

Genesis: From Creation to New Creation

[Genesis 49:29 – 50:26](#)

“God Meant it for Good” – December 10, 2023



Introduction

There is a great danger when we have defective hopes. There are things that promise to deliver, but they can't. We may skip through life with these hopes, oblivious to the fact that they could crumble. What happens when it all falls apart? Defective hopes put our lives on a roller coaster. How do we get off of this roller coaster?

When we come to the end of Genesis we will see two different funerals - one for Jacob and one for Joseph. Ecclesiastes says it's better to go to a funeral than a party. Funerals, while painful, help us examine what we truly value. ([Ecc. 7:2](#)) A funeral calibrates our hopes so that when we arrive at our own funeral, we don't have any regrets

Sermon Outline

1. God is faithful, so live like a sojourner. (49:29-50:14)
2. God is sovereign, so live without fear. (50:15-21)
3. God has come for us, so live with hope. (50:22-26)

Read & Discuss

1. Read Chapter 49:29 – 50:14

We have walked alongside Jacob who struggled with his faith. He wanted to trust the God of his fathers, but he was conflicted. He, at times, wanted the praise of the world. The longing for what the world had to offer caused him to lie. Often, he was trying to make this world his home. Yet in the sunset of his life, he was set free from those longings. If he wanted it, Jacob could have had a large “state funeral,” leaving his mark on the history books of Egypt. But he commanded his sons to bury him with his fathers. What happened to Jacob? He was set free from what he once feared by understanding who God is and who he was. Jacob was a foreigner in this world. He was thankful for the hospitality of Egypt during the famine, but that was not his home.

Why all the details about Jacob's death and funeral? Moses was showing us that Jacob's exodus from Egypt was a dress rehearsal for a future exodus of God's people. Jacob's course took the same route that the children of Israel would take in 400 years. Jacob was a sojourner, but his trip was a foreshadowing of God's people coming out of Egypt to the Promised Land. This reminds us that we also are sojourners. We are not home yet! ([Phil. 3:20-21](#)) We are fellow citizens of Heaven.

Living as a sojourner comes with temptations. If we become like the world, we end up sacrificing our holiness, saltiness, and witness. ([1 Peter 2:11](#)) What tempts you to become like the world? We are also tempted to isolate ourselves from the world. We must be different from the world even if it means persecution. But we are called to evangelize and make disciples of ALL nations. We are not home yet! We are promised an inheritance, and God is faithful to get us all the way home! How is this possible when the world is full of chaos and our hearts are full of sin?

2. Read Chapter 50:15-22

Here we see Joseph's kindness. He was comforting the brothers who had previously wanted to kill him. His brothers were anxious, wondering if Joseph had really forgiven them.

They had come to Joseph and confessed their sin. When Joseph had revealed his identity to them in chapter 45, he REALLY had forgiven them. For the next 17 years, they experienced Joseph's kindness, yet they still struggled to believe. If Joseph's forgiveness was based on their performance, their fear would be justified. But Joseph's forgiveness was based on grace. Grace is a gift. It is not deserved.

Do you struggle to believe the forgiveness you have received from God? When you are reminded of your

sin, do you wonder if you have really been forgiven? When we look at God's law and see ourselves for who we really are, we see our evil thoughts and deeds. And we like these brothers might become fearful because the world's economy of acceptance has crept into our thinking. Our hope is not in ourselves. It is in God - His promises, His faithfulness. Stop looking at yourself and look to God. Let His word speak over you.

Joseph had been grievously sinned against. After everything he has been through, he could have become an angry old man, full of bitterness. Yet he was confident and generous. He spoke kindly to those who wronged him, and he was quick to forgive. How? He saw and believed and rested in the fact that his God is sovereign - in control of all things. Joseph didn't belittle their sin. He knew they meant the evil done against him, but he knew that the evil would not have the final say. The brothers' sin was not in the drivers' seat. Since God is in control, and He is good, God meant the sinful choices for the good of thousands of people during a famine. God, in his sovereignty and rule, has the final say. Similarly, to how the choices of a kangaroo court meant to kill Jesus in the New Testament, they were also meant by God to save sinners like you and me.

Do you put yourself in the place of God, tired of waiting for justice? Trying to be God is not our job description. When we try to put ourselves in the place of God, it leaves us anxious, exhausted, and miserable. There is a profound freedom in trusting God. God has no limits of authority, power, or wisdom.

There is a lot that can happen. But we can be confident because our sovereign God can take what is evil and make it good for us. ([Romans 8:28](#)) Live without fear. Live with confident hope. We are not home yet, but God is faithful to get us home.

3. Read Chapter 50:23-26

Joseph lived 110 years. God shepherded him through good times and bad. He was confident that God would visit them. It would be a long wait, but God would do it. God would surely come for them and rescue them out of Egypt.

Genesis begins in paradise, and it ends with Joseph in a coffin. The children of Israel would wait 400 years to be delivered. Then Joseph's bones would be buried in Canaan. Those bones still sit in a grave where Joseph is still waiting. The curse is still on the earth. One day, Jesus will come to reverse that curse and make a new heaven and a new earth.

God has visited us as He promised. Jesus is Emmanuel - God with us. ([Luke 1:68](#)) Jesus will turn the graveyard of this world into paradise. The good news of Christmas is that Jesus came first to lay down His life as a substitute. He rose again and became THE way back to paradise - a restored, right relationship with God.

Sometimes life feels like we are just waiting and waiting for God to transform a sin sick world into a paradise. In our waiting, we lose hope. Creations groans. We groan over our own sin. Jesus promised to come again to overcome sin and death. Jesus' first coming shows us His heart and proves that He will come a second time. ([John 14:1-3](#)) He is faithful. ([Rev. 22:20](#)) Knowing this, we can live with unshakeable hope.

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at fbcum.org

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| Next week's sermon text: we turn to Psalm 98 "God is Faithful." |
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