

DEATH, DESCENDANTS, AND DECISIONS

We will examine the context (Gen.49:29-50:14) by the following four homiletic points.

- Prearranged funeral (Gen.49:29-33) Jacob's will – death, descendants, and decisions
- Period of embalming (Gen.50:1-4) Forty days for mourning of Egyptians (Abel-mizraim)
- Public funeral (Gen.50:5-11) Three nations (Israel, Egypt, Canaan)
- Private graveside (Gen.50:12-14) Patriarch cemetery (Cave of Machpelah before Mamre)

Lesson text: (Gen.50:10-11)

“When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he observed seven days mourning for his father. Now when the inhabitants of the land, Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, ‘**This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians.**’ Therefore, it was named **Abel-mizarim**, which is beyond the Jordan.”

“Beyond the Jordan” is a probable reference to east of Jordan on a border between Egypt and Canaan (Josh.13:8; 18:7; Isa.9:1; Matt.4:12-16).

Abel (mourning) is not the same Hebrew word as Adam's second son, Abel (breath)

This lesson will study three aspects of Death, Descendants, and Decisions.

1. When a believer dies, there are three departures of the human being.

(1 Thess.5:23) “**Now may** the God of peace Himself (Rom.5:1-2) sanctify you entirely; **and may your spirit and soul and body** be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We will examine the departure of the spirit, soul, and body **of Jesus** by order of (1 Thess.5:23).

- **Human spirit** Returned to The Father (Luke 23:46; Ps.31:5; John 19:30; Gen.2:7)
- **Human soul** Entered Paradise of Sheol [burial and resurrection] (Luke 23:43) and then to the Third heaven (Ascension) (Acts 1:9-11; Eph.1:20; 2 Cor.5:6-8)
- **Human body** Death and burial (Luke 23:50-56)

(Job 34:14-15) “If He should determine to do so, if He should gather to Himself His spirit and breath, all flesh would perish together, all man would return to dust.” (Gen.6:17; 25:8)

2. Jacob reminds us how comforting it is for the bereaved family when the deceased has a legal will and had already prearranged his funeral.

It is comforting to be able to carry out the desires of the deceased and have all expenses covered in advance.

Jacob made a will for the living regarding their lies (Gen.49).

- **Legal will** should be examined every 10 years for updates.

- **Living will** be signed, notarized and placed on file concerning medical treatment.
- **Memorial will** be documented concerning personal belongings and estate.

Jacob also made a will for the living regarding his death (Gen.50).

- He made Joseph the **executor of his will** (Gen.50).
- Your Executor needs to know about important papers: insurance, VA information, deeds, social security, birth certificate, checking and saving accounts, investments; and all indebtedness/ loans.
- You need a list of people to contact at the time of death and funeral.
- You need to know what information is needed for the newspapers (in and out of state) for obituary (family, occupation, college, civic organizations, church, personal history.).

Joseph as executor: “My father made me swear, saying, ‘Behold, I am about to die; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me. Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.’” (Gen.50:5)

- It is important to remember that death brings the third largest purchase to many families.

3. Six biblical reasons for the death of a believer.

- The believer’s work in the Christian way of life (CWL) is completed (2 Tim.4:6-8; Phil.1:23; John 19:30; Eccl.3:2) [timing of departure].
- Dying Grace glorifies God to the world (Ps.116:15; Phil.1:20-21): Samson (Judges 16:28-30; Heb.11:32).
- Special mode of a believer’s death impacts others in Christ: Martyr Stephen (Acts 7:54-58; Ps.31:5) and Soldier Uriah (2 Sam.11:19, 26-27; 23:8, 39).
- Natural cause (breathed his last) – all Patriarchs died of natural causes: Abraham (Gen.25:8) and Isaac (Gen.35:29) and Jacob (Gen.49:33).
- The Rapture (without physical death) of living Church Age believers (1 Cor.15:51-52; 1 Thess.4:15-18).
- A Believer could die under Divine Discipline. It is called the “sin into death” (1 John 5:16; Acts 5:1-10; 1 Sam.15:35; 28:16, 19; 31:4).