

## WHAT HAPPENED? (Genesis 50:22-26)

...Often Ecclesiastes 6:8 is quoted by us, "the end of a matter is better than its beginning." This is certainly true with much in life. To end ones studies in school, is better than to begin. To finish a project is better than to start. Yet, this is NOT True when we come to the end of the Book of Genesis.

...Genesis began with so much promise, so much good, and so much beauty. It began in a perfect Garden. Yet, it ends in death. Joseph has now lived his life and dies. He is put "into a coffin in Egypt."

...Genesis ends on a very sad note. What went WRONG? How did we go from Paradise to Death? What Happened?

### THREE LESSONS FOR US AS WE GAZE UPON JOSEPH'S COFFIN.

#### I. Joseph's Death Teaches Us That All Must Die.

- A. All his greatness, his riches, and goodness could not save Joseph from the hands of the last enemy. If any man could have escaped DEATH it was Joseph. But He could not!
- B. The Bible teaches us that all must die. Hebrews 9:27, "man is destined to die and after judgment"
- C. Genesis records the stories of many people. It gives a lot of material about some, and almost nothing about others. Yet, Genesis records nothing so CONSISTENTLY as the inevitable death of all people. Adam, Eve, Abel, Cain, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc. Life here is likened to a parade headed to the graveyard. 100 years from now, none of us will be here. DEATH!
  1. Genesis 5 is almost like a visit to the cemetery. "He lived and he died."
  2. Ecclesiastes 3 tells us "there is a time to be born and a time to die."
- D. So as you look at Joseph's coffin in Egypt, let it remind you of your date with death.  
...and as you think about this, are you ready to die? Have you trusted in the Lord Jesus?

#### II. Joseph's Coffin Teaches Us That God Speaks Truth. It is here that we discover the answer to the question of what went wrong. The world we know, is so different from its beginning.

- A. The world began so well. God said repeatedly in Genesis 1-2 "it is good." It was perfect. There was no sin and no death. God made Adam and Eve to live forever in a garden paradise.
  1. The book of Genesis began this way. What a great beginning!
  2. God had warned Adam not to eat of the TREE. (2:16-17) He threatened him with DEATH if he disobeyed.
  3. Genesis 2 concludes brightly, "the man and his wife were both naked and felt no shame." (2:25) It was BEAUTIFUL and PERFECT.
- B. It all changed in Genesis 3. Adam chose to sin and the result has been DEATH. DEATH to all mankind. One man writes, "From that point nothing so characterized the history of the human race as the reappearance of this grim enemy."
  1. From this we learn that God speaks truth. Even when it is something we do not want to hear, or runs counter to the common thought.
  2. Adam's fall altered forever the purity and innocence portrayed in Gen 1-2.
  3. Satan came and tempted Eve...with doubt, and blatant lies, casting a shadow upon God's goodness to them. (Gen 3:1ff) "eat freely from all the trees except one..."
  4. God had said, "you will die." Satan said, "you will not die." Who can be trusted?  
...this is the ultimate question that confronts every man and woman.
  5. Eve took and ate and gave some to Adam. They thought they could disregard God's Word on the basis of experience...but they were wrong!!!! They thought they could continue to live, even after their disobedience.
- C. God's Word is truth. The very thing that God said would happen, did happen!!! Even Joseph died. God speaks truth and that His Word alone can always be trusted in this and in all areas!!!

#### III. Joseph's Words Just Before His Body Was Placed In The Coffin Reveal He Was Resting Upon The Promises Of God. He was looking for the "seed of the woman."

- A. Joseph died "in the faith." While dying, Joseph spoke of God's promise to Abraham.(Gen 15:13f)  
...for 400 years they would remain in Egypt, but one day God would take them to their land.  
...for God would provide there a Savior, who would destroy DEATH through His resurrection.
- B. Joseph asked that his bones be carried out to that land. His coffin served as a reminder of a future day when DEATH would be finally defeated. (1 Corinth 15:51-58) "O Death...victory!"

### LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES: