

## Genesis 50

1 They were finally back together, and he is gone.

2,3 We know quite a bit about the process. It was very ritualistic but scientific and really preserved the flesh and bone fairly well. I wonder if some archeologist will come up with a mummified body somewhere near Hebron?

4,5 I thought it was a cave. Perhaps in that cave they dug crypts.

6-8 The children were usually the shepherds. The world had been so weakened by the draught that there was no concern about leaving their children unprotected.

9 –15 Fear sets in. Maybe now Joseph will want to get even. Fear always produces bad results. In this case they feel the need to invent a lie. Did they not kiss and embrace him? Fear throws away sound reason.

16,17 Joseph wept! Jesus wept! For the hardness of their hearts, they could not see who he had become - who he really was. They doubted all the good he had shown them.

18 They've done this before. At least it is a recognition that God exalted their brother over them.

19 Many a man would put himself in the place of God and act out of his own determination. Joseph knew of God's Sovereignty.

20 Deut 23:5 The key verse for the doctrine of concurrence. See 'Invisible Hand' by RC Sproul. They truly meant evil but God worked through their jealousy to send Joseph to Egypt so that many lives, including theirs, could be saved. We wonder at the mystery of evil in the world, but even more mysterious is how God, who abhors evil, can turn around the effects of evil and cause good things to happen.

21 As a shadow of Christ, we find great comfort in this passage. When Satan would remind us of how sinful we have been and how deserving of wrath we are, Jesus is our provision and speaks words of kindness to our hearts.

22 That would mean that the slavery in Egypt was at least 70 years after their arrival and probably more.

23,24 He believes the promises of God more than the culture that surrounds him.

25 Instead of the trip they made for his father, they plan one when they all leave together as promised.

26 Joseph was also embalmed but we do not have any record of mourning and no attempt at a trip to Canaan. Perhaps the political climate has changed already. The priest may resent this outsider and the memory of his making Egypt the wealthiest nation in the world, saving the regions very life, is now a generation past. Moses has given an account to Israel of their history up until the time they became slaves. The recent history they were too familiar with. He has given a background for his introduction and the importance of stepping into the promises made to their forefathers. Exodus naturally comes next.