



Genesis Lesson 39 Chapter 49-50

What an amazing testimony to God's faithfulness Jacob and Joseph's lives have been despite living in the midst of a fallen world with its grievous effects on the human condition. God's mercy in keeping His covenant with Jacob, and Joseph's endurance in holding on to God's promises in times of despair have enable Abraham's offspring to become a nation which will continue to multiply and flourish. Joseph was right when he declared to his brothers

that despite their evil attempts to destroy him, God had used them as key players in a chain of events that would bring good to their family and the world. Satan's attempt to stop the emergence of the promised seed through the lineage of the patriarchs was frustrated, and God's sovereign will stood firm. Jacob acknowledged Joseph's contribution and blessed him with the double portion of the future family inheritance through his sons Ephraim and Manasseh.

READ CHAPTER 49

1. *How was the "blessing" (49:28) that Jacob gave his eleven sons different than the "blessing" (48:20) he gave to Joseph and his sons?*

2. *What ironies are present in Deut. 21:15-17 when compared to Reuben and Joseph's birth order?*

3. *It is clear that the blessings given to the 11 sons were not necessarily blessings of prosperity but prophetic truths called a blessing. How do you think the brothers would have felt about each other when Jacob was done?*

4. *Families at this time usually lived together in units and drew a sense of stability from the parents. When the parent died, the family stability fell onto the firstborn. Now with Jacob gone, and the firstborn responsibility and position has somewhat fallen to Joseph, how might the dynamics of the family change?*



The third of the trio of famous patriarchs is dead. Jacob has enjoyed 17 years with Joseph, his favored son, and has reached the end of his life. His last request was that he be buried in Canaan with Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and his own wife Leah. It is clear in the blessing given to his sons in chapter 49 that both Joseph and Judah were to become prominent in the future of the nation of Israel and the progression of the covenant promises. From beginning to end the book of Genesis has followed the path of God providing a savior for fallen mankind. What a privilege for this family to carry the torch of blessing to the world! Though Egypt will be their home for the next 400 years, eventually God will bring them back to the land of promise where the remains of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be waiting. At that time God will begin the next phase of their legacy.

READ CHAPTER 50



Embalming was strictly an Egyptian mode of burial, not Hebrew. It was probably used in Jacob's case because of the time it would take to make the journey to Canaan to bury him. The process involved the removal of most of the internal organs through an incision in the abdomen. The outside of the body was washed with water, and the internal cavities with palm-wine, oil of cedar, and other antiseptic preparations. The head and abdomen were filled with myrrh, cassia, cinnamon, and other aromatic substances. The incision was then sewed shut. Next the body was steeped in niter (a combination of nitrate chemicals) for thirty, forty, or seventy days. When this process was finished, it was carefully wrapped in bandages of fine linen plastered with gum. These bandages were from seven to eight inches wide, and sometimes were as long as seven hundred feet. The body was then somehow submitted to extreme heat. Layers of cloth covered with lime were then fitted exactly to the shape of the body and then taken off to dry and harden. After hardening, it was put back on the body and sewed up in the back. The part directly over the face was made to resemble, as near as possible, the features of the deceased. The whole thing was then placed in a case made of sycamore or cedar (Manners and Customs of the Bible by James M. Freeman).

5. *Since it has been 17 years since Jacob came to Egypt, what does Joseph's authority to approach Pharaoh and the elaborate funeral given by the Egyptians for Jacob tell you about Joseph's life in Egypt after the famine ended?*

6. *What happened when the funeral party returned to Egypt?*

7. *Why do you think Joseph wept when he heard his brother's fears?*

8. *What did Joseph believe about the future of the nation of Israel?*

9. *According to Exodus 1, what happened that would cause the Israelites to long to leave Egypt?*

10. *What new truth did you learn from Genesis that stands out to you the most?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
