

**1 And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him. 2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father: and the physicians embalmed Israel. 3 And forty days were fulfilled for him; for so are fulfilled the days of those which are embalmed: and the Egyptians mourned for him threescore and ten days.**

*Joseph orders his servants, of whom some are Egyptian physicians (healers), to embalm his father. Usually the Egyptian priest are involved, because they prepare the body for the afterlife. The Egyptians had elaborate funeral and embalming practices meant to appease the god of the dead and underworld Osiris. Joseph doesn't believe in any god other than the God of Abraham. Joseph doesn't use the Egyptian priest; he uses some of his servants who have learned the skill of Egyptian embalming. The Egyptians were the best embalmers in the world. Egyptian tombs have been opened that are thousands of years old and the embalmed bodies were still intact. There are professional embalmers today that wish they could embalm like the Egyptians did, but they don't know the Egyptian process. What ever the process was, it appears it took forty days to complete the process.*

*The Egyptians loved Joseph, he was their hero. He saved them all from starving to death and gave them hope for the future. They didn't really know Joseph's father, but mourned Jacob to honor Joseph. The Egyptians mourned for seventy days. This was not an extra seventy days. It started at the death and continued through and beyond the time of embalming.*

**4 And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spake unto the house of Pharaoh, saying, If now I have found grace in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, 5 My father made me swear, saying, Lo, I die: in my grave which I have digged for me in the land of Canaan, there shalt thou bury me. Now therefore let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come again. 6 And Pharaoh said, Go up, and bury thy father, according as he made thee swear.**

*Joseph asked those of the house of Pharaoh, probably the Egyptian physicians, to let Pharaoh know Joseph's father had him swear to carry out his wishes. Some of them were probably present, at Jacob's death, and had witnessed the request of Jacob and the promise of Joseph. Jacob desired to be buried in the land of Canaan, which God had promised to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jacob was very specific about his burial. He not only wanted to be buried in Canaan, but in the same burial cave of his fathers. Inside that cave he had a specific spot located next to the grave of his wife Leah. They didn't even have to decide exactly where Jacob wanted to be placed. According to the Bible, Jacob had already dug the grave hole, prior to leaving Canaan and going to Egypt. The desire to be buried in the God's promise land was a sign*

*of faith. God had said he would inherit the land and even death couldn't negate God's' promise. Jacob intended to LIVE, in the promise land. Joseph had agreed to carry out the request. When Pharaoh was told of the promise, he told Joseph to go and bury his father, as Joseph had sworn.*

**7 And Joseph went up to bury his father: and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, 8 And all the house of Joseph, and his brethren, and his father's house: only their little ones, and their flocks, and their herds, they left in the land of Goshen.**

*This is a large number of people. All of the servants of Pharaoh; all the elders, men of authority from Pharaoh's house and all the elders, men of authority throughout the land of Egypt, dignitaries, judges and generals. This would include many people. To this number add every one of the house of Joseph. Now we include Jacob's sons and grandsons. Only the small children, with their mothers, would not be allowed on the journey. There would be a small number of shepherds to tend the flocks and herds left in Goshen. This was not a short walk, it was a journey of many miles, requiring many days on the road.*

**9 And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen: and it was a very great company.**

*The great multitude of people marching through the land included many chariots and horsemen. It must have been a sight most people of Canaan had never seen. Some might have even thought they were being invaded. Chariots, in that day, would have been equivalent to tanks in our day. Horsemen would be mounted battle Calvary. This was a funeral of a great man.*

*We do the same thing, here in the USA. I remember the funeral of president John F Kennedy. His body was on display in the capital rotunda for days. Dignitaries and leaders from around the world came to pay their respect. Flags around the world were lowered to half-staff. There was daily coverage on tv and in newspapers about people mourning and long lines waiting to enter the capital building to view the casket. On the day of the funeral, there was a large parade with full military honors. The nation remembered a small boy, John junior, saluting as the carriage carrying his father passed by. This is they type of funeral given for Jacob, just because he was the father of Joseph.*

**10 And they came to the threshingfloor of Atad, which is beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made a mourning for his father seven days. 11 And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning in the floor of Atad, they said, This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians: wherefore the name of it was called Abelmizraim, which is beyond Jordan.**

*I don't know where Atad is located and I couldn't find anyone that was sure where it was. I just know it was beyond the Jordan river. It required a river crossing to get to it. It was a threshing floor. That lets me know it was a flat surface located on a hill. A threshing floor had to be flat and high to catch a lot of wind. You would throw the wheat up in the air and the heavier kernels would fall to the ground. The chaff and lighter parts of the wheat plant would be caught by the wind and carried away.*

*This large group of people, were at this high location, mourning the father of Joseph. From this location they could be seen and heard, for a distance. The inhabitants of the land realized it wasn't a war party it was a grieving party. They knew it must have been an important person and they called the place Abelmezraim, which means (meadow of Egypt).*

**12 And his sons did unto him according as he commanded them: 13 For his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of a buryingplace of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre.**

