

Genesis: God and Man

God Will Surely Visit You

Genesis 50

1. The Bible is 66 books written by 40 authors over a few millennia on several continents
2. It is about God. It tells us who God really is.
3. What the truth really is.
4. Gives us insight into reality itself and even what's behind the veil...in the spiritual realm
5. It tells us what we need to know to live now and forever. And what happens after we die.
6. It also tells us why we die in the first place...sin.
7. What sin is, why it is sin, and where sin began.
8. It shows us that God is deeply interested, involved and in love with mankind as a whole and each one of us individually
9. It shows how even from the beginning that He had a plan to save us from our sin
10. And to be with us the whole way, even though we turned our back on him
11. The Bible tells us what true love is.

1John 4:7-11 NKJV - 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

This is Genesis: GOD and Man.

- God desiring and doing to create this reality and ultimately humankind inside it
- That he made us intimately, unlike the other creatures and things, with dirt and his breath
- He made a beautiful and good Creation and Garden for people to enjoy and live
- And he visited us intimately daily (walked in the cool of the garden)
- That as he rules over all spiritual and physical from heaven we are to rule over all from Earth
- He gave us His word and told us what would happen if we chose to disobey it - we'd die. Not a death threat, but a natural consequence. If you unplug the TV, the TV stops working. If you run out of gas, the car stops running.

- He let us choose. Not forced love.
- That even when we chose to sin and couldn't cover ourselves and WE hid from him, not HIM from us. That's what sin is...He made a sacrifice, covered us, protected us from being stuck in it forever and promised that He'd be born into the human race to save us and destroy sin and death and the evil one forever
- He then continues to be involved with us personally.
- Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Seth
- Enoch, Methuselah, Noah, Ham, Shem, Japeth
- Even Nimrod and the offshoot of Cain, Babel, etc.
- Abram, Sarai, Lot, Hagar, Ishmael, Isaac
- Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Esau
- Jacob, Laban, Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, Zilpah
- Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Dinah, Josph, Benjamin
- Melchizedek, Pharaohs, other people groups along the way. Even giving a Sodom and Gomorrah the benefit of the doubt and coming down to see for himself before sending judgment and getting Lot and his family out.

Looked closely at Noah's life, Abraham's, Isaac's, Jacob's and now Joseph's.

Previously

- Betrayed, sold into slavery
- Famine, Feast, Pharaoh
- In charge
- Testing his brothers
- Reunited with his family
- Forgiveness and drawing near in Goshen
- Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manassah as his own over the real firstborn
- Jacob dies
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Are you sure about anything in life?

Can we be?

What's our guarantee?

"My word is my bond" People's word used to mean something. There's a reason we have contracts. Handshakes and verbal contracts are good and many do keep them, but having it written down is excellent legal proof and a guarantee of what was agreed upon.

:1-14

Jacob dies at the end of Ch 49

Joseph clearly broken over his dad's death

No matter who they are or how they treated us, they are still our fathers. There is a natural affection there that should not be broken or discounted. We may or may not be able to safely have a relationship with our fathers, but we should all weep and mourn over their death.

And as believers, if our fathers don't know the Lord or are in trouble we should weep and mourn and pray for them now before the Lord that they might be saved and restored and have a chance at that relationship with them we so naturally and rightfully desire.

Don't give up on your family. God never gave up on you and he hasn't on them.

Until death, there's still time. If death hasn't happened, let it be the catalyst to seek restoration.

Egyptian embalming

Lengthy, involved and highly-skilled practice. Also deeply entrenched in their religion. Seeking a body to live on in the afterlife. Pyramids for the dead Pharaoh's to have what they need for the afterlife.

Ecc 3:11 NKJV - 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Missionaries who have done well have discovered how the people they seek to minister see life and God and the afterlife and use the same touchpoints we all have to connect the dots for them and lead them to the truth of God and His Son.

Joseph's divination cup, not something he actually practiced magic with

And it seems here he has the doctors do the embalming when typically it was done by embalmers and undoubtedly had their own magic and false religious practice involved.

Talk about being wise as a serpent and gentle as a dove. Using his place and power in Egypt but not being corrupted by the culture. Being in the world and not of it.

Normally those embalmed were not the ordinary citizen. And even then, a celebrity per se, would get 40 days.

Jacob got more than that, a national mourning for 70 days.

That shows Joseph's clout and importance to the people.

Interesting that in Egyptian history, this Jewish man was so important to them as well. Someone from outside, brought in and saves them and their society. Another picture of Jesus there

Apparently only Pharaoh would get longer with 72 days.

Joseph doesn't go directly to Pharaoh but sends a message to him.

He's obviously still Pharaoh's servant, doesn't just walk in high five pharaoh,

But he does have access to ask for time off.

He explains what he's going to do and he says he will come back.

He's not leaving Egypt. It's his home now. He's not going to quit his job or stop being there for Pharaoh. I'd imagine this could cause some political turmoil as well.

