

JOSEPH

#19, a coffin in Egypt – Gen 50:1-26

And so Jacob died and Joseph, according to his father's wishes, started the burial process.

Genesis chapter 50

Gen 50:1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him and kissed him. 2 Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel.

3 Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

4 When the days of mourning for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your sight, please speak to Pharaoh, saying, '5 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.'"

6 Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."

[1.] v:1-2, to embalm, How might Joseph have learned about how Egyptians handle deaths?

[2.] question [1.], We don't read that this was a standard practice for the rest of the brothers. How would you respond to this, if you were one of them?

[3.] v:3, the Egyptians wept, Why would you think they grieved?

[4.] v:4-5, spoke to the household of Pharaoh, From the following, choose what you feel is the statement closest to the meaning of this phrase.

a) Joseph was not, at that time, on speaking terms with Pharaoh.

b) Along with the household, it is implied that Joseph also spoke to Pharaoh.

c) Joseph always spoke thru the household to Pharaoh.

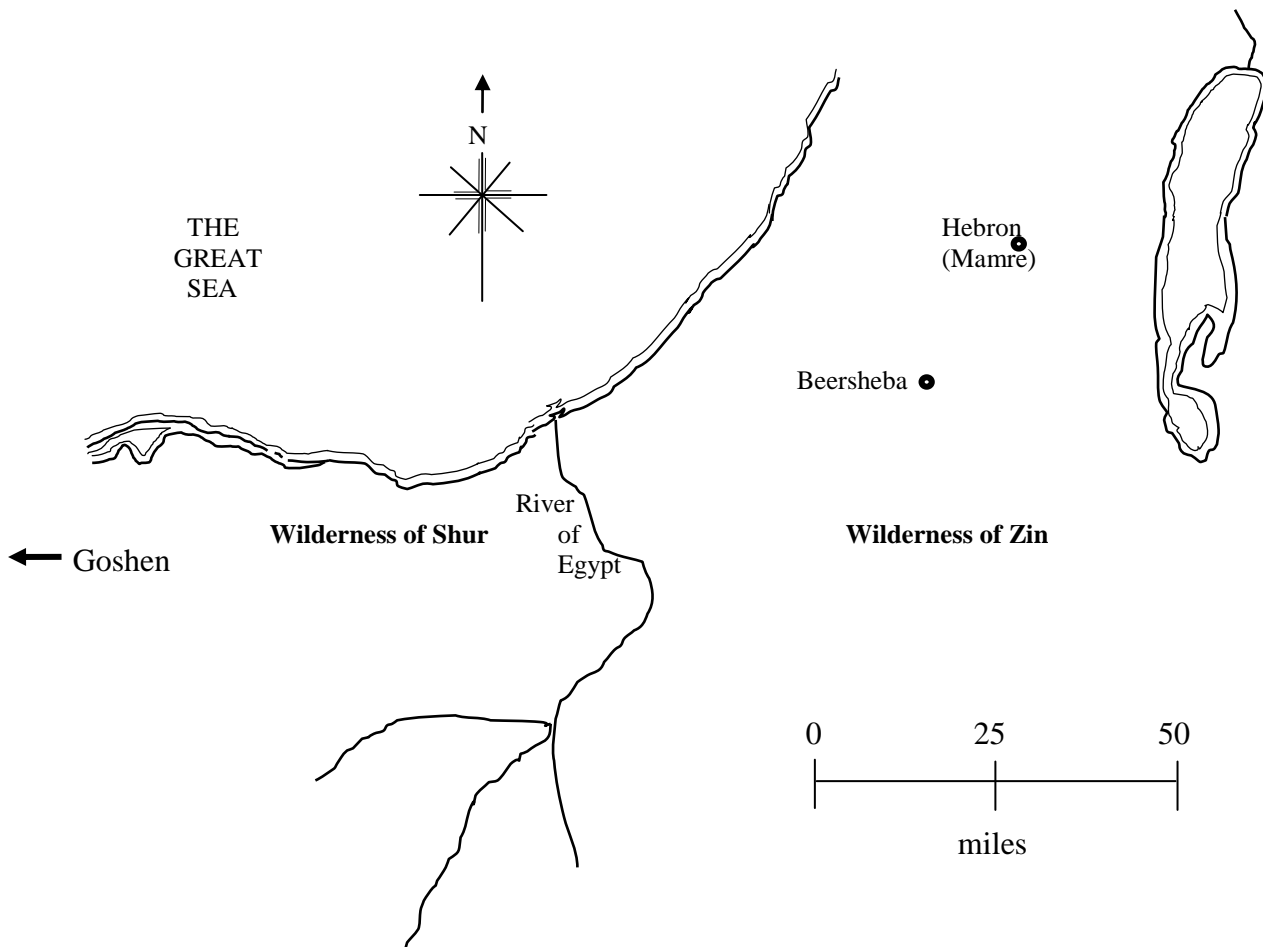
[5.] v:6, Go up and bury, Pharaoh didn't have to respond to Joseph's request this way. Why might he have done so?

