

Genesis 50

Verses 1-3

Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him and kissed him. ² Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. ³ Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

And Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept on him, and kissed him

Jacob loved his favorite son and that feeling was reciprocated

His servants the physicians

Because of his exalted position, Joseph had an entourage that included these physicians that watched over his health

But they were also skilled in the science of embalming

The process of embalming

The brain and intestines were removed. The stomach cleansed and filled with spices.

The body was then immersed in a mixture of salt and soda for forty days

It was then bound up in strips of linen smeared with a sort of gum

Finally it was placed in a wooden case, shaped like the human body and put into a funeral chamber

This method of preparing bodies for burial was followed for generations by the Jews

See John 19:40

Prior to their time in Egypt they buried their dead in "family caves"

Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

The embalming process took 40 days

It was customary to mourn a Pharaoh's death for 72 days so the Egyptians gave Jacob a royal funeral minus two days

Verses 4-6

⁴ When the days of mourning for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found favor in your sight, please speak to Pharaoh, saying, ⁵ ‘My father made me swear, saying, “Behold, I am about to die; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.” Now then, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.’”

⁶ Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear.”

Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh

Joseph approached Pharaoh through messengers rather than personally

There may have been a couple of reasons why he did it this way

1. He might have approached Pharaoh through the priests since they were responsible for the burial of the dead
2. Maybe Joseph was unpresentable because of his mourning, and he could not see the king in person

See Genesis 41:14

In my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.

The three patriarchs and their wives, were buried in the cave of Machpelah in Hebron

This included Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, and Leah

The only matriarch missing is Jacob's other wife, Rachel, who was buried near Bethlehem.

Since this was a family burial cave, graves could be dug ahead of time

Verses 7-11

⁷ So Joseph went up to bury his father, and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household and all the elders of the land of Egypt, ⁸ and all the household of Joseph and his brothers and his father's household; they left only their little ones and their flocks and their herds in the land of Goshen.

⁹ Chariots with teams of horses also went up with him; and it was a very great company. ¹⁰ When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they mourned there with a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he observed seven days of mourning for his father. ¹¹ Now when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians." Therefore it was named Abel-mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan.

⁹ Chariots with teams of horses also went up with him; and it was a very great company.

All of the important leaders of Egypt went with the king to Jacob's funeral

The trip covered around 200 miles

See map 5005



¹⁰ When they came to the threshing floor of Atad

See Pic 5010



Which is beyond the Jordan

If it was beyond the Jordan then picture 5005 is not correct

They went to the east side of Canaan, went up, and then crossed the river

However, one has to wonder why they would take such a route

It is doubtful than any Canaanite nation would deny Egypt passage thru their land.

Verse 12-14

² And so his sons did for him as he had commanded them; ¹³ for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah opposite Mamre, which Abraham had bought along with the field as a burial site from Ephron the Hittite. ¹⁴ And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

And buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah

The Cave of Machpelah, known as the Cave of the Patriarchs, is located at Hebron

The cave and adjoining field were purchased by Abraham in 1859bc as a burial plot.

In the first century BC, Herod the Great constructed a massive wall around the cave

He used construction techniques similar to those of the Temple Mount

The massive foundation stones inspire awe to all who see them

Under Roman rule, a simple Christian church building was constructed at the southeastern end and the enclosure was roofed everywhere except at the center

During this period, Jews and Christians shared possession of the site

In 614, the Persians conquered the area and destroyed the castle, leaving only ruins

But in 637, the area came under the control of the Arab Muslims and the building was reconstructed as a roofed mosque

In 1100, after the area was captured by the Crusaders, the enclosure once again became a church and Muslims were no longer permitted to enter

In 1188 Saladin (Muslims) conquered the area, reconverting the enclosure to a mosque but allowed Christians to worship there

After Jordan occupied the West Bank in 1948, no Jews were allowed in the territory

Following the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in the Six-Day War of 1967, Hebron came under Jewish control and Israel took control of the site, dividing the structure into a synagogue and a mosque

See pic 5020



Verses 15-22

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers had seen that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" ¹⁶ So they sent instructions to Joseph, saying, "Your father commanded *us* before he died, saying, ¹⁷ 'This is what you shall say to Joseph: "Please forgive, I beg you, the offense of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.'" And now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to keep many people alive. ²¹ So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!

Their consciences were still working overtime

They were afraid that Joseph might still punish them

If they had asked for his forgiveness, they could have been at peace by now

So they sent instructions to Joseph, saying, “Your father commanded *us* before he died, saying, ¹⁷ ‘This is what you shall say to Joseph: “Please forgive, I beg you, the offense of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong

The brothers alleged that Jacob wanted Joseph to forgive them

More than likely, Joseph's brothers invented this story

The text does not say that Jacob said this; it says that they said he did

And now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father

They finally confessed their sin and asked for forgiveness

Why does mankind have such a hard time confessing sin?

Confession seems to be the hardest part of repentance

Probably because we have to humble ourselves before God and man

And Joseph wept when they spoke to him

He wept because they still thought he might take revenge on them

But Joseph had already forgiven his brothers

Am I in God's place?

It is God's place to take revenge

For Joseph to take revenge would be wrong

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

God can overrule evil and make it be a blessing to us

Is that not the Christian message to all of mankind?

Verses 22-26

²² Now Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father's household, and Joseph lived 110 years. ²³ Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees. ²⁴ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will assuredly take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." ²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will assuredly take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here." ²⁶ So Joseph died at the age of 110 years; and they embalmed him and placed him in a coffin in Egypt.

²³ Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees

See chart 5025

Ch	Person	Event	Age	Year
41	Joseph	Pharaoh's dream	30	1715
41	Joseph	Years of plenty	31-37	1714 - 1708
41	Joseph	Manasseh and Ephraim born	31-37	1714 - 1708
41	Joseph	Years of famine	38-44	1707 - 1701
45	Joseph	5 years of famine left	40	1705
46	Benjamin	5 years of famine left	33	1705
47	Jacob	5 years of famine left	131	1705
49	Jacob	Jacob dies	147	1689
50	Joseph	Joseph dies	110	1635

Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, were between 73 and 79 years old when Joseph died.

This explains how Joseph was able to see the 3rd generation of Ephraim's sons

God will assuredly take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here

A future generation would take his remains with them when they went into Canaan

See Exodus 13:19 1446bc

See Joshua 24:32 1375bc

So Joseph died at the age of 110 years; and they embalmed him and placed him in a coffin in Egypt.

Joseph died in 1635 BC