

Life of Joseph

Lessons in Humility, Leadership and Forgiveness

Joseph's Death

- Joseph and his family remained in Egypt after Jacob's death and Joseph lived to be 110 years of age [Gen 50:22].
- Joseph lived long enough to see the birth of his great-grandchildren [Gen 50:23].
 - This was seen as a special blessing from God.
 - Joseph recognized these children as his own.
- While telling his brothers that he was about to die, Joseph reassured them that God would care for them and bring them into the land of promise one day [Gen 50:24].
 - Jewish tradition holds that Joseph was the first brother to die, but this verse does not require that.
 - By naming Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Joseph reminds his brothers of God's covenant promise.
- Joseph made the sons of Israel swear that his bones would one day be carried up out of Egypt [Gen 50:25; Heb 11:22].
 - His brothers would not live long enough to fulfill this oath, but his family was obligated to do so.
 - Moses carried the bones out of Egypt [Ex 13:19] and the people of Israel buried them [Josh 24:32].
- Joseph was embalmed (just as Jacob had been) and placed in a coffin [Gen 50:26].
 - It is interesting that Joseph and Joshua, the two bookends of the Hebrew exodus, both lived to be 110 years old.
 - The final word of the book of Genesis is Egypt (מִצְרַיִם, mitzraim) which sets up the events to follow recorded in the book of Exodus.