

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH (PART FOUR)

“Am I in the place of God?” – Genesis 50:19

AFTER THE REVELATION

With his revelation of his identity to his brother behind him, Joseph's mind was on one thing: "*Doth my father yet live*"? He longed for news about the father who had doted on him and spoiled him. He immediately dispatched his brothers to bring the information about him to his yet-grieving father (Genesis 45:9). He wanted him brought to Egypt as quickly as possible. He told them the extent of his power and ability to provide for them (Genesis 45:9-15, 21-24). It was not difficult to persuade Jacob to come after they told him that Joseph was alive (Genesis 45:26-28).

A VERY SPECIAL DAY

Each day must have felt like an eternity for Joseph as he waited to see his father. When the news reached him that they were in Goshen, he boarded his chariot, presented himself to him, fell on him, and wept uncontrollably for a long time (Genesis 46:28-29). Jacob said he could now die since he had seen his beloved son's face (Genesis 46:30). The day that neither of them, for different reasons, could have believed possible had come to pass.

JOSEPH CARED FOR HIS FAMILY

With Pharaoh's blessing, Joseph, who had been taken from his father when he was seventeen, got to care for him for the last seventeen years of his life (Genesis 37:2, 47:1-28). As the famine raged for five more terrible years, it did not touch Abraham's seed (Genesis 45:6, 47:12-26). Joseph's family prospered and grew (Genesis 47:27).

JACOB'S DEATH

Inevitably, the time came when Jacob grew sick (Genesis 48:1). Joseph took his two sons to his father. In a moment, Joseph would have long assumed impossible, he witnessed his father bless his sons in a scene reminiscent of his and Esau's blessing (Genesis 48:8-22). Joseph heard Jacob prophesying to all his sons of their futures (Genesis 49:1-28). After charging them to bury him in Canaan, Jacob died (Genesis 49:29-33).

WHAT NEXT

After Jacob's extended mourning period and elaborate burial, Joseph's brothers wondered if now would be the time he would take revenge on them for what they had done to him (Genesis 50:1-15). They sent Joseph a message, as Jacob instructed them to do, to ask him to forgive them for their evil actions (Genesis 50:16-20). Their question made Joseph cry. Displaying his trust in God, he told them, "*Fear not: for am I in the place of God?...Ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good*" (Genesis 50:19-20). Joseph knew it was God who had guided his steps. Do you know that child of God? It is His promise to each of us. Rest in that today.