

Jacob Blesses His Sons / The Deaths of Jacob and Joseph

Genesis 49 – 50

Read Genesis 49:1-12

v.2 - Jacob realized he was both Jacob and Israel, and his sons are products of both. This is evidence of spiritual maturity, realizing both the man (Jacob) he had been, and the man (Israel) God transformed.

v.3-7 - As the firstborn Reuben had claim to the inheritance, but he forfeited it through immorality (35:22). The tribe of Reuben never did excel. No prophet, no judge, no king ever came from his line. The second and third born sons received the same prophecy. They cruelly wiped out all the men of Shechem in retaliation for the rape of their sister Dinah (34:25-29).

Look up: Ephesians 4:26a

v.8-12 – Judah. This prophecy was fulfilled 640 years later in the reign of David (2 Samuel 2:11), the first in Judah's line of kings, and ultimately fulfilled in Jesus (Revelation 5:5). Look up: 1 Chronicles 5:1-2

v.10 – “Shiloh” this phrase is literally “*Until He comes to whom it belongs*” and is repeated almost verbatim in Ezekiel 21:27, when the king of Jerusalem is told to remove the crown, which would be no more “until He comes whose right it is.”

Read Genesis 49:28-33

v.29-32 - Though Jacob is now in Egypt, he knew he was a son of the promise, an heir of God's covenant with Abraham, and he will be buried in the land promised to Abraham by covenant (Genesis 15). This family burial plot was the field and cave in Hebron near the Oaks of Mamre first acquired by Abraham in Genesis 23.

Read Genesis 50:7-14

v.7 - This was a prestigious burial and not only because of the high position which Joseph held, but because of the man who was being laid to rest. Jacob was the last link with the great patriarchs. His grandfather's life (Abraham) overlapped with lives of the sons of Noah (Gen 11:11, 26). His father (Isaac) was the first descendent in fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham.

Read Genesis 50:15-21

v.17 – The brothers likely didn't feel they had the moral right to ask Joseph for mercy. So they put the request for mercy in the mouth of their honored and dead father. Joseph wept because they so greatly mistook his character and intentions.

Read Genesis 50:22-26

v.25-26 - This oath was fulfilled 400 years later, when Israel left Egypt, and Joseph was buried near Shechem in the land Jacob had purchased for “booths” for his livestock. Read Exodus 13:19.

This forward-looking ending to Genesis is later repeated at the conclusion of the Old Testament scriptures, when Malachi ends with foretelling the coming of a prophet like Elijah to herald the coming of the Messiah and declare the Day of the Lord, fulfilled by the ministry of John the Baptist (Malachi 3:1).

Just as it would be 400 years before Israel's redemption from Egypt, approximately 400 years passed between the writing of Malachi and the birth of Jesus.