



## Lesson #11: A Message from a Mummy (Gen. 50:22-26)

The book of Genesis begins with \_\_\_\_\_ and ends with a \_\_\_\_\_. It all started in the \_\_\_\_\_ but it ends in a \_\_\_\_\_. Genesis ends as we come to 50:26 and we read that Joseph died being 110 years old.

In Genesis 50:26 we read that Joseph's body was "\_\_\_\_\_." Because of his high status as a governmental official in Egypt it was not surprising that he would be mummified. But Joseph did not have his sarcophagus placed in some great pyramid from some archaeologist to dig up one day. In his last words on earth Joseph gave instruction concerning his bones. If ever there was a mummy with a message it's the one we consider here at the end of the book of Genesis.

As an elderly man Joseph is able to reflect on the theological purpose of God bringing him into the land of Egypt (50:20). But while that statement is interesting it is perhaps most interesting that in Hebrews 11:22 the Spirit of God commends Joseph for the statement he made concerning his \_\_\_\_\_. At the time of his departure Joseph was without question a man who was firm in his faith. We know that because of his last words. These last words that Joseph gives are a pattern whereby we might be found \_\_\_\_\_.

### THOSE WHO LIVE BY FAITH FOCUS ON THEIR OWN \_\_\_\_\_

By faith Joseph spoke about the mortality of his body – "I die" (50:24).

#### A. The fool lives for the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph saved the nation from starvation but he was unable to save himself from the sepulcher. Death stalks each of us. It is, as many have acknowledge "the great \_\_\_\_\_." As Joseph's words remind us of our own mortality he question we ought to be asking is, "What are you doing with the \_\_\_\_\_ life that God has given to you?"

#### B. The wise man lives for the ever after

In these last words we discover what a truly successful man looks like.

1. A truly successful life is not measured by its \_\_\_\_\_
2. A truly successful life is not measured by its \_\_\_\_\_
3. A truly successful life is not measured by its \_\_\_\_\_

You are not really ready to live until you are ready to die. The greatest choices you make are not made when you consider \_\_\_\_\_ but when you consider \_\_\_\_\_.

### THOSE WHO LIVE BY FAITH FOCUS ON GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_

It is well when death approaches to remember the surety of God's Word.

As Joseph was about to die, he left his family with the greatest inheritance any man can leave – not money, but a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in God's promises (50:24-25). That is a remarkable final charge in his life in light of Joseph's position in Egypt and the fact that he had lived \_\_\_\_\_ of his 110 years there!

Twice we read that little phrase, "God will \_\_\_\_\_ visit you" (50:24,25). In that little phrase Joseph was making a statement based on certainty.

- **Genesis 50:12-21** – God spoke to Joseph's great grandfather, \_\_\_\_\_, and told him that his seed would occupy the land from the Great River to the River Euphrates (this was the Promised Land).
- **Genesis 46:2-4** – God reiterated that promise to Joseph's father, \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Genesis 48:21** – Jacob shared this promise with Joseph!

As we come to Genesis 50 we know that Joseph's days are few and the promises of God are still unfulfilled. But by faith Joseph believed in the certainty of God's promises. No wonder the Spirit of God would recognize Joseph's faith the way it did in Hebrews 11!

### THOSE WHO LIVE BY FAITH FOCUS ON THEIR ETERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph died with a certainty concerning the destiny of his own soul.

#### A. Your possessions are not found in the \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph's family had leaned on him for support. But now Joseph was teaching them to look beyond him and to the \_\_\_\_\_ who would support them when he was gone: "I am going to die, BUT GOD ..."

#### B. Your possessions are found in the \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph instructed the movement of his bones to the Promised Land because he was looking forward to going \_\_\_\_\_. This Promised Land was a promise not yet fulfilled. That coffin filled with bones was to be a constant reminder to the children of Israel of the hope found in God's Word. For years Joseph's coffin preached to the Israelites that they were not \_\_\_\_\_ yet, but they were going. Today, the message has not changed. We are not \_\_\_\_\_ yet, but we are going soon!

### Concluding Thoughts

And so Joseph died. He died not identifying with the wealth, power, or position he had attained in Egypt. Joseph wanted his bones to be carried back to the humble land that was promised to God's people. As we gather this morning we learn not to hold this world's treasures so closely, not to plunder its assets, but rather to be living by \_\_\_\_\_ in Him. Our studies in Joseph's life have helped us define true \_\_\_\_\_. Sure, Joseph was successful in the world's eyes but that's not what matter to him. The most important thing to Joseph was that he \_\_\_\_\_ with God. These final verses of his life help us refine our priorities as we think about the \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives.