

This last chapter of Genesis covers the final **54 years** of Joseph's life. How do we know this?

- Joseph lived to be 110 years old (v 26)
- Joseph was 17 years old when we are fully introduced to him (37:2)
- Joseph was 30 years old when he became Governor of Egypt (41:46)
- Joseph was 39 when Jacob moved his family to Egypt (45:9-11)
- Joseph was 56 when Jacob died (47:28; 49:33)

A. The Passing of Joseph's Father (1-14)

1. The Measuring of Jacob's Years

-Jacob died at 147 years old (47:28). He went to Egypt when he was 130 (47:9); he lived in Egypt for 17 years (47:28).

-This means that Jacob had two 17-year periods with Joseph (37:2)

***Joy**

-The first 17 years began at Joseph's birth (30:22-24). Rachel had been barren, but Joseph's birth ended the barrenness and the sorrow and brought great rejoicing.

-The second 17-year period began when Joseph and Jacob were reunited after many years of separation (46:29-30). This turned heartache into great happiness.

***Provision**

-During the first 17 years, Jacob provided for Joseph, and during the second 17 years, Joseph provided for Jacob (45:11)

***Mourning**

-Both 17-year periods ended in mourning (37:34; 50:1)

¹ Then **Joseph** fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him. ² And **Joseph** commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed **Israel**. ³ Forty days were required for it, for that is how many are required for embalming. And the **Egyptians** wept for him seventy days.

⁴ And when the days of weeping for him were past, **Joseph** spoke to the household of **Pharaoh**, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of **Pharaoh**, saying, ⁵ 'My father made me swear, saying, "I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of **Canaan**, there shall you bury me." Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return.' " ⁶ And **Pharaoh** answered, "Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear." ⁷ So **Joseph** went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of **Pharaoh**, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of **Egypt**, ⁸ as well as all the household of **Joseph**, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen. ⁹ And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very great company. ¹⁰ When they came to the threshing floor of **Atad**, which is beyond the **Jordan**, they lamented there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days. ¹¹ When the inhabitants of the land, the **Canaanites**, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of **Atad**, they said, "This is a grievous mourning by the **Egyptians**." Therefore the place was named **Abel-mizraim**; it is beyond the **Jordan**. ¹² Thus 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 at **Machpelah**, to the east of **Mamre**, which **Abraham** bought with the field from **Ephron** the **Hittite** to possess as a burying place. ¹⁴ After he had buried his father, **Joseph** returned to **Egypt** with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

2. The Memorials at Jacob's Death

The extent of his honors

***Mourning**

-Even the Egyptians mourned Jacob for 70 days (3)

-This is astounding considering their previous regard for Hebrews (43:32)

-The place where he was buried was called Abel-mizraim by the Canaanites, which means "mourning of Egypt" (11)

***Multitude**

-There was a very large contingent from Egypt that went to Canaan to bury Jacob (7-9)

The explanation for his honors

-Joseph made sure that great honor was shown to his father

-Joseph also made sure that Jacob's wishes were fulfilled just as he had instructed (47:29-31; 49:29-32)

"the field of Ephron the Hittite" 23:8-17

"cave...at Machpelah" 23:9, 17-19; 25:9.

Mamre (13:18; 18:1)

**B. The Pardon of
Joseph's Felons
(15-21)**

**1. The Misery of
Sinners**

-It had been nearly forty years since the brothers had so evilly mistreated Joseph. Yet, they were still in misery because of their evil deed.

-The memory of it continually haunted them and caused them to fear Joseph needlessly.

-Sin is a terrible taskmaster.

**2. The Mistrust by
Sinners**

-It had been seventeen years since Joseph had forgiven them (45:4-5)

-In those seventeen years Joseph had lovingly and faithfully cared for them, yet the ten older brothers still feared retaliation from Joseph for their crime.

**3. The Mercy for
Sinners**

-Was the message delivered from Jacob real or a forgery?

-Regardless of whether or not Jacob actually said those words, Joseph wept when he heard them and reassured them just as he had done 17 years earlier (45:4-5)

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." ' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ 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. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

²² So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years. ²³ And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own. ²⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." ²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." ²⁶ So Joseph died, being **110 years old**. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

The compliance to the mandate

-Joseph's orders were faithfully carried out when Israel left Egypt many years after Joseph died.

Ex 13:19 "Moses took the bones of Joseph with him"

Josh 24:32 "As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at Shechem"

3. The Mention of His Profession of Faith

Heb 11:22 "By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones."

**C. The Profession
of Joseph's Faith
(22-26)**

**1. The Merits of His
Profession of Faith**

-Just like Jacob, Joseph also had rock solid faith in God's promise to give them the land of Canaan (48:4).

-The terms of God's covenant with Abraham (and then reiterated to Isaac and Jacob) included the promise of the land.

-These reiterations frequently occur as part of a direct divine encounter with Yahweh (Gen 12:1-3; 15:1-6; 17:2; 22:17; 26:4, 24; 28:3).

-Paul said of Abraham "No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised" (Rom 4:20-21)

-This same could be applied to Joseph.

**2. The Mandate of His
Profession of Faith**

**The character of the
mandate**

-Joseph's faith translated into action regarding his bones (25)

-Joseph's coffin would serve as a great encouragement when persecution persisted...a reminder of the promise of God

Joseph's Final Years

Joseph was 17 years old when we are fully introduced to him

Genesis 37:2 (ESV)

² These are the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.

Joseph was 30 years old when he became Governor of Egypt

Genesis 41:46 (ESV)

⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.

Joseph was 39 when Jacob moved his family to Egypt

Genesis 45:9–11 (ESV)

⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰ You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

Joseph was 56 when Jacob died

Genesis 47:28 (ESV)

²⁸ And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.

Genesis 49:33 (ESV)

³³ When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

Passing of Joseph's Father

The Measuring of Jacob's Years

Genesis 37:2 (ESV)

² These are the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.

Genesis 47:9 (ESV)

⁹ And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning."

Genesis 47:28 (ESV)

²⁸ And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.

Joy

Genesis 30:22–24 (ESV)

²² Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. ²³ She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." ²⁴ And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

Genesis 46:29–30 (ESV)

²⁹ Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. ³⁰ Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive."

Provision

Genesis 45:11 (ESV)

¹¹ There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

Mourning

Genesis 37:34 (ESV)

³⁴ Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.

Genesis 50:1 (ESV)

¹ Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him.

The Memorials at Jacob's Death

Mourning

Genesis 43:32 (ESV)

³² They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.

The explanation for his honors

Genesis 47:29–31 (ESV)

²⁹ And when the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt, ³⁰ but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place." He answered, "I will do as you have said." ³¹ And he said, "Swear to me"; and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself upon the head of his bed.

Genesis 49:29–32 (ESV)

²⁹ Then he commanded them and said to them, "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, ³⁰ in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. ³¹ There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah— ³² the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the Hittites."

"the field of Ephron the Hittite"

Genesis 23:8–17 (ESV)

⁸ And he said to them, "If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, ⁹ that he may give me the cave of Machpelah,

which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place.”

¹⁰ Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, ¹¹ “No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.” ¹² Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. ¹³ And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, “But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there.” ¹⁴ Ephron answered Abraham, ¹⁵ “My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.” ¹⁶ Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants.

¹⁷ So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over

“Cave...at Machpelah”

Genesis 23:9 (ESV)

⁹ that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place.”

Genesis 23:17–19 (ESV)

¹⁷ So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over ¹⁸ to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. ¹⁹ After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.

Genesis 25:9 (ESV)

⁹ Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre,

Mamre

Genesis 13:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Genesis 18:1 (ESV)

¹ And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

The Pardon of Joseph's Felons

The Mistrust by Sinners

Genesis 45:4–5 (ESV)

⁴ So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

The Profession of Joseph's Faith

The Merits of His Profession of Faith

Genesis 48:4 (ESV)

⁴ and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.’

Genesis 12:1–3 (ESV)

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 15:1–6 (ESV)

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 17:2 (ESV)

² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”

Genesis 22:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,

Genesis 26:4 (ESV)

⁴ I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,

Genesis 26:24 (ESV)

²⁴ And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham’s sake.”

Genesis 28:3 (ESV)

³ God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples.

Romans 4:20–21 (ESV)

²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

The Mandate of His Profession of Faith

The compliance to the mandate

Exodus 13:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here.”

Joshua 24:32 (ESV)

³² As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money. It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph.

The Mention of His Profession of Faith

Hebrews 11:22 (ESV)

²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.