

First Southern Baptist Church - May 13, 2021
Good Over Evil - Genesis 48-50

Introduction:

1. The blessing of God... on Joseph, on his people
 - God oversees His own word to bring it to completion
2. From our pews we see the hand of God (providence)

I. Jacob Blesses Joseph - Genesis 48

1. Joseph takes his sons to Jacob (1-4)
2. Jacob adopts Joseph's sons (5-14)
 - Ephraim and Manasseh
3. Jacob blesses the younger
 - what is the blessing?
 - from God - through Jacob (the chosen)
 - the greatest blessing

II. Jacob Blesses His Sons - Genesis 49

1. Reuben (3-4)
- 2/3. Simeon and Levi (5-7)
4. Judah (8-12)
5. Zebulun (13)
6. Issachar (14-15)
7. Dan (16-17)
8. Gad (19)
9. Asher (20)
10. Naphtali (21)
11. Joseph (22-26)
 - God blessed them all through Joseph
12. Benjamin (27)

III. Burial of Jacob in Canaan (50:1-14)

- A. Joseph mourns
 - “threw himself upon”
 - “wept over”
 - “kissed him”
- B. The physicians mummify the body
 - embalming was a religious rite, not just a custom
 - embalming varied as to methods - wrapping the body in resin soaked linen all the way to disemboweling the corpse
- C. Egyptian custom is a 70 day mourning period
 - Israelites varied from 7 days (50:10; 1 Sam. 31:13) to 30 days (Moses -Dt. 34:8; Aaron, Num. 20:29)
- D. Permission to Bury from Pharaoh (4-6)
 - appeals to Jacob's dying wish

- repeatedly uses the words “my father”
- Joseph (again) shows wise deference to Pharaoh
- surely the Egyptian Pharaoh could appreciate Jacob’s request to be buried in his own tomb... after all the pyramids are tombs

E. Funeral procession (7-8)

- Egyptian dignitaries
- includes those in outlying areas... Joseph’s family was well respected
- “chariots” and “charioteers”
- pause at the threshing floor (10-13) -for seven days mourning

F. Note that Joseph left behind his family and possessions

IV. The Final Days of Joseph (50:15-26)

A. Reconciliation solidified

B. Will Joseph now be loyal to them as brothers?

- is his forgiveness sincere?
- at Jacob’s death they worry about vengeance
- their fear of retaliation was not irrational
- it seems to be inconceivable that Joseph would not require something from them
- *Sin is hard to live with, and...
- *Guilt is hard to forget, and...
- *Forgiveness is hard to accept

C. They “sent word” - maybe too afraid to face Joseph

- did they make up this story? Not told
- a mediator asks for forgiveness

D. They abase themselves at Joseph’s feet (37:2-20)

E. The Egyptians are slaves to Joseph, but not his brothers

F. Joseph refuses to take advantage of their vulnerability

- again, he is shown to be an upright man

G. His forgiveness came from his commitment to God

H. Response:

- 1) Joseph wept
- 1) Am I God?
- 2) You meant it for evil, God meant it for good
- 3) Promise - I will nourish you
- 4) Spoke kindly to them

I. What was Joseph’s philosophy?

- the faith of Joseph saw the dreams
- the faith of Joseph saw him through the seduction of Potiphar’s wife
- the faith of Joseph saw him through the dungeon, and its disappointment
- the faith of Joseph laid hold on the interpretation of dreams for Pharaoh
- by faith, he stored grain
- by faith, he tested his brothers...

- by faith, he was good to them, though they were not good to him

He trusted God - trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding (Prov. 3:5-6). In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.

And... God was there all along

V. Evil and Good

- A. God apparently rules over both
 - note! Evil is called evil... not good in disguise
 - note! God overrides evil, with good
- B. This is what God did on the cross... you meant it for evil (to Jesus), but God meant it for good
- C. Both are innocent men - Joseph and Jesus
 - we are more like the brothers than we are like either Joseph or Jesus
- D. Examples
 - Saul tried to murder David, God raised him up
 - Jesus on the cross... men killed Him, God raised Him up
 - here, Joseph was sold into slavery... God raised him from the dungeon
 - Paul, wrote letters from prison
 - for us... we die to ourselves... and God raises us up
- E. It does not matter what the world means toward us... what matters is what God means toward us
 - whatever comes to us, God uses it for good
 - nothing can separate us from His love (Rom. 8:38-39)

VI. Joseph is Buried in Canaan (22-26)

What now???

Exodus 1:1-8