

Let's Worship God

17th-22nd April 2023
Genesis



Genesis

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Monday - Genesis 49:13-21 - Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, and Naphtali

Jacob, on his deathbed, is uttering prophecies and blessings about each of his sons. Zebulun will live on the seacoast and be sailors and traders at sea. Many years later when the Promised land is divided among the tribes, Zebulun is given the land by the sea in fulfilment of this prophecy. God always accomplishes what He says He will do. Issachar will be strong and work hard in the land that is given him. Because his land is good, he will be willing to submit to burdens and difficulty. When we see how good our heavenly land is, it encourages us to cheerfully submit to the burdens and difficulties we have here. From Dan will come judges for the other tribes, especially one judge, Samson, who will destroy God's enemies. God can use all different types of people to accomplish His purposes.

Jacob pauses here as though to take a deep breath, and he lifts his heart up to God. The deliverance he has waited for is the Messiah, Jesus Christ. It is also heaven, the better country to which he is about to go.

The tribe of Gad will be a warlike tribe, constantly attacked by its neighbours. Often they will be defeated, but in the end they will overcome. The cause of God and His people may seem for a time to be confused and run down, but it will be victorious at last. Asher will be a rich tribe, reminding us that God not only provides what is necessary for His people, but He gives them luxuries as well. Naphtali will be a friendly tribe, one zealous for her liberty, quick in business, and speaking well to others. God has many different types of people in His kingdom, and He uses them all.

Questions

1. Where will Zebulun live?
2. What should be our attitude towards difficulty?
3. What deliverance has Jacob waited for?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God uses many different types of people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” Genesis 50:20

Praise: Psalm 43 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Tuesday - Genesis 49:22-27 - Joseph and Benjamin

Jacob closes with the blessings of his best beloved sons, Joseph and Benjamin. Joseph's blessing is large and full. He is compared to a fruitful vine, and his children are branches that climb over a wall. Jacob reminds Joseph of the difficulties he has been through. Joseph has maintained his integrity through all these trials, not sinking under them. His strength to do this came from God who is in covenant with him. All our strength for the resisting of temptations and the bearing of troubles, comes from God: His grace is sufficient, and His strength is perfected in our weakness. Joseph is now in a position of honour and usefulness, taking care of God's people. In this he is a type of Christ who was shot at and hated, bore up under His sufferings, and advanced to be the Carer of God's people. Joseph is also a type of the church and the believers in it, who are attacked by Satan, but God protects and strengthens them and will one day crown them. God promises Joseph that He will help him and his children in difficulties and dangers yet before them. (Interestingly, Joshua, chief in the wars of Canaan, came from Joseph's line and saw this promise fulfilled.) God will bless Joseph with spiritual blessings from above and temporal blessings from below.

Benjamin will be a warlike tribe, strong and daring, and they will enrich themselves with the loot of their enemies. Saul, the first king of Israel, is from this tribe. Esther and Mordecai, by whom the enemies of the Jews are destroyed are of this tribe. Paul is also of the tribe of Benjamin, and he is zealous as persecutor and then as minister of the Gospel.

Questions

1. Who does Jacob bless last?
2. How is Joseph like Christ?
3. Who came from the tribe of Benjamin?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God gives us strength.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” Genesis 50:20

Praise: Psalm 44 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Genesis 49:28-33 - Death of Jacob

Even though Reuben, Simeon, and Levi have displeased their father, none of Jacob's sons are rejected, but each are blessed with the appropriate blessing. Whatever rebukes of God's Word or providence we are under at any time, as long as we have an interest in God's covenant, a place among His people, and the hope of a share in the heavenly Canaan, we must count ourselves blessed.

Jacob gives his final instructions regarding his burial. His heart is set upon being buried in Canaan, not so much from a natural love of his native soil, as from a principle of faith in the promise of God, that Canaan will be the inheritance of his seed in due time. He wants to keep his sons remembering and desiring the Promised Land. Dying believers should fix their thoughts upon the heavenly Canaan, and the rest they hope for there after death.

Having given these final instructions, Jacob freely resigns his spirit into the hand of God, the Father of spirits. If God's people are our people, death will gather us to them.

