

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 50

Chapter fifty follows the dramatic scene of Jacob/Israel about to die in Egypt, a foreign land, away from his promised ancestral homeland. Calling his sons to sit before him, he calls each one by name and blesses them with a special blessing. These blessings were a prophecy of what each son and tribe would eventually be known for in the centuries to come. After his blessings to his sons and before he died, Jacob/Israel charged Joseph and his sons not to bury him in a foreign land, but rather to bury him in the family burial cave in the Land of Israel. The place was specific. It was the Cave of Machpelah, in the city of Hebron. There, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Leah, his first and most fruitful wife had been buried. He wanted to be *"gathered to his people"* and he was. Again, remember there were no chapter breaks in the original text, so the story from chapter forty-nine flows like a seamless garment in the closing words of the Book of Origins. The closing verse of forty-nine says that Jacob drew himself into a fetal position, with his feet tucked under him and died. Chapter fifty opens with Joseph by his father's side weeping over his father's face, kissing him as his father died. Joseph, knowing the long, hot journey that lay ahead, had the Egyptians go through the process of embalming his father. After over two months of mourning, seventy days, he went to Pharaoh and asked that he may fulfill his oath to his father and bury him in Canaan. Pharaoh graciously granted his desire and sent an entourage of chariots and horsemen with him to protect he and the family while in route to bury Jacob in Hebron. Immediately after the brothers of Joseph saw that their father had died and was buried, they began to truly be concerned that Joseph might take vengeance against them, now that Jacob had died. The brothers went to Joseph and begged for his forgiveness and asked for mercy; asking for them to be made his servants. He assured them and comforted them with these incredibly insightful, loving, and merciful words, **"Do**

not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore do not be afraid. I will provide for you and your little ones" (vv.19-21). And so, the story closes; Joseph in Egypt taking care of his family, being so blessed that he saw his own children to the third generation. Joseph ends his life reminding the tribal leaders that God would one day visit His people and fulfill the promise He made to Abraham, recorded in Genesis chapter fifteen that after a period of four hundred years in a land not their own, God Himself would remember them and bring them back to the land He promised to Abraham. Joseph being a man of God and a person who trusted God completely, made the children of Israel take an oath, that when God did visit them and fulfill His promise to return them to the land, that they would not leave his body in Egypt, but would take his body back to his homeland and bury him in the "Promised Land." The Book of Genesis closes. What began in a beautiful pristine garden in perfect fellowship with God, enjoying His unimaginable Presence, ends with these five words, **"In a coffin in Egypt"** (Genesis 50:26). Such is the way of sin. Sin takes what God means for good and corrupts it. But God made a way for the fellowship man enjoyed in Eden to be restored through the Messiah of Israel and the Savior, Jesus.

Prayer and Action Steps

Today you have completed the first leg of a glorious journey in reading the word of God. You are on your way! You have completed the Key Chapters in the book of Genesis. Pray now and thank God that He is faithful and that He would teach us the truth of trusting Him. God has a plan for your life, surrender to him and renew your covenant with Him today. Thank Him that He is faithful even when you are not. Commit to get someone else involved in reading the Bible daily.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
