

# **Genesis 12-50**

## **Study Guide**

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# Promise, Covenant, Family, and Providence

Genesis 12-50 shows us how God begins answering the promises introduced in Genesis 1-11. After creation, fall, flood, and Babel, God calls one man, Abram, and promises to bless him so that all the families of the earth will be blessed through him.

This section does not move away from the big story of the Bible. It narrows the focus. God's plan for the nations will come through one family. The promised seed will come through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and ultimately Jesus Christ.

Genesis 12-50 is full of promise, but it is also full of waiting, failure, barrenness, conflict, exile, deception, favoritism, suffering, and death. The patriarchs are not heroes because they are morally impressive. They are witnesses to the faithfulness of God. God keeps His promises through weak, sinful, fearful, and often divided people.

The great question of this section is: **Will God keep His promise to bring blessing to the nations through Abraham's family?** The answer is yes. But He will do it by grace, by covenant, by substitution, by providence, and through a chosen son who brings life where there should have been death.

## Key Passages

- Genesis 12:1-9
- Genesis 15:1-21
- Genesis 17:1-14
- Genesis 22:1-19
- Genesis 28:10-22
- Genesis 32:22-32
- Genesis 37:1-11
- Genesis 49:8-12
- Genesis 50:15-21

# Major Themes

## 1. God Promises Blessing After Babel

Genesis 11 ended with humanity trying to make a name for itself at Babel. Genesis 12 begins with God promising to make Abram's name great. Babel shows mankind grasping for glory. Abraham shows a man called to receive blessing by faith. God's answer to the rebellion of the nations is not to abandon the nations. He chooses one man through whom all the families of the earth will be blessed.

The rest of the Bible asks: How will God bless the nations through Abraham's family?

## 2. God Works Through Covenant Promise

God's covenant with Abraham becomes one of the major foundations for the rest of the Bible. God promises land, offspring, blessing, and a great name. These promises shape the story of Israel and prepare the way for Christ. God does not merely give Abraham advice, inspiration, or religious principles. He binds Himself by covenant promise. The future of Abraham's family rests on the faithfulness of God.

The rest of the Bible asks: How will God fulfill His promises to Abraham?

## 3. Faith Means Trusting God While Waiting

Abraham believes God, and it is counted to him as righteousness. But Abraham also waits. Sarah waits. Isaac waits. Jacob waits. Joseph waits. Genesis teaches us that faith is not instant understanding. Faith is trusting God's word even when fulfillment seems impossible, delayed, or hidden.

The rest of the Bible asks: Will God's people trust His promises when they cannot yet see their fulfillment?

#### **4. God's People Are Chosen by Grace, Not Merit**

Abraham lies. Sarah laughs. Isaac repeats his father's weakness. Jacob deceives. Judah fails. Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery. Yet God's promise continues. This is not because the family is strong, wise, or worthy. It is because God is faithful.

The rest of the Bible asks: How can God's promise continue through such weak and sinful people?

#### **5. The Promised Seed Continues Through Barrenness and Threat**

Sarah is barren. Rebekah is barren. Rachel is barren. The promised line is constantly threatened. Sons are endangered. The family line nearly collapses again and again. Genesis wants us to see that life comes because God gives it. The promised seed survives because God preserves him.

The rest of the Bible asks: Who can bring life where there is only barrenness, weakness, and death?

#### **6. God Brings Blessing Through Substitution**

Genesis 22 gives one of the clearest pictures of substitution in the Old Testament. Isaac, the beloved son, is placed on the altar, but God provides a ram in his place. From that moment forward, we are meant to ask: Where is the lamb God will provide?

The rest of the Bible asks: How will God provide a sacrifice so that His people may live?

## 7. The Promise Narrows Toward Judah

As Genesis moves forward, the promise becomes more focused. The promised seed will come through Abraham, then Isaac, then Jacob, and eventually Judah. Genesis 49 shows that the royal line will come through Judah. The ruler's staff will not depart from him. This means the promised seed will not only defeat the serpent. He will reign. Genesis is already moving us toward a king.

The rest of the Bible asks: Who is the king from Judah who will bring God's blessing to the nations?

## 8. God Rules Through Providence

Joseph's story shows that God is working even when His hand is hidden. Joseph is hated, betrayed, enslaved, falsely accused, forgotten, and imprisoned. Yet God is using even evil actions to preserve life. Genesis 50:20 becomes one of the clearest statements of providence in Scripture: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." God's promise does not move forward because people are faithful, wise, or in control. It moves forward because God is faithful, wise, and sovereign over all things.

