



Life and Death

Oct 30

INTRODUCTION: We come to the end of Genesis. Not only does this chapter conclude the story of Jacob/Joseph, it also wraps up key themes from the book as a whole, themes of life and death.

REVIEW: [Genesis, pt. II](#) (be cautious with other videos)

KEY POINT: forgiveness, [providence](#), life, death

A.M. SERMON RECAP (2 Chr 34, The Need to Reform)

- What is reformation?
- What is always the standard of reform?
- Why was reform needed in Josiah's day, Luther's, our own?
- Why is the Reformation something to be grateful for. How do we continue the spirit of the Reformation through ongoing reform?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (2 Chr 34, The Courage to Reform)

- Who stands to lose from Reformation?
- How does it take courage to stand upon God's Word in reformation?
- How did Josiah and Luther display courage?
- How can they inspire us to do likewise today?

READ: Gen 50

QUESTIONS:

1. *Joseph took the lead in expressing grief. Even Jesus wept (Jn 11). How had prophecy been fulfilled here (46:4)? If God is faithful in the detail He will surely be faithful in _____.*
2. **Why is weeping like an emotional safety valve (pos. & neg.) that God has given us to deal with life?**
3. *Christians have differing views on embalming, however, for Joseph it was part of Egyptian culture and necessary for the long journey ahead. However, it was not the usual priests that were involved but who (v. 3)? What does this speak to Joseph's faith?*

4. *V. 3- lamentation was only 2 days short of that for a Pharaoh— this was a state funeral honour. **Describe a state funeral (or other impressive funeral) that you have witnessed.***
5. *How does this honour convey the worldwide significance of God choosing this family to bring salvation?*
6. *Like any royal attendant, Joseph needed permission to leave (note contrast with Exodus). Note how, like God, Joseph fulfilled his promise. God is also fulfilling another promise.*
7. **Can you describe the greatest funeral procession that struck you?**
8. *It is interesting that they followed a route similar to the Exodus.*
9. *Jacob received an armed escort and further lamentation. **Why is it important to mourn well. Do people mourn well today? Why/why not?***
10. *How do you think the story (and promise) of Jacob's burial in Canaan was kept alive to remind Israel of their future?*
11. *What would often happen in Kings when a new king took the throne? **In a culture of revenge, what did the brothers fear? Does revenge exist in our culture? What does Jesus say (Mt 5:38–39; R 12:19)?***
12. *The brothers return to their old ways (lying). What is a besetting sin? (Heb 12:1). How do we overcome them?*
13. *Why did the brothers find it hard to believe Joseph had forgiven them? **What about us? What does Ro 8:1 say?***
14. *Joseph respond by reminding them he is not in the place of God (Ro 12:19). He responds further in forgiveness and in teaching them about providence, a theme found throughout Genesis. God created the world and now rules over it, governing it in accordance with His will, including His plan of salvation. It is a fitting bookend.*
15. *V. 19- What you meant for evil, God meant for good. (c.f. Isa 43:2; Ro 8:28). The sin that Joseph's brothers were responsible for was actually part of God's good plan to save many (45:5, 7), just like with Jesus (Isa 53:10–11). John Calvin said, "Whatever poison Satan produces, God turns it into medicine for his elect." **How is this comforting?***
16. *V. 21- How did Joseph respond in godly wisdom and warmth? How is this like Jesus? (Mt 5:44, Ro 12:17)*

17. *Joseph died at 110 years. By Egyptian standards, he'd lived a good long life. Amidst great authority and power he remained faithful to the end. As he was earlier an example of how to live in poverty and hardship, how is Joseph also an example of how Christians should live if blessed with wealth, power, etc?*
18. *Vv. 24–25- Right to the end, God and His promise were forefront in Joseph's mind (Heb 11:22) (not Egyptian views of the afterlife, etc).*
19. *Joseph was later brought up to Canaan (Ex 13:19; Josh 24:32). How does this amazing detail show that Israel had been remembering the promise?*
20. *Despite being a godly man, Joseph was a sinner (Ro 6:23a). Death is present in Genesis from the warning in Gen 2:17, Gen 3, Gen 5...Gen 50. Genesis began with Adam and Eve alive in paradise (a walled garden). It ends with Joseph dead in a coffin. How do we still see death all around us? From Gen 3:15 to Abraham to Judah and beyond Joseph, there has been the hope of victory over death, of life, but Joseph wasn't that Saviour. Read 1 Cor 15:57. What is our only hope in the face of death? (Gen 3:15, Judah).*

...to be continued...

NEXT WEEK: Nov 6- Plots & Praise, Mk 14:1–11