

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Hymns Psa 23 - Crimond 594, 260 Read: Genesis 37:29-35 Text Genesis 37:29-35

Series: Joseph Title: Jacob Concludes Joseph is dead.

There are two fundamental points in this passage, that we often forget but must keep in mind.

**One**, Joseph is not dead he is alive, **Secondly** nowhere does the brothers say that Joseph is dead, rather they allow their Father to think that Joseph is dead.

As indicated by **verse 33** "*an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.*" To Jacob, Joseph is dead.

now the brothers don't intervene, rather, their attitude is let's go with Father's conclusion. He will never suspect anything.

Jacob is so taken back by the news, the events and what he sees, and concludes Joseph is devoured by an animal, instead of remembering the messages of Joseph's dream.

**Joseph prophesied that his Father and Brethren would stand before him one day.** Jacob completely forgets this prophecy and promise. He is so overwhelmed by the present circumstance that he neglects the words spoken by Joseph.

Then Jacob views life not worth living, his life seems to end with Joseph.

For the next 22 years Jacob will struggle through every day, by just existing.

Therefore, men and woman, we certainly sympathise with Jacob's situation of sorrow, to him Joseph is dead, however there are lessons to learn, in sorrow, grief, that in the darkest

of days, when your world changes, remember the word of God.

Depend upon the prophecies and promises of God, re-read and pray over them concerning a future day, when faith will give by to sight, as we are face to face with Christ our saviour, reunited with friends and family who died in Christ.

### **I FIRST, JACOB'S REACTION.**

***Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.*** These details are recorded, to show the level of grief and sorrow that the Jacob felt at this time.

These were all outward expressions, tokens or symbols of sorrow, great grief and mourning.

Notice, ***Jacob, Rent his clothes***, To rent or tear the clothes was sign of grief, distress, and sorrow. Jacob rends his clothes because he believes his son to be dead.

When the King David's sons were killed, **2 Samuel 13:31** ***the king arose, and tare his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with their clothes rent.***

Jacob ***put sackcloth upon his loins.*** "Sackcloth was a dark cloth made from the long dark hair of a goat. Being dark, it was often worn to express sorrow.

Jacob ***mourned for his son many days.*** **Verse 35** ...***his father wept for him.***

Jacob's heart was broken. The sorrow he experienced in losing his son was overwhelming. In **2 Samuel 13:37** ***David mourned for his son every day.***

**But we must never forget why such sorrow takes place. Suffering, sorrow and death are all results of sin.**

Jacob reacts in sorrow because he concludes that Joseph is dead.

That's why in **John 11**, after the death of Lazarus, that Mary, Martha, and the visiting Jews were weeping. Then we read in **John 11:31-33**, Jesus was troubled and wept, why because the effects of sin, causing sorrow and suffering as seen by death.

Death was unnatural to God's original creation. Man was created to live and rejoice not to death and sorrow.

He was created to enjoy God's creation. Death and all its lasting effects was the punishment and penalty for breaking God's law. **Romans 5:12** *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*"

There are three forms of Death, **physical death**, while not immediate, yet at some point in life we will all die Physically just as Adam did. There will be a date, a day, that your death will be recorded, your physical life ended.

**Spiritual death**, man lost fellowship with God, and then, if not restored to God, the fallen sinners will suffer **eternal death**.

In **Genesis 3** the impact of sin, upon mankind, the world, sorrow and pain in birth, *cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;* death of plants, animals but among mankind death of all ages.

Death is no respecter of persons, it visits very home. its presence is felt, Death never lets us forget its mark.

Since it is appointed unto men once to die, then how will you die, in Christ or out of Christ.

death to a lost sinner is a sting, a terror and to be feared, but to the Christian, Christ has taken the sting and fear away, He defeated death, and death is now the means to lead us into heaven.

**Jacob reacted concluding his son was death.**

## **II SECOND, JACOB'S RESPONSE**

**Jacob having expressed his sorrow, then responds in refusal to be comforted.** *And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted;*

the word **refused** is a strong word it means *to resist*.

*The idea is to be settled, the mind made up.* Jacob's mind is settled, he is stubborn he refuses, resists any comfort.

we know that everyone responds to death differently.

**Some remain silence**, keep matters to themselves. They try to stay strong for others in the family.

Some try to hide their hurt, cover their tears, whereas others will wept openly like Mary and Martha or David in **2 Samuel 18:33** at the death of his son Absalom, he *went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!*

**Some remain in shock.** Some don't know how others will respond, as in **2 Samuel 12:18** *"the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?"*

**Others may turn nasty**, use those around to lash out, say harsh words.

Remember in the life of the prophet Elijah, the widow woman blamed Elijah, she took her sons death to lash out at God's servant, **1 Kings 17:18** ***"And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?"***

in others words, she was saying If you had not come or we never met you this would not have happened. You have made matters worse. We were fine before you came.

In the widows mind, Elijah was the cause of her sons death. He was the reason she was in pain.

Think when Lazarus died, in **John 11**, both Mary and Martha wept openly, but both equally questioned the Lord's ways and works. They both said to the Lord, ***"if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."***

Some need the comfort and support of friends and friends, others want to be left alone.

Each respond differently in times of sorrow.