Eph 6:5-9 NKJV - 5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether [he is] a slave or free. 9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Jospeh takes his dad to bury him

ALL OF THE SERVANTS OF PHARAOH GO

Elders of the land of Egypt and of pharaoh's house as well!

Joseph's house, his brothers and his dad's house.

Kids and animals stay behind. It's obvious they're not leaving. They're coming back because the most important things stayed behind.

Beyond the Jordan back to the promised land

Locals looking on saw it as a deep mourning for **The Egyptians**

Jacob and the fledgling Israelites were a big deal for the egyptians.

The people in the promised land still didn't know...but if they knew the promise!

Buried like he asked with his family and honored

:15-21

Now Joseph's brothers fear again. They think that because jacob is dead Joseph is going to show his true colors and deal with them harshly now...repay them for the evil they had done.

That Joseph was only kind to them in the beginning in order to see his dad and to make his dad happy in his old age.

They sent messengers...too afraid to go themselves

Sometimes it's tempting to just send an email when we should text or just text when we should call or call when we should just go talk

Joseph wept when the messengers said this

He really loves his brothers and it breaks his heart they would think this

As believers, we need to be so broken hearted over our families, especially those who have wronged us or gone astray that they might know they can truly come to us and to the Lord

That God's desire for them is life and not death

This is the message of Genesis and of the Bible

Rom 2:4 NKJV - 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

**The brothers now go before Joseph, knowing it's safe
But they still bow down as servants**

Those dreams keep coming true

Rom 11:29 NKJV - 29 For the gifts and the calling of God [are] irrevocable.

V19 Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?

Joseph will not judge them, that is God's judgment. Joseph will only forgive them and bless them.

Should that not be us, too?

Two types of Judgment...discernment and condemnation

You meant evil

But God meant it for good

We spoke about this several times previously...even when bad things happen, awful things, sinful things happen to us, it's not God's fault. It's other's fault. But God will use it for good in our lives and theirs, if we would but let him.

Hearing of prisoners for Jesus being beaten and using it to minister to the prison guards
Modern times and in Acts

Joseph cares about them, their offspring, and their future.
He cares about them and for them.

Knowing what people think of you by how they treat your kids
(government anyone)

Comforted them and spoke kindly to them

That is the heart of God towards us. Even in conviction, his words are kind although cutting, to get us to come out of the danger of sin

:22-26

Joseph lives out a full life

Joseph lives to see his great, great, grandchildren? Possible at 110?

Kids at 30, grandkids at 50, great at 70, great great at 90?

Of Ephraim. Manassah and his kids get a later start and only the great grandchildren are born before Joseph dies.

What a time. The joy of grandparents. Their role and responsibility.

V24

I am dying, but God will surely visit you

He's been their provision and protector and way in of Egypt, and now that he's gone, he reminds them that God will be with them.

Think back all the way to the promise of the messiah. The promise to Noah. The promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...being fulfilled through the great, great, great grandchildren born in Egypt

A reminder of the promise of the promised land

Egypt isn't it, but stay here until God takes you out. He is with you here. This is his place for you. Don't leave. Don't run away.

You don't need me. You need God.

It's hard leaving those you love. It's easier knowing it's God calling and that God will be with them.

Psa 17:15 NKJV - 15 As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

Joseph was satisfied in death. Knowing where he was truly going. Knowing that he had a true afterlife, unlike the false resurrection of his adopted society.

Joseph has them vow to bring his bones to the promised land. That although he's in Egypt and one of their most important figures, it's not his eternal home. He doesn't want a pyramid (a mountain of man), he wants the mountain of God.

Embalmed, preserved...wouldn't it be something to have an archaeological dig and find his embalmed remains in an Egyptian styled sarcophagus in Israel?

That's it. Genesis ends with Joseph's death. No more words. No more stories. But a promise of the future.

Exodus starts out with the genealogy and picks up about 400 years later with a large group of Israelites in Egypt and a Pharaoh who has forgotten all about Joseph and is a megalomaniac.

But let's not worry about him. Let's remember the promise:
"God will surely visit you."

to attend to, muster, number, reckon, visit, punish, appoint, look after, care for
 to pay attention to, observe
 to seek, look about for
 to be watched over
 to be made overseer, be entrusted

Joseph is reminding them that he was only a part of God's provision for them. That God was ultimately the one watching over them, not him. And that it would continue after he was gone.

Sounds like Jesus when we ascended...he'd send the comforter to one day bring us into the promised land, where we couldn't follow just then.

Psa 138:2 NKJV - 2 I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

God promised to save us in the beginning of this book...at the very beginning of time.

He had it written down in this book as a guarantee.

He proved it by staying with us and making himself known to individuals, nations and the entire world through every generation.

And ultimately by dying on the cross for everything we'd done.

Do you have that assurance?
Do you trust that guarantee?

2Co 1:20-22 NKJV - 20 For all the promises of God in Him [are] Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us [is] God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.