

Community Bible Church

The Book of Genesis

Chapter 50

You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.

Genesis 50:20

Chapter 50 will conclude our study of **Genesis** with the narrative of the final days of both **Jacob (Israel)** and his son, **Joseph**. Jacob lived until age 147 and Joseph, until he was 110 years old. Much detail is given in this chapter in laying these two men to rest and bringing to a conclusion the **patriarchal period** of the **book of Genesis**.

Chapter 50 has three main sections. **Part One (50:1-14)** describes the preparation and return to Canaan for burial after Jacob's death. **Part Two (50:15-21)** presents the interesting narrative of Joseph's brothers concern over possible revenge. **Part Three (50:22-26)** gives a brief history of the death of Joseph and his burial in Egypt.

A simple outline of **chapter 50** is as follows:

A Coffin for a Beloved Father 50:1-14

A Coffin for a Painful Past 50:15-21

A Coffin for a Special Brother 50:22-28

1. Write a brief summary of the poignant opening paragraph in **50:1-3**.
2. Read **50:4-6**. What was Joseph's request to Pharaoh? How did Pharaoh respond?
3. The massive funeral procession for Jacob is described in some detail in **50:7-16**. This large group consisted of both Jacob's family along with many Egyptians. They travelled from the Goshen region of northern Egypt to Hebron in Canaan, a journey of around 185 miles. Hebron is located around 40 miles south of Jerusalem. He was to be buried in the cave of Machpelah (**50:13**) just outside of Hebron, where his father and grandfather were buried with their wives. Today, this area is known as the Tomb of the Patriarchs and is located in the West Bank region. Read this entire narrative in **verses 7-16** and describe what was of most interest to you.

4. Inserted between the narratives of the death of Jacob and the death of Joseph is an interesting story of Joseph and his brothers in **50:15-21**. In the outline, this passage is titled **The Coffin for a Painful Past**. The word Coffin is used here metaphorically as guilt, shame, fear, sin and forgiveness are dealt with in the passage and subsequently are “buried.” Read the entire passage in **verses 15-20** and answer the following questions.

(a) What was the main concern of the brothers?

(b) What did the brothers do?

(c) How did Joseph respond?

(d) Does **verse 18** bring to mind a prior dream described in **chapter 37**?

(e) What godly response in **verses 19-21** did Joseph give?

(f) Can you think of any personal applications for your life today from this entire passage?

5. What points of interest, information, encouragement or prophecy did you find in the words of Joseph in the final paragraph of the book of **Genesis** in **verses 22-26**?