*All the sons of Jacob joined together and carried out the wishes Jacob gave to Joseph. He was buried in the land of Canaan. Not only in Canaan, but in the burial cave of his fathers, Abraham and Isaac.*

**14 And Joseph returned into Egypt, he, and his brethren, and all that went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father.**

*Joseph and everyone else return to Egypt.*

**15 And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him. 16 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, 17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father.**

*Now that their father had died, the ten brothers, who sold Joseph into slavery, are afraid Joseph might seek revenge. They were so fearful of Joseph, none sought to ask him about it. They sent a messenger, someone who was not even from the family. I would have thought they would have sent Benjamin. He was not involved, and he was Joseph's true brother having the same mother as Joseph. They could have sent Judah, who was now the spokesman of the group, but they sent a messenger.*

*This is a picture of what sin can do in the life of a Christian. They want to be free to call upon the Lord for anything, but there is that deep imbedded guilt. Joseph had already told them they were forgiven. In fact, Joseph said it was part of God's plan to save Egypt, Canaan and the people of Israel. For seventeen years they had been forgiven but had never really received the forgiveness. This is a problem of people today. Many people have heard the gospel. They know they are sinners deserving punishment. They have heard, and read in the Bible, that Jesus died on the cross of Calvary and shed his blood, to pay for THEIR sins. They know Jesus said it was finished, but they just have a hard time accepting the fact that they don't have to do part of the work. They think it can't be that easy, they should be required to do something. All they are required to do is accept the payment Jesus paid. They must accept it by faith.*

*Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary to pay our sin debt. When it was over, He proclaimed it was finished. When you repented of your sins and asked God to forgive you, because of what Jesus did, you were forgiven. What about the sins I committed after being saved and redeemed? All your sins current and future were forgiven. If any of your sins weren't forgiven the moment you were saved, you would have to crucify Jesus again to pay for them. I teach that you should confess your sin daily to Jesus. It's not to make sure Jesus covers that sin, under his blood. Jesus has forgiven all your sins, the moment you were saved. The problem is you have a guilty conscience and while your Spirit, the inner man was cleansed of all unrighteous, you are still stuck with your sinful flesh. With a guilty conscience, you have a hard time having fellowship, prayer and worship with God, through Jesus. Jesus is talking to you, through the Holy Spirit, but you're not listening. You have a guilty conscience. You don't confess to Jesus to get the latest sin forgiven. You confess and thank him, because it has been forgiven. On the day of judgement, if there is one single sin that was not paid on the cross of Calvary, then you would be condemned. You're not looking for forgiveness of sin. You're thankful that latest sin, of the flesh, was paid for at the cross. You confess your sin to cleanse your conscience and keep you on the road of righteousness. God didn't redeem you to allow you to flaunt your sin, he redeemed you to grow in sanctification. You are to be sanctified. This is done by renewing your mind, through the Word of God.*

**And Joseph wept when they spake unto him. 18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.**

*When the messenger delivered his message, Joseph wept. He was broken hearted that they didn't believe he had forgiven them of being mean to him, threatening to kill him and sold him into slavery. The brothers are nearby, to observe the way Joseph reacts. They were probably looking for him to be angry or to forgive them because their father requested it. Instead they saw it broke Joseph's heart. He had forgiven them because he believed everything that happened to him was part of God's plan and his brothers were just part of the plan.*

*I think if God were to ask Joseph, at the end of his life is there anything Joseph wished God had done differently, Joseph would say no. Joseph would see the end result of all his tribulations and suffering and would agree it was all worth it.*

**19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. 21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.**

*Joseph attempts to comfort his brothers. He understands their fear, because they did him wrong and he currently is standing in a position of power. With one word he had the power to put them all to death. Even with all his authority, he is not in the place or authority of God. God had a plan, a perfect plan. Joseph is glad he was able to be part of God's plan, even if it meant suffering.*

*Joseph not only doesn't have any rage or vengeance against them, but he will take care of them and their families.*

**22 And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived an hundred and ten years. 23 And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation: the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were brought up upon Joseph's knees.**

*Joseph lived a long and fruitful life. He lived long enough to see his great, great grandchildren to grow up on his knees. He wouldn't have changed anything in his life if he could. This is not the end of Joseph.*

**24 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. 25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. 26 So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.**

*Joseph called together his surviving brother and the adult children of all his brothers, to take an oath for him. He wanted to be buried in the land of promise given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. With all he had been through and the great blessings he received; he knew there was more. He looked for the Kingdom of God. He looked for a land of promise. He for an eternal place, that would make Egypt look like a slum. He believed in it so strongly he wanted to be buried there, so at the time of his resurrection he would already be home.*

*Joseph knew the people of Egypt would not allow his brothers to take his body to the promised land, when he died. He was like a national treasure. He knew the day would come when all in Egypt would forget him and the children of Israel would leave Egypt and head for the promised land. He wanted his brother's children to make an oath. When Israel left Egypt, they would take the bones of Joseph to the promised land and bury him there.*

*We have finished the book of Genesis. It is followed by Exodus. Near the beginning, of the book, the Bible says.*

**8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. 9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: 10 Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.**

**Exodus 1:8-10**