The rest of the Bible asks: Can evil overthrow the promise of God?

## Christ Connection

Genesis 12-50 prepares us for Jesus by tracing the promised seed through the family of Abraham.

- Jesus is the offspring of Abraham through whom all nations are blessed.
- Jesus is the true Son of promise.
- Jesus is the beloved Son who is offered up, yet unlike Isaac, no substitute takes His place.

- Jesus is the Lamb God provides.
- Jesus is the true meeting place between heaven and earth, greater than Jacob's ladder.
- Jesus is the true Israel who obeys where Israel failed.
- Jesus is the greater Joseph, rejected by His brothers, brought low, exalted, and used by God to save many.
- Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the King promised in Genesis 49.

Genesis 12-50 leaves us asking, "How will God bless all nations through Abraham's family?" The rest of Scripture answers, "Through Jesus Christ, the Son of Abraham, the Son of David, the Son of God."

When you look at your own life, where do you most need to remember that God is faithful even when His promises seem delayed, threatened, or hidden?

## **Break it Down**

### **1. Abraham: Promise After Babel**

#### **Genesis 12-14**

After Babel, God calls Abram to leave his country, kindred, and father's house. This is a call to trust God's word and follow Him into the unknown. God promises to make Abram into a great nation, bless him, make his name great, and bless all the families of the earth through him.

This matters because Genesis 12 answers Genesis 11. At Babel, mankind tried to gather together and make a name for itself apart from God. In Abraham, God promises to make a name great by grace. At Babel, the nations are scattered in judgment. In Abraham, the nations will one day receive blessing.

Abram responds by faith, but his faith is not perfect. He builds altars and calls on the name of the Lord, but he also fears Pharaoh and endangers Sarai. Genesis does not hide the weakness of God's people. The promise rests on God's faithfulness, not Abram's perfection.

Genesis 14 also introduces Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He blesses Abram, and Abram gives him a tenth of everything. This brief scene becomes important later in Scripture because it introduces a priest-king who stands outside the later Levitical priesthood and points forward to a greater priesthood fulfilled in Christ.

### **Key Threads**

- God calls Abram by grace.
- The promise of blessing answers the scattering of Babel.
- God promises land, offspring, name, and blessing.
- Abram responds by faith, but not perfectly.
- Altars mark worship and dependence.
- Melchizedek introduces the pattern of a priest-king.
- The nations remain central to God's plan.

### **Important Questions**

- How does Genesis 12 answer Genesis 11?
- Why is it important that God promises to bless all families of the earth?
- What do Abram's altars show us about faith?
- How does Abram's failure in Egypt remind us that the promise rests on God?
- Why is Melchizedek important?

## 2. Covenant: God Binds Himself to His Promise

### Genesis 15-17

Abram still has no child. The promise has been given, but fulfillment has not yet come. God brings Abram outside and tells him to look at the stars. So shall his offspring be. Abram believes the Lord, and God counts it to him as righteousness. This is one of the most important moments in the Bible. Abram is not counted righteous because he has earned the promise, mastered obedience, or proven himself worthy. He believes God. Righteousness is counted to him by faith.

Genesis 15 is also one of the most important covenant passages in Scripture. God makes a covenant with Abram using a ceremony that involved divided animals. Ordinarily, this kind of covenant ceremony would symbolize the curse that would fall on the covenant-breaker. But in Genesis 15, Abram is put into a deep sleep, and God alone passes between the pieces. This means the promise does not finally depend on Abram's ability to hold God. It depends on God's commitment to hold Abram. God binds Himself to His own covenant promise.

In Genesis 16, Abram and Sarai try to bring about the promise through Hagar. This produces pain, conflict, and sorrow. Yet even in that broken situation, God shows mercy to Hagar and Ishmael. God sees the afflicted. And in Genesis 17, God gives circumcision as the sign of the covenant as a reminder that this promise will not come through human striving. Abram becomes Abraham. Sarai becomes Sarah. God marks this family as His covenant people and makes clear that the promised son will come through Sarah.

