

## Jacob Dies In Faith (Gen. 49:29-50:14)

### I. Jacob's Burial Request (49:29-33)

#### A. Jacob desires to be buried in the land (29-30)

1. He wants to be buried in the only land his family possesses in Canaan
  - a. The cave that Abraham bought at Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite
    - i. See Gen. 23:17-20
  - b. Jacob is very specific about the site of his burial
    - i. Not only tells Joseph where but recites how it came to be owned
    - ii. Not obtained through blood or conquest. It was bought legally
2. He is looking in faith to when God will fulfill His promise
  - a. Jacob could be buried in Egypt – extravagantly
  - b. Jacob's desire reflects his belief that his family will possess the land
  - c. This plot of land symbolized the beginning of promise being realized
  - d. Jacob sees this plot of land as evidence God will fulfill His promise

#### B. Jacob remembers the burial of his family (31-32)

1. Abraham, Sarai, Isaac, and Rebecca were buried there
  - a. This is where the ancestors chose to be buried
2. Jacob himself buried Leah there
3. Where is Rachael buried? – See Gen. 35:19-20
  - a. This shows the priorities and faith of Jacob
  - b. He would rather be buried with his people looking for the promise passed down to him from Abraham than with his most beloved wife.
  - c. Burial is a statement of faith – a declaration of belief in resurrection

#### C. Jacob dies (33)

1. Jacob dies at peace with his family around him.
2. God's promise to Jacob that Joseph would close his eyes is fulfilled. (46:4)
3. For Jacob dying in faith to His God is a peace and blessing.
  - a. We see one who though endured many struggles and failures, dies in faith and at peace trusting in the promises of God.
  - b. He was ready – this is a blessing. It is not always the case.
4. Gathered to his people is a Hebrew idiom for death – but it also expresses the expectation of life beyond death. A life that will be with those who have gone before
  - a. See John 14 – Jesus' comments

### II. Joseph arranges Jacob's Burial (50:1-6)

#### A. Joseph Mourns His Father's Death (1)

1. Joseph's love for his father is clear
2. He falls on his neck and weeps – we aren't told anything of his brothers' mourning

#### B. Joseph Has Jacob prepared for funeral (2-3)

1. He orders the physicians (lit. healers) to embalm Jacob
2. Egyptian Embalming
  - a. Could include what we would call mummifying
  - b. was practiced throughout Egyptian history
  - c. a religious rite related to the Egyptians view of the afterlife

3. Various Methods
  - a. Sometimes the body was simply wrapped in resin soaked linens
  - b. Sometimes all organs removed and body stuffed with linens as well
4. Why is Jacob Embalmed?
  - a. It is sure that Joseph would not have been involved with any religious aspect
  - b. It would be a long journey to fulfill Jacob's burial – this would preserve the body
  - c. No doubt this would also allow time for Egypt to honor Jacob
5. Jacob is mourned by all of Egypt
  - a. 72 days were customary for mourning of a Pharaoh
  - b. Jacob is mourned 70 days – demonstrating his status in Egypt (because Joseph)
- C. Joseph Petitions Pharaoh for Jacob's Burial wishes (4-6)
  1. Public procession would require consent from Pharaoh
  2. Joseph also assures Pharaoh that they will return
  3. This is the largest, most explicitly described funeral in the Bible
  4. This would be a state funeral throughout all of Egypt
- III. Jacob Is Mourned By All Egypt (7-11)
  - A. Jacob's Funeral Procession is Extravagant (7-9)
    1. A host of Egyptians(7)
      - a. The elders – dignitaries in Egypt -
    2. Adults from Jacob's Household (8)
      - a. The children and the livestock are left in Egypt ensuring their return
    3. A Military Escort (9)
  - B. Canaanites Observe the Mourning of the Procession (10-11)
    1. They stopped at the threshing floor of Atad
      - a. This location has not been discovered and is uncertain
      - b. "beyond the Jordan" is also translated "near" the Jordan
      - c. Some maintain that this place is on the east side of the Jordan which means the funeral procession would have taken roughly the same route as the Exodus would later
    2. They mourned loudly for seven days
      - a. This was the customary Hebrew time of mourning
      - b. They grieved loudly as would be the Hebrew way
      - c. Pharaoh had probably ordered the Egyptians to mourn with Joseph
    3. The Lament was so loud and such a spectacle the Canaanites saw it.
      - a. This whole processions mourning must have been a sight
      - b. The Canaanites name the place Abel-mizraim (mourning of Egypt)
- IV. Jacob's Sons Honor Their Father's Faith (12-14)
  1. Joseph and the Brothers honor their father's burial wish
  2. By this the brothers acknowledge Jacob's faith in the promises of God
    - a. They honor his faith
    - b. They honor God's Word to their father
  3. They return to Egypt

- a. This would be the last time they would ever see the promised land
- b. They would have to walk by faith if they were to follow the Lord
- c. Jacob had left them a legacy showing them how