There are those like Jacob who refuse comfort. No matter how much you seek to support to comfort it's meet with refusal.

Jacob shut himself from everyone, he cut himself of.

Maybe you have been in that situation, maybe you are there now, you are worried concerned about a loved one, and you don't know what else to do.

Let me say Jesus is always the answer for the troubled heart, He alone can break through all resistance. He alone makes heals the wounds.

Jesus Christ is the great comforter. He understands, He never leaves nor forsakes, He sticks closer than a brother.

During a time of death, and sorrow, Christ's comforting words to Martha centred upon the believers eternal hope and guaranteed the resurrection, **Verse 23 *Thy brother shall rise again.*** Martha replied **Verse 24 “ *I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.*”**

After 22 years what gave Jacob comfort, what revived him and caused him to live again, **Gen 45** Joseph tells his brethren to deliver a message to their Father, what was the message **verse 26 “...*Joseph is yet alive....*”**

The end of **Verse 27 “...*the spirit of Jacob their Father received.*** The word **revived** is the standard word for **revival** meaning ***to cause to live.*** In hearing Joseph is alive, Jacob started to live again.

Jacob starts to live again, he said, **verse 28 “*Joseph my son is yet alive...*”**

He looked forward to seeing Joseph, “***I will go and see him before I die...***”

That's what will cause you believer in the darkest and deadliest days to live when you feel there is nothing to live for, remember about Christ, in **Matthew 28:6 “*He is risen...*”** He is alive. Because He lives I can face tomorrow.

One day we will go and see Him. Because Christ live, all who die in Him shall live forever with Him.

Unsaved one you must see Him by faith as Risen Saviour, and trust Him before you die, because only those who trust in Crucified and Risen Saviour, will have everlasting life.

### **III THIRD JACOB'S REALITY.**

Keep in mind we are looking at this situation how Jacob sees it and how the brothers want him to see it.

The reality that Jacob will not see Joseph sets in, he mourns many days, He knows he will no longer see his son, hear his voice.

Already, he suffered by the death of his wife Rachel. Now sorrow is added unto sorrow. The pain is deep. The hurt intensifies.

Jacob cannot see any way forward. He has lost all will and power to live. ***“He said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.”***

We get the impression from these words that Jacob will spend the rest of his days mourning Joseph. When the children see him and grandchildren see him, all they will notice is a man in mourning.

It seems to be that when Jacob learned of Joseph's death, Jacob died. He stopped to live.

We learn from Jacob, that no matter much time has passed since the death of Joseph, the pain will still be as fresh, as it was the very day he learned Joseph died.

And remember, Joseph was not dead, the brothers have given the impression to Jacob that Joseph is dead.

Just to remind you of the time frame until Joseph stands before Pharaoh, **Gen 37:2** Joseph is **age 17.** **Gen 41:46**



Joseph is age 30, that means 13 years have passed from the time when Jacob concluded Joseph was dead, but to Jacob it is like yesterday.

For 13 years Jacob has mourned, wept over Joseph. (Gen 42 *J a c o b     t h e i r     f a t h e r     s a i d     u n t o* *them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me. )*

Now as we know the story. There are many in the same situation as Jacob. Both saved and unsaved. David felt the reality of his sons death in 2 Samuel 12:23 “*can I bring him back again?... ...he shall not return to me.*

To the saved, there is a sorrow with hope, because David added I will go to him.

This is the truth we forget it during of sorrow. We forget the prophecy and promises of our heavenly Joseph as Jacob forgot the words of Joseph concerning the future.

During the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus, He taught His disciples and multitudes that He would suffer, die and rise again from the dead. He assured them of a brighter tomorrow, hope for eternity, peace for death, by His words in John 14.

They had His word, but after His death, and resurrection, they forgot. The reality of the crucifixion and burial set in. To many live was not worth living, they were in fear, depressed, distressed, their Saviour had died.

Luke 24 there are two walking on the road of Emmaus, they are sad, it's the third day, and yet the Risen Saviour met them, but they were to downcast they couldn't even recognise Him or re-call His word.



The Saviour said in **Luke 24:25-26** **O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?**

*I make that point, as Joseph stated, his brethren and Father would not only bow before Him but also He would be exalted, a higher position.*

In **Genesis 46:26** when Joseph told his brethren, to tell his father **Joseph is yet alive**, he added, "**and He is governor over all the land of Egypt**". He is exalted, He is a ruler, His word is sure, faithful and true.

Believer what a reminder, what a Saviour, He is alive, exalted on High. There is coming a day when He will welcome you home.

Therefore, when you feel there is nothing left to live for, and hope seems gone, fix your eyes upon a risen Saviour, your Heavenly Joseph is yet alive.

One day He will wipe away all tears from your eyes. You will enter into your eternal rest.

(The song writer wrote- **At times the sky seems dark, with not a ray of light, we're tossed and driven on, no human help in sight. But there is one in heaven, who knows our deepest care, Let Jesus solve your problems, Just go to Him in prayer,**

*It will be worth it all when we see Jesus, life's trials will seem to small when we see Christ, one glimpse of His dear face, all sorrow will erase, O bravely run the race till we see Christ. Jesus is alive. )*

