made me swear, saying, Lo, I die: in my grave which I have dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall thou bury me. Now therefore let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come again.** If you made a verbal oath, people went out of their way to keep it. They didn't need 40 pages of contracts to seal your word. They were very honorable.

**6 And Pharaoh said, Go up, and bury thy father, according as he made thee swear.**

**7 ¶ And Joseph went up to bury his father: and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,** Here is a great entourage of people leaving Egypt to go bury Jacob in his homeland. This is the greatest detailed description of a burial in the bible. Some may have been greater, but this one is in scripture.

**8 And all the house of Joseph, and his brethren, and his father's house: only their little ones, and their flocks, and their herds, they left in the land of Goshen.** They left all the small children, the women, and the elderly, along with the livestock. This assured Pharaoh that they were coming back.


**9 And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen: and it was a very great company.** Pharaoh makes a great funeral procession from Egypt to Canaan in honor of Jacob, because he was Joseph's father.

**10 And they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made a mourning for his father seven days.** Even after they get up into Canaan, which probably took several weeks, they make another mourning period for 7 days.

**11 And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning in the floor of Atad, they said, This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians: wherefore the name of it was called Abelmizraim, which is beyond Jordan.** Egyptians didn't usually travel outside their borders unless it was for war, so the Canaanites were quite surprised to see all these Egyptians here in their land for a funeral. The name "Abelmizraim" means "mourning of the Egyptians".

**12 And his sons did unto him according as he commanded them:**

**13 For his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of a burying place of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre.** The last time we know of anyone going into this cave was the year 1119. The finding of



the presence of bones was recorded at that time. Mummies were probably not there because the climate is not as dry as it is in Egypt, where mummies last forever. Moist mummies deteriorate over time.

**14 And Joseph returned into Egypt, he, and his brethren, and all that went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father.**

**15 ¶ And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will perhaps now hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.** After the funeral, the brothers were scared that Joseph, the second most powerful man in Egypt, might take revenge on them for their past sins now that their father was gone. They believed Joseph was being nice to them because their father was around, and now that he's gone, they are scared.

**16 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, 17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spoke unto him.** For the first time that we have recorded in the book of Genesis after the brothers threw Joseph in the pit and sold him into slavery, for the first time they are admitting their sin and begging for forgiveness. Joseph has grace; notice Joseph was so upset that they would even think, after all these years of his caring for them, that they would turn on him and be scared of him and not just love him as a brother. Life is too short to hold grudges in families.

**18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.** Not only did the brothers send a messenger before them; they came to him and bowed exactly as in Joseph's dream years ago.

**19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?** Joseph said, Listen, we've talked about this before. God used your evil and turn it into good to place me here in this position. It was all meant to be, per God's Will.

**20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.** You all were evil in your heart when you did it, but God used your evil for good and saved many thousands of people.

**21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spoke kindly unto them.** Joseph assures them one last time: he will care for them and their descendants so don't worry. Even though they did him evil, Joseph treats them with grace.

**22 ¶ And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived an hundred and ten years.** Joseph lived to be 110 years old, which is very old in Egypt standards. They consider 110 years the optimum length of time for a man's lifespan. He lived another 54 years in Egypt after his father died.

**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.** Joseph lived to be a great-great-grandpa. He got to bounce his great-great-grandchildren on his knees and play with them.

**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 swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.** Joseph reaches 110 years and God lets him know its his time soon, so Joseph gets a chance to say goodbye and give his last messages to his loved ones.

**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.** Joseph utters a prophecy. Remember at this time there was no written word from God, so all messages were passed through his servants and prophets.

**26 So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.** They embalmed Joseph and his was put in a coffin in Egypt.

The book of Genesis covered the beginning of the world, thru Noah, the beginnings of the 12 tribes of Israel, and all the way thru Joseph's death and burial in Egypt. It gives us the foundation of what is happening today in the world.