

Death, Sin, and Hope
Genesis 35:16-29

Main Point:

When tragedy strikes, hope in the Lord who keeps His Word and help others do the same.

1. God's people are not immune from the tragedy of death.
2. God's people are also not immune from the tragedy of sin.
3. Yet neither death nor sin can keep God from fulfilling His promises to you.
4. When tragedy strikes, hope in the Lord who keeps His Word and help others do the same.

Cross-References and Quotations

Genesis 30:22-24 ²² Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. ²³ And she conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach." ²⁴ So she called his name Joseph, and said, "The LORD shall add to me another son." (NKJV)

Leviticus 18:8 ⁸ "The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness. (NKJV)

R. Kent Hughes "Reuben's sin ... centered in his attempt to ensure his mother's position by nullifying Bilhah and also to wrench power from his father."

Genesis 49:3-4 ³ "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power. ⁴ Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled *it*-- He went up to my couch. (NKJV)

1 Chronicles 5:1 ¹ Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel-- he *was* indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph ... (NKJV)

Genesis 28:12-14 ¹² Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder *was* set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I *am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (NKJV)

Allen Ross "Since the section includes reports of sin and death, the list of the tribes is all the more striking – it becomes irrefutable evidence that God's blessings continued in spite of sin and death."

Psalms 119:89-90 ⁸⁹ Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. ⁹⁰ Your faithfulness *endures* to all generations ... (NKJV)

Psalms 42:5 ⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul? And *why* are you disquieted within me? Hope in God ... (NKJV)

Psalms 119:114 ¹¹⁴ You *are* my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word. (NKJV)

Psalms 119:49-50 ⁴⁹ Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which You have caused me to hope. ⁵⁰ This *is* my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life. (NKJV)