## Key Threads

- God's promise requires faith.
- Righteousness is counted by faith.
- God makes covenant with Abraham.
- God promises land and offspring.
- The covenant is grounded in God's faithfulness.
- Human attempts to force the promise bring sorrow.
- God sees and shows mercy to the afflicted.
- Circumcision becomes the sign of the covenant.
- God changes Abram and Sarai's names.
- The promised son will come through Sarah.

## Important Questions

- Why does Abram struggle to believe the promise?
- What does it mean that Abram believed God?
- Why is Genesis 15 so important for understanding faith and righteousness?
- What does the covenant ceremony teach us about God's faithfulness?
- What does the story of Hagar teach us about human striving and God's mercy?
- What does circumcision signify?
- Why must the promised child come through Sarah?

## 3. Promise, Judgment, and Intercession

### Genesis 18-19

The Lord visits Abraham and promises again that Sarah will have a son. Sarah laughs because the promise seems impossible. She is old, Abraham is old, and the years of waiting have been long. But the Lord asks, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" That question stands over the rest of Genesis. Barrenness is not too hard for the Lord. Family conflict is not too hard for the Lord. Exile is not too

hard for the Lord. Human sin is not too hard for the Lord. God can bring life where there is no human possibility of life.

Genesis 18 also shows Abraham interceding for Sodom. He pleads with God because he knows the Judge of all the earth will do what is just. Abraham's prayer is bold, reverent, and grounded in the character of God. Genesis 19 then shows God's judgment against Sodom and Gomorrah. The wickedness of the city is real, and judgment falls. Yet even here, mercy appears as Lot is rescued. Lot is not presented as a model of spiritual strength, but God mercifully pulls him out of destruction.

These chapters hold together promise, justice, mercy, and intercession. God gives life where there is barrenness, and He judges evil without becoming unjust.

### **Key Threads**

- Nothing is too hard for the Lord.
- Sarah's laughter shows the impossibility of the promise apart from God.
- Abraham intercedes before God.
- God is the Judge of all the earth.
- Judgment and mercy appear together.
- Lot is rescued by grace.
- Sodom becomes a lasting picture of wickedness and judgment.

### **Important Questions**

- Why does Sarah laugh?
- What does God's question teach us about His power?
- What does Abraham's intercession teach us about prayer?
- How do these chapters show both judgment and mercy?
- Why does Sodom become such an important warning later in Scripture?

## 4. Isaac: The Promised Son, the Provided Substitute, and the Bride

### Genesis 20-24

Before Isaac is born, Abraham once again acts out of fear and endangers Sarah. This reminds us that Abraham is not the hero of the story. God is. The promise continues because God protects and preserves what He has promised. Then Isaac is born because God keeps His word. Abraham and Sarah receive the child they could not produce by their own strength. His birth is joy, laughter, and grace. After years of waiting, God gives the promised son exactly as He said He would.

But Genesis 22 brings the great test. God commands Abraham to offer Isaac, the son whom he loves. The promise itself seems to be placed on the altar. Yet Abraham trusts that God can still keep His word. On the mountain, God provides a ram in Isaac's place. This scene becomes one of the clearest pictures of substitution in Genesis. The beloved son is spared because another dies in his place. Yet the larger story still waits for the true Son and the true Lamb.

Genesis 23 then records Sarah's death and burial in the land of Canaan. Abraham does not yet possess the land, but he buys a burial place there by faith. Even in death, the promise of the land remains before us. Genesis 24 shows Abraham's concern that Isaac not marry into the Canaanites or return permanently to the old land. The servant is sent to find a wife for Isaac, and God provides Rebekah. The promised son receives a bride, and the covenant line continues.

### Key Threads

- God protects the promise despite Abraham's weakness.
- Isaac is the child of promise.

- God gives life where there was barrenness.
- Abraham's faith is tested.
- Isaac is the beloved son.
- God provides a substitute.
- The mountain becomes a place of provision.
- Sarah dies still awaiting the fullness of the promise.
- Abraham buys a burial place in the promised land.
- God provides Rebekah for Isaac.
- The covenant line is preserved by God's providence.

### **Important Questions**

- Why is Isaac's birth so important?
- How does Abraham's repeated failure remind us that the promise rests on God?
- What makes Genesis 22 such a difficult and important chapter?
- How does Abraham show faith in God's promise?
- What does the ram teach us about substitution?
- Why does Sarah's burial in Canaan matter?
- How does God provide for the continuation of the promised line through Rebekah?
- How does Genesis 22 prepare us for Christ?

