

## Hebrews - 2/21/21

### Joseph – A Patient Faith

**TEXT- Hebrews 11:22** *By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.*

**Gen 50:24-26** *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. 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.*

**INTRO- Chapter 50 records the burial of Jacob and the death of Joseph, and so completes the history of the chosen family.**

**It is amazing that Joseph had any faith at all, after going through so many trials and after living in pagan Egypt most of his life.**

Joseph	Jesus
Joseph was Loved by His Father - Genesis 37:3	God "this is my beloved son" - Matthew 3:17
Joseph's brothers did not believe him and hated him	The Jews Did Not Believe in Christ - John 7:5 and they hated Him
Joseph's brothers rejected his right to rule	"we will not have this man to rule over us" Luke 19:14
Joseph's brothers conspired against him -	They took counsel against Jesus Matthew 27:1
They stripped Joseph of his garments -	They stripped Jesus - Matthew 27:28
Joseph was sold for silver - Genesis 37:28	Jesus was sold for silver - Matthew 26:15
Everything Joseph put his hand prospered -	And the pleasure of the Lord prospered in his hand" - Isaiah 53:10
All things were laid into Joseph's trust -	God hath given all things into his hand - John 3:35
<b>Joseph's own brothers did not recognize him.</b>	<b>The Jews did not recognize their Messiah</b>
Joseph was tempted and did not sin - Genesis 39:9	Jesus was tempted in all things yet was without sin
Joseph was bound -	Jesus was bound -

Joseph was condemned with two criminals -	Jesus was crucified with two criminals - Luke 23:32
One criminal was given life and the other was condemned	Jesus told one of the criminals "Today you shall be with me in paradise" -
Joseph's brothers bowed their knee to him -	"At the name of Jesus every knee will bow" -
Joseph was 30 years old - Genesis 41:46	Jesus was "about 30 years old" - Luke 3:25
God planned the suffering of Joseph in advance to save many - Genesis 50:21	"God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son
Joseph was made ruler over all of Egypt -	Jesus said "all power has been given unto me" -
Joseph married a foreign bride who shared his glory	Believers in Christ are "joint heirs" with
Joseph was cast into a pit and then later delivered out of it - Genesis 37:24, 28	When Jesus died he descended into the lower parts of the earth,
Joseph was imprisoned based on false charges - Genesis 39:19, 20	During the trial of Jesus false witnesses were brought in testifying
<b>Joseph's brothers later repented for what they did to him - Genesis 42:7</b>	<b>"and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn" - Zechariah 12:10</b>

**Here is an old man giving his final advice to his family. His concern is the furtherance of his people and their testimony of God. He was less concerned about the riches of Egypt than the riches of heaven.**

**Exo 13:19** *And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.*

**Jos 24:32** *And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.*

**Joseph knew that Israel would one day be delivered from Egypt, for this is what God promised Abraham.**

**Gen 15:13-16** *And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. 15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.*

**Brethren, be not deceived by your present prosperity; this is not your home; it is not here, that God wills to separate you to Himself. Ye are the descendants of Abraham; and Egypt, is no resting-place for you.**

**The patriarch could no longer warn and command his descendants with the voice of a living man: his tongue was mute in death: but there was eloquence in his remaining bones**

I can hardly think that Joseph believed that his body would never live again: he would scarcely have provided it a sepulchre in Canaan, if persuaded that, in dying, it would be finally destroyed.

The request of Joseph concerning his bones, wears, I daresay, to some of us, an aspect of concern for himself, but really it is only an additional witness to the patriotic quality of his faith, and the quenchlessness of his hope. The ruling passion, "love of his brethren," is strong in death.

### **The wonderful story of Joseph's bones**

1. Here the portrait of a great man, not merely as commanding and guiding intelligence, of strong and noble, personal character.
2. He was what we should call a self-made man; he was as much so as any man can be a self-made man; his life was one long contest with difficulties, but he overcame them all. **He was made by God.**
3. The greatness of Joseph was what we call moral greatness.

**He died!** How can men speak when they are dead? THE SUSTAINING POWER THERE IS IN THE MEMORIES OF GREAT AND GOOD MEN. It may seem surprising that the charge of Joseph concerning his body should be mentioned as act of faith, and not the similar charge delivered by Jacob

**I. THE POWER OF FAITH:** the endurance of true faith under three remarkable modes of test.

**A. The power of faith over worldly prosperity.**

**B. The power of his faith exhibited in over death.**

On his death-bed, his faith triumphed.

**C. An example of the power of faith in impossibilities.**

It seemed a very unlikely thing that the Israelites should go up out of Egypt. Why should they wish to go?

## **II. THE WORKINGS OF FAITH.**

**A.** Joseph would not be an Egyptian. No doubt he would have had a sumptuous tomb enough in Egypt; but no, he will not be buried there

**B.** His faith constrained him to have fellowship with the people of God.

**C.** His faith led to an open declaration of his confidence in God's promise. On his death-bed he said, "*I die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land.*"

He also said, "*He will bring you to the land which He promised to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.*"

**D.** Having faith himself, he would encourage the faith of others.

Every time an Israelite thought of the bones of Joseph, he thought, "We are to go out of this country one day." True faith seeks to propagate herself in the hearts of others.

**E.** Joseph's faith made him have an eye to the spiritualities of the covenant. Joseph had nothing earthly to gain in having his bones buried in Canaan rather than in Egypt; that can make small difference to a dying man.

**F.** Joseph's faith in connection with his unburied bones showed itself in his willingness to wait God's time for the promised blessing.

## **III. FAITH IN THE TIME OF DEATH.**

**A.** Imitate Joseph, by finding comfort from the covenant.

**B.** Joseph may be an example to us, in that he drew his consolation from the future of his people.

**CONCL** — The Christian Hebrews of the first century needed "like precious faith" with these three patriarchs, to enable them to discharge the duties and endure the sufferings to which they were called in connection with their Christian discipleship. And so also do we Gentile believers of these last times. Only faith in "things to come"—confidence in the life and immortality which have been brought to light through the gospel—will enable us to live obediently and to die triumphantly.