

## Genesis 49:29-50:26 – Joseph Reassures His People

### *God's Covenant is Sure, even in the Valley*

#### Genesis 49:29-33 – Jacob's Transformation

*<sup>33</sup>When Jacob had finished giving charges to his sons, he drew his feet into the bed, took his last breath, and was gathered to his people.*

Jacob spent many years in personal and physical turmoil. Being a deceiver, running from his brother, working for Rachel, having rebellious sons, his daughter attacked and his beloved son thought to be dead. Jacob walked much of his life in what we call the valley. Despite walking through the valley Jacob ends his life believing that God is faithful.

We saw how Jacob kept God at a distance often referring to Him as “the God of Abraham and Isaac”. Then we saw his transformation to Israel and referring to God as “my God”. Now we see Jacob being gathered to his people. It was a long difficult journey, but Jacob's journey is a testament to the faithfulness of God.

No matter the circumstance Jacob found himself, God stayed true to His covenant. No matter Jacob's attitude, God stayed true to His covenant. Jacob's journey is a beautiful story of God's faithfulness.

#### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is it important to remember that God's faithfulness is not dependent upon our faithfulness?
- ❖ Why should we allow God to transform us into who He's called us to be?

#### Genesis 50:1-26 – Jacob's Sons' Transformation

*Then Joseph, leaning over his father's face, wept and kissed him. <sup>2</sup>He commanded his servants who were physicians to embalm his father. So they embalmed Israel. <sup>3</sup>They took forty days to complete this, for embalming takes that long, and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.*

*<sup>12</sup>So Jacob's sons did for him what he had commanded them. <sup>13</sup>They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave at Machpelah in the field near Mamre, which Abraham had purchased as burial property from Ephron the Hethite. <sup>14</sup>After Joseph buried his father, he returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone with him to bury his father.*

To think that Joseph went from being a slave then to being a prisoner in Pharaoh's personal prison, to the Egyptians loving Joseph so much that the nation joined him in mourning. This can only be explained by the faithfulness of God.

Not only did Joseph receive support from a people that once owned him as a slave...now he is serving his father alongside his brothers. His brothers went from hating him, to trying to kill him, to selling him, to bowing before him and now serving alongside him.

Families can go through a lot of valleys. Valleys in life are unavoidable. We must learn to trust and obey God through those valleys. When learned from Joseph that when we find ourselves walking through the valley, we must seek God. All through Joseph's journey he sought to glorify God with his life.

Through Jacob's spiritual transformation and Joseph's continued faithfulness, we see the sons of Jacob go through transformation. They are found in verse 12 faithfully serving their father alongside Joseph.

### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How should we view and respond to the valleys we face in life?
- ❖ Why is it important to follow God's Word when walking through the difficult times of life?
- ❖ Why is it important to follow God's Word when walking through the easy, fun times of life?

### Genesis 50:15-21 – A Family Transformation

*<sup>18</sup>His brothers also came to him, bowed down before him, and said, "We are your slaves!" <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people. <sup>21</sup>Therefore don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

Understandably, Joseph's brothers are scared and nervous. They've witnessed how beloved Joseph is in Egypt and that Pharaoh will put all the support of Egypt behind him. This could be a massive moment of revenge, but it becomes a massive moment of grace and transformation. Joseph explains that it was God's sovereign plan that sent him to Egypt. Because God is good, He sent Joseph as a slave to Egypt and later as a prisoner and then ultimately to become the rescuer of the empire. Often, we can be tempted to look at the valleys we walk through as something that is awful, pointless and not in God's plan. What we actually see throughout Scripture is that God does amazing work in the valley. It reminds me of Psalm 23.

Joseph and his brothers are now living together and serving together. Do you think any of his brothers would have ever imagined that becoming reality? God's faithfulness to establish the nation of Israel and the twelve tribes is unparalleled. Only God could have got this outcome for this family.

### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is it important to see the valleys of life as God's design to strengthen and care for His people?
- ❖ Why should we show mercy and love to those that do us wrong?

### Genesis 50:22-26 – God's Covenant is Sure

*<sup>22</sup>Joseph and his father's family remained in Egypt. Joseph lived 110 years. <sup>23</sup>He saw Ephraim's sons to the third generation; the sons of Manasseh's son Machir were recognized by Joseph. <sup>24</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will certainly come to your aid and bring you up from this land to the land he swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." <sup>25</sup>So Joseph made the sons of Israel take an oath: "When God comes to your aid, you are to carry my bones up from here." <sup>26</sup>Joseph died at the age of 110. They embalmed him and placed him in a coffin in Egypt.*

Joseph had such confidence in the covenant of God that he spoke in absolutes.

- God will certainly come to your aid.
- God will certainly bring you up from this land.
- When God comes to your aid.

Joseph trusted God's Covenant to point of speaking as if it's already happened. He knew God would establish the nation of Israel in the promise land through his descendants. How did he know? God said it.

### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How committed to God's Word are you?
- ❖ How well do you know God's Word?
- ❖ What is your plan to grow in your knowledge of God's Word as well as act upon it?