

Character Study: Joseph
Part 6 – Joseph Enters Eternity
Genesis 45-50

What's happening?

- Joseph's entire family moved to Egypt. The family's reunion was complete as Jacob and Joseph reunited. Pharaoh allowed them to live on the best land in Egypt. (45:16-47:12)
- The famine remained severe in Egypt. It became so bad that people sold Joseph their livestock and land, and even became servants of Pharaoh in exchange for food. (47:13-26)
- In his old age, Jacob became sick and neared death. He blessed Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, but upset Joseph by giving the younger son, Ephraim, the greater blessing. (48:1-22)
- Jacob's death brought much sorrow to his family and all of Egypt. Joseph's brothers were concerned that Joseph would now get even with them for how they had mistreated him. Joseph assured them that there was no need to be afraid. (49:33-50:21)
- As Joseph neared death, he encouraged his family by telling them how God's blessing would continue to be with them. Joseph died at the age of 110. (50:22-26)

What's God doing?

- > God used His faithful servant Joseph not only to help the Egyptians, but also to reunite Jacob's family and to help resolve their differences.
- > The stage was now set for God to work His will in the nation of Israel, as they would remain in Egypt for the next 430 years.

What's to learn?

- Through all the ups and downs Joseph went through, Joseph was able to look back on his life and realize that even in his most difficult moments, "God meant it for good" (50:20). Through faithfulness, Joseph was able to enjoy a life blessed by God!
- Daily obedience allows God to accomplish His will for our lives. Are you surrendered to allow God to carry out His will for your life, even if the path He has for you includes some difficult experiences?

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