

## Looking to the Future 2017-04-02

### Gen 47:29-31

29 And when the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me.

Do not bury me in Egypt, 30 but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place." He answered, "I will do as you have said."

31 And he said, "Swear to me"; and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself upon the head of his bed.

Jacob knew his God-given destiny and true joy was in the Promised land, not Egypt.

- His burial desires act as proclamation of his faith & maybe a reminder to his descendants
  - Egypt is not their home, it is only a place to sojourn until God brought them back "home" to their land of promise.
    - Their ultimate enjoyment in a place God promised to them.
- We live with God's promises for the future in mind...eternal perspective. 47:29-30

Jacob was not fearful that if he was buried in Egypt he would be separated from his forefathers or his eternal reward.

- "lie with my fathers" is an ancient expression not about burial but about fellowship.
  - He senses that to die is to enter presence of the faithful who served the Lord.
- Jacob is thinking about the future fulfillment of God's promises and corresponding blessings of which the good life in "Egypt" could not compare.
  - His hope was in the Lord, not the world.

We should live with God's promises for the future in mind ...live with an eternal perspective.

- Word teaches three things are eternal. Ps. 90:2, Mk 13:31, 1 Jn 5:13
  - God Himself (Heb 13:8, Rev 1:8, Ps 93:2), God's Word (Is 40:8, Ps 119:89), People's souls (body dies, spirit lives forever).
    - Anything having to do with these will last an eternity.

Life process of trading one thing for another.

- Time/ability for money, food, shelter, relationships, leisure, & pleasure.
- Constantly tempted to give up eternal riches/blessings for temporal trinkets/pleasures.
  - 10,000 minutes in 1 week. How much is spent on the eternal?

Invest your life in what will last an eternity!!!! Ps 90:12, Eph. 5:15-16, Mt 6:19-21

- Anything having to do with God, your relationship with Him
- Time in Word, meditating & studying it, etc.
- Anything done as an investment in people's lives for God has eternal value.
  - godly parenting, Sunday School, sharing Gospel, praying for others...
- Nurturing of Christ-like character in your life also has eternal value. 2 Cor. 4:16

- much time/money is spent to make the exterior look good but inside is ugly, broken, dying
    - Most important not how I look but who I am becoming.
  - Put higher priority on inward Christ-like character rather than outward.
    - By God's grace, become beautiful on the inside: Gal 5:19-26, 1 Cor 13:4-7
  - Godliness is GREAT GAIN personally & eternally! Prov 13:7, 1 Tim 6:6-8
- Live with eternal perspective in every area of your life. 2 Cor 4:16-5:2, 1 Cor 10:31
- degree of eternal perspective is degree able to endure tough times with proper focus & then fires of life refine rather than destroy you.
    - May God enable us to live with His promises for the future in mind ...live with eternal perspective, set our hope on a place to come & delight now in His precious promises more than all enticements of Egypt (world).
      - This world has nothing for us!