Questions

1. What is the blessing Reuben, Simeon, and Levi still have even though their father is displeased with them?
2. Why does Jacob want to be buried in Canaan?
3. How can we be "gathered to our people"?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we are part of God's people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." Genesis 50:20

Praise: Psalm 45 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Genesis 50:1-6 - Burial

Even though Jacob is old and must die, even though he is poor in comparison to others, and a constant responsibility of his son Joseph, yet Joseph loves his father so much and is very aware of the loss of a prudent, godly, praying father, that he can't part with him without floods of tears.

Joseph orders that the body be embalmed, not only because he died in Egypt, and that is the custom of the Egyptians, but because he is to be carried to Canaan, which will take time, and so it is necessary that the body be preserved.

Even the Egyptians, many of them, out of the great respect they have for Joseph put themselves into mourning for his father. Joseph then asks and obtains leave of Pharaoh to go to Canaan to attend the funeral of his father. It is a piece of necessary respect to Pharaoh that he will not go without leave, because he still is conducting the business of Pharaoh. He employs some of the household to ask Pharaoh for him, either because it is not proper for him in the days of his mourning to come before Pharaoh, or because he doesn't want to presume. Joseph gives as his reason for going the obligation his father has laid upon him, by an oath, to bury him in Canaan. He promises to return, and so he obtains leave from Pharaoh.

Questions

1. Why is Joseph so sad?
2. How long did they mourn for Jacob?
3. Why does Joseph say he needs to go to Canaan?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for godly, praying fathers.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." Genesis 50:20

Praise: Psalm 46 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Genesis 50:7-14 - Up to Canaan

These verses give us an account of the Jacob's funeral. Of the funerals of the kings of Judah, usually no more is said than that they were buried with their fathers in the city of David, but the funeral of Jacob is more fully described, to show how much better God is to him than he expected (he had spoken more than once of dying for grief, and going to the grave bereaved of his children, but he dies in honour, and is followed to the grave by all his children), and also because his orders concerning his burial were given and observed in faith and expectation of both an earthly and heavenly Canaan.

This is a stately funeral. Jacob is attended to the grave, not only by his own family, but by the courtiers and all the great men of the kingdom, who, in token of their gratitude to Joseph, show this respect to his father for his sake and do him honour at his death. Even though the Egyptians usually despise Hebrews, now that they are better acquainted with them, they begin to have a respect for them. Jacob has behaved so well among them that they respect him. Christians should try, by wisdom and love, to remove the prejudices which many may have against them because they don't know them.

This is a sorrowful funeral, as is evident to the passers-by. The death of good men is a great loss to any place. The solemn mourning for Jacob gave a name to the place, the mourning of the Egyptians, which serves as a testimony against the next generation of the Egyptians, who oppressed the descendants of this Jacob to whom their ancestors showed such respect.

Questions

1. Why is there so much detail about Jacob's funeral?
2. Why do Egyptians go to Jacob's funeral?
3. How had Jacob changed the Egyptians' minds about Hebrews?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would treat unbelievers with wisdom, honesty, and love.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." Genesis 50:20

Praise: Psalm 47 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Genesis 50:15-26 - Meant For Good

Joseph's brothers' guilty consciences and inability to forgive and forget, make them suspicious and fear the worst from Joseph. They humble themselves, confess their sin, and ask for forgiveness and mercy, promising to be his servants. They tell Joseph that they are all children of Jacob and worshippers of the same God. We must be ready to forgive all men, but we must be especially careful to have a forgiving spirit towards any that are the servants of God. We should always treat them with a special kindness for we and they have the same Master.

Joseph directs them to look to God in their repentance. If they make their peace with God, they will find it an easier matter to make peace with Joseph. Joseph points out the great good that God has brought out of their sin. God often brings good out of evil, and accomplishes His plans even by the sins of men; not that He is the author of sin, but His infinite wisdom so overrules events, and directs the chain of them, so that they end in His praise as we see in the putting of Christ to death. This doesn't make sin less sinful or sinners less punishable, but it shows the glory of God's wisdom.

On his deathbed Joseph comforts his brothers, encouraging them that the day will come when they will return to Canaan, and he makes them promise, that when that day comes, they will take his body with them. This is a confession of his own faith in the promises of God made in covenant to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and the children of Israel.

Questions

1. Why are Joseph's brothers scared?
2. What does Joseph teach them about God?
3. What promises does Joseph believe in, even on his deathbed?
4. What does Joseph make the children of Israel promise?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." Genesis 50:20

Praise: Psalm 48 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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