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7 So Joseph went up to bury his father, and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household and all the elders of the land of Egypt, 8 and all the household of Joseph and his brothers and his father's household; they left only their little ones and their flocks and their herds in the land of Goshen. 9 There also went up with him both chariots and horsemen; and it was a very great company.

[6.] v:7-9, very great company, From these verses, jot down the things that made up this company.



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10 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.

In Search of “the Threshing Floor of Atad”.

This is the only time this place is mentioned in scripture. From this exercise we will try to “guess” the proximity of the threshing floor. Scripture tells us (Gen 35:12) that the land God promised to Abraham and Isaac, He also promised to Jacob and his seed (Gen 48:4). God defined this land back in Gen 15:18-21 (Notice (v:18) that the Southern border was to be the “the River of Egypt (map pg 2).

11 Now when the inhabitants of the land, the 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-mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan

[7.] v:10, sorrowful lamentation, This is the second lamentation. Why or why isn't it possible that the first was at Egypt and the second when the company got to the land of promise?

[8.] v:11, the inhabitants of the land, Who inhabited this land of the second lamentation (Gen 15:21)?

[9.] Back to v:10, the threshing floor, From the (map pg 2) describe the kind of land that is on both sides of the River of Egypt and decide if they are conducive to crops?

Conclusion

The company left Goshen and traveled East until they crossed the River of Egypt that Joseph knew was the border of the promised land. The river provided the only water for crops until the wells at Beersheba were reached. Now in the promised land, the land of the Canaanites, was the second lamentation at the threshing floor of Atad.

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12 Thus his sons did for him as he had charged them; 13 for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre, which Abraham had bought along with the field for a burial site from Ephron the Hittite.

14 After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father. 15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!"

16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, 17' Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

[10.] v:12-15, bears a grudge, **What unspoken fear had Joseph's brothers been harboring for years?**

[11.] question [10.], Obviously they felt secure as long as Jacob was alive. Other than God, where do we, as born again Christians, place our security?

[12.] question [11.], If the Lord removed that in which you have our security, why might He do it?

[13.] v:16-17, Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers, **Why or why don't you believe Jacob ever found out about what the brothers did?**

[14.] v:17, And Joseph wept, **Why do you think Joseph wept?**

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18 Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place?"

20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. 21 "So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

22 Now Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father's household, and Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. 23 Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees. 24 Joseph said to his brothers, " I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob."

[15.] v:18, Behold, we are your servants, **What did the brothers think that penitence would accomplish for them?**

[16.] v:19, am I in God's place, **Write down what you think this phrase means.**

[17.] v:20-21, to preserve many people alive, **This was true as far as Joseph and the boys understood it but, what was God really accomplishing?**

[18.] question [17.] As a born again Christian, when the Lord seems to be putting you through the ringer, why might He be accomplishing something you don't know about?

[19.] v:22-24, God will surely, **What words of assurance did Joseph give to his brothers?**

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25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here." 26 So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

[16.] v:25, and you shall, What was Joseph's burial wish?

epilogue

At the start of this study, the question was asked about why we were studying Abraham. Two reasons were given. The second reason was: in Gen 15:12-15, God revealed to Abram a circumstance, concerning the future of his seed - hundreds of years before it happened! Joseph lived against the backdrop this circumstance. After Joseph's death came the fulfillment of the event God was referring to.

Ex 1:8-14, Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 He said to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we. 10 "Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land." 11 So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor. And they built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread out, so that they were in dread of the sons of Israel. 13 The Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; 14 and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them.