

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Lesson 8 – Genesis 49-50

As we look at Chapter 49 our focus will be only on what Jacob spoke to Joseph. Chapter 50 reveals a depth of mourning, but also the act of moving forward in God's plan. And, as we read of the death of Joseph, may we see the sovereignty of God in the life of Joseph and remember His sovereignty in all that we face in our own lives.

Begin your study with prayer...

Memory Verse – This week's memory verse is Genesis 50:20.

“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

Read Genesis 49:1, 22-26, 28-33.

In Chapter 49 we can read of all that Jacob spoke over his twelve sons before his death, but we will focus only on the verses pertaining to Joseph.

1. As we read Genesis 49:1, what does it say that Jacob will tell his sons?
 - a. How does Jacob describe Joseph in Genesis 49:22?
 - b. How have you seen this in our study of Joseph's life?
2. The archers in verse 23 could refer to Joseph's brothers, shooting arrows of hatred and bitterness.
 - a. What other arrows can you think of that were shot at Joseph in his lifetime?
 - b. How did Joseph respond to these arrows?
3. Genesis 49:24 says about Joseph that *his bow remained in strength*. In archery this means that the arrow is set and the bow is pulled back and ready to shoot. If it remained in strength then the arrow was able to be shot, but never was shot. Considering the arrows from question 2, think about how Joseph could have responded with arrows of his own, but did not.

- a. How did you see this in Joseph's responses?
 - b. From Genesis 49:24, who gave Joseph the strength to do this?
 - c. How could James 1:19 help us to do the same?
4. In Genesis 49:25-26, we see the word *blessings* five times.
- a. As a reminder, define *blessing*.
 - b. What do you see about the *blessings* in these verses?
5. We come to Jacob's final words in Genesis 49:29-32.
- a. What was his final request in verse 29?
 - b. What do the details of verses 30-32 add?
 - c. If you knew that you were going to die today, what would your last request(s) be?
 - d. From Genesis 49:33, what do you notice about how Jacob's death is described?

Read Genesis 50:1-14.

1. How did Joseph respond to his father's death in Genesis 50:1?
2. The death of a loved one is always followed by grief. What do the following scriptures say that can help in our time of grieving?
 - a. Psalm 30:5
 - b. Psalm 116:15

c. 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

3. Jacob's body was embalmed according to Egyptian customs.

a. Although forty days were required, how many days did the Egyptians mourn for him?

b. What does it say to you that even the Egyptians did mourn for Joseph's father?

c. Define the word mourn.

d. How has the Lord comforted you in times of grieving or mourning?

4. *And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh.*

a. In Genesis 50:4-5, what was Joseph's request of Pharaoh?

b. How did Pharaoh reply?

c. As a reminder, what promise did Joseph make to Jacob in Genesis 47:29-31?

d. Why was it important to Jacob that he be buried in Canaan?

5. *So Joseph went to bury his father.* From Genesis 50:7, who went with Joseph?

6. When Joseph and all who had gone with him arrived in Canaan, they stopped at the threshing floor of Atad.

a. What did they do in Genesis 50:10?

b. From verse 11, what did the Canaanites who saw this think?

7. Write the words of Genesis 50:12 below.

a. What do you observe in this simple statement?

b. How are the actions of verse 12 reflected in the commandment given years later to Moses in Exodus 20:12?

8. Once Joseph did what he came to do, what does Genesis 50:14 tell us happened next?

Read Genesis 50:15-21.

1. From Genesis 50:15, in spite of all that Joseph had previously told them, what was the concern of Joseph's brothers after their father was dead?

a. Even years after their reconciliation with Joseph, there was still the haunting memory of their past sin. What words did they use to describe their sin in verse 15?

b. Why can forgiveness be so hard to receive?

c. Notice Joseph used the words *do not be afraid* in both verse 19 and 21. Why is fear often the result of not feeling forgiven?

2. Genesis 50:16 tells us that the brothers first sent messengers to Joseph.

a. What message did they send in verse 17?

b. What was Joseph's response?

c. Why do you think he responded this way?

3. In Genesis 50:18 Joseph's brothers went to him in person.

a. What did they do first?

b. What did they say?

4. Joseph reassured them in verse 19.

a. Write his words below.

b. What do you think he meant by this?

5. Genesis 50:20 is quoted often. Complete the first two lines below.

But as for you _____

...but God _____

a. What does this mean to you?

b. In what ways are we affected when we apply the truths of this verse to the painful situations in our lives?

6. *Now therefore, do not be afraid...* These were Joseph's words in Genesis 50:21.

a. *Therefore* tells us to look back in the previous verse(s). What do you see in verse 20 that might cause them to be afraid?

b. What did Joseph promise that would put actions to his words?

c. The last line of verse 21 reveals something of Joseph's heart. What do you see?

d. Read Ephesians 4:32 and share your thoughts on how it applies here.

Read Genesis 50:22-26.

1. How old does Genesis 50:22 tell us Joseph was at the end of his life?

2. Joseph had some final words to speak as he neared his death.

a. What promise of God did he remind his brethren of verse 24?

- b. According to Genesis 15:13-14, what did God promise?
 - c. How is this event retold in Hebrews 11:22?
3. In Genesis 50:25 Joseph *took an oath from the children of Israel*, as his father Jacob had.
- a. What did he say to them?
 - b. What did he mean by this?
4. Genesis 50 ends with the words, “... *and he (Joseph) was put in a coffin in Egypt.*” This is the end of Chapter 50 and the end of the Book of Genesis, but it is not the last mention of Joseph. What do you find in the following scriptures that gives us the final, and much better ending to the story of his life?
- a. Exodus 13:18-19
 - b. Joshua 24:32

In closing...

1. What have you learned about trusting God in difficult situations from this study of the life of Joseph?
2. Consider Joseph’s life and share two things you have learned that you can apply to your own life.

Memory Verse

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Genesis 50:20