

Midweek Study

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TRUSTING GOD IN THE DARKNESS

Genesis 37-50

God Meant it for Good

(Genesis 49:29-50:26)

The book of Genesis is probably the most important book ever written. ... If the Bible were somehow expurgated of the book of Genesis (as many people today would prefer), the rest of the Bible would be incomprehensible. It would be like a building without a ground floor, or a bridge with no support.

– Henry M. Morris

Every single Biblical doctrine of theology, directly or indirectly, ultimately has its basis in the book of Genesis. – Ken Ham

The Overview of Genesis:

Focus	Four Events				Four People							
	1:1		11:9		11:10						50:26	
Divisions	Creation	Fall	Flood	Nations	Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph				
	1:1	3:1	6:1	10:1								
	2:25	5:32	9:29	11:9	11:10	25:8	25:19	26:35	27:1	36:43	37:1	50:26
Topics	Beginning of the Human Race				Beginning of the Hebrew Race							
	Historical				Biographical							
Place	Fertile Crescent (Eden-Haran)				Canaan (Haran-Canaan)						Egypt (Canaan-Egypt)	
Time	c 2000 + Years (c. 4004–2090 B.C.)				193 Years (2090–1897 B.C.)						93 Years (1897– 1804 B.C.)	

1. A Family Grief (*Genesis 49:29-50:14*)

50:1-3 – Israelites and Egyptians both mourned for Jacob.

Charles Swindoll writes, “[If] the pyramids and mummies are any example, the Egyptians had developed a sophisticated system of embalming. After the physicians had completed the unique process, which took forty days, and after the people had mourned his passing for seventy days, the funeral procession began its long journey to Canaan.”¹

2. A Forgiving Grace (*Genesis 50:15-21*)

v.19-21 - “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”

3. A Final Glory (*Genesis 50:22-26*)

Not even a great man is indispensable. Charles Wesley said, “God buries His workmen but carries on His work.”

Applications for Today:

- 1) **Thank God that He promises to use all things in our lives (good and bad) for our good and His glory.** See *Romans 8:28*.
- 2) **Refuse to remain bitter when bad things (or sinful, wicked things) come into your life.** Bitterness only makes it worse for you. See *Hebrews 12:15*.
- 3) **Trust in God, Who can turn tragedies into triumphs.** Joseph trusted God while lonely, forsaken, mistreated and in prison. God turned Joseph’s story around. As long as we are still on this earth, He can turn our tragedies into triumphs. *If circumstances do not change, we can still trust Him Who does not change.*

Extra: Joseph is seen as a “type” (or a foreshadowing) of Jesus Christ:

1. Both favored and loved by the father.
2. Both hated and rejected by brothers.
3. Both conspired against for silver.
4. Both condemned though innocent.
5. Both exalted to preeminence.
6. Both provided salvation for all, not just his own people.

¹ Charles R. Swindoll, *Joseph: A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998), 199.