

ON LAYING A JOSEPH  
OR JACOB TO REST  
Genesis 50:3-26

## INTRODUCTION

As Genesis is now being put to rest, it's fitting that we put Jacob and Joseph to rest as well. Genesis covers half of Old Testament history, and we met many people along the way. We got to know their stories. Jacob and Joseph's stories culminate in Genesis 50, with their deaths. Every person's story includes death, from both a physical and spiritual aspect. We will consider the process of processing death, and meditate **On Laying A Jacob Or Joseph To Rest**.

## DIGGING DEEPER

As you read through Genesis 50:3-26 several times, reflect upon the testimonies of Jacob and Joseph. Their lives were lived well, and both had a confident assurance that God was going to bring them to their final resting place in Canaan. They each knew that **"God will surely visit you."** Regardless of what might happen to your bones, what about your spirit? Do you know that Jesus will take you home to be with Him? Reflect **On Laying A Joseph Or Jacob To Rest**, beloved. *John 12:25-26, 2 Corinthians 5:8. Selah*

*Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.*

I. Genesis 50:3. The days of mourning for Jacob. Well known and respected by the Egyptians, there was great mourning for Jacob. Some receive a great deal of attention at their death, and their funeral is a really big event. There is a sense of having lost a great person. Think of, and thank the Lord for people who have impacted your life and passed on.

II. Genesis 50:4-6. Jacob's plan for death. Jacob had a plan in place for when he died. He was prepared for this certainty. We all make plans, but sometimes are consumed by lesser things. Are you prepared – in an eternal sense? *Hebrews 9:27.*

III. Genesis 50:7-14. Jacob's funeral testimony. This was a very great gathering, a great and very solemn lamentation. Jacob was given special honor. In the process of mourning, remember the good from a deceased person's life. This helps get through the pain of loss. From God's perspective, every person has immense value - in spite of today's philosophy, politics, and technology. We are all God's image bearers. In God's eyes, you are special! *Psalms 139:14-18, Matthew 10:29-31.*

IV. Genesis 50:15-21. Now that Jacob is gone.... Family dynamics often can and do change when someone dies, especially a parent. His brothers didn't understand Joseph, and feared he would now change his mind about them. He had been providing for them all with love and compassion, but they feared he would now be vindictive. Yet Joseph had a tender and forgiving heart. He was like Jesus. Jesus provides your needs out of love, not based on your performance. *Romans 8:31b-35a.*

V. Genesis 50:22-26. Joseph dies. Think about Joseph's life. He knew of God's providence and sovereignty. This caused him to live a life of great faith. He never played the victim card, complaining about how unfair or difficult things were for him. His relationship with God was intimate and trusting. The more you know the Lord, the greater your confidence that He has a plan and controls of every step. *Joshua 1:8-9, Psalm 32:8-11, Jeremiah 33:3, Acts 18:9-10, Hebrews 13:5.*

As we close the book of Genesis, Jacob's faith (*Hebrews 11:22*) is seen with his final words, **"God will surely visit you..."**

**CONSIDER .....** How can we have assurance as Jacob and Joseph did - that God would surely visit us as He did them?

- o Study God's character through the Scriptures
- o Practice God's presence through personal prayer
- o Look to Jesus in your daily walk through life

*Psalms 139:1-12, John 1:1-13  
Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18  
Matthew 11:28-30, Hebrews 12:1-3*

**"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."** *John 14:2-3*

## PRAY .....

- o for a greater revelation of how much the Lord loves you and cares for you.
- o that with this assurance, you can minister to others of His love for them.
- o that as a church, we can be that beacon of light for those in the area who are lost and hurting.
- o for our missionaries who are sojourning in a foreign land, that they would know that "God will surely visit them"
- o that we would keep seeking the plan that the Lord has for us, individually as well as a body of Christ.