## **5. Abraham's Death, Isaac's Barrenness, and Jacob's Election**

### **Genesis 25-28**

Abraham dies in Genesis 25. He has received real promises from God, but he does not see them fully completed in his lifetime. He dies in faith, trusting that God will continue what He began. The story now moves from Abraham to Isaac. But the promised line is immediately threatened again. Rebekah is barren, just as Sarah had been. This repeated barrenness matters. Genesis keeps showing us that the promise does not continue by natural

strength, human ability, or family planning. The promised seed continues because God gives life.

When Rebekah conceives, there is struggle in her womb. The Lord tells her that two nations are within her, and that the older shall serve the younger. Before Jacob and Esau are born, before either has done anything good or bad, God chooses Jacob.

The promise moves forward by grace, not merit. Jacob is chosen, but he is not impressive. He grasps, schemes, and deceives. Esau despises his birthright. Isaac favors Esau. Rebekah favors Jacob. The family of promise is full of conflict and sin. Yet God's purpose stands.

Isaac also repeats Abraham's failure by presenting Rebekah as his sister. The pattern of sin continues from one generation to the next. Yet God continues to preserve His covenant promise.

Genesis 27 then brings the family conflict into the open. Isaac favors Esau and intends to bless him, even though God had already said that the older would serve the younger. Rebekah favors Jacob and schemes to secure the blessing. Jacob follows her plan, disguises himself as Esau, deceives his father, and receives the blessing.

No one looks righteous in this scene. Isaac is driven by favoritism and appetite. Rebekah is driven by manipulation. Jacob is driven by grasping ambition. Esau is devastated, but he had already despised his birthright. The family of promise is fractured by sin, favoritism, deception, and unbelief.

Yet even here, God's purpose stands. This does not excuse the sin of Jacob or Rebekah. God does not need deception to accomplish His will. But Genesis shows us that human sin cannot overthrow divine promise. The blessing passes to Jacob, just as God had said, but the consequences are painful. Jacob must flee from Esau,

Rebekah loses the son she tried to protect, and the chosen son becomes an exile.

At Bethel, Jacob dreams of a ladder or stairway reaching from earth to heaven. The Lord stands above it and repeats the Abrahamic promise to Jacob: land, offspring, blessing to all families of the earth, and His own presence. Jacob does not deserve this promise, but that is the point. God's covenant continues by grace.

### **Key Threads Introduced**

- Abraham dies in faith, still awaiting the fullness of the promise.
- The story moves from Abraham to Isaac.
- Rebekah's barrenness threatens the promised line.
- God gives life where human strength cannot.
- Jacob and Esau struggle even before birth.
- God chooses Jacob by grace.
- Election is not based on human worthiness.
- Esau despises his birthright.
- Isaac's favoritism and appetite distort his judgment.
- Rebekah's favoritism leads her to manipulate rather than trust.
- Jacob grasps the blessing through deception.
- Family sin creates painful division.
- The sins of one generation repeat in the next.
- God's promise stands even through human weakness and sin.
- Sinful methods bring painful consequences.
- Jacob receives the blessing, but becomes an exile.
- Bethel reveals God's presence with Jacob.
- The promise to Abraham is repeated to Jacob.
- Heaven and earth are connected by God's grace.

### **Important Questions**

- Why is Abraham's death not the end of the promise?
- Why does Genesis keep emphasizing barren women?
- What does Rebekah's barrenness teach us about the promised

line?

- What does God's choice of Jacob teach us about grace?
- Why does Esau's attitude toward the birthright matter?
- How do Isaac and Rebekah each contribute to the brokenness of the family?
- Why is Genesis 27 not a simple story of "Jacob the hero" and "Esau the villain"?
- How does Jacob receive the blessing, and why does the way he receives it matter?
- What consequences come from Jacob and Rebekah's deception?
- How does this chapter show that God's promise stands without excusing human sin?
- Why is Bethel such an important moment after Jacob's failure?
- How does Jacob's ladder point forward to Jesus?

## **6. Jacob: Exile, Discipline, Wrestling, and Return**

### **Genesis 29-36**

Jacob leaves the land and goes into exile. There he meets Laban, marries Leah and Rachel, and becomes the father of many children. But his household is marked by rivalry, favoritism, sorrow, and conflict. The family of promise is growing, but it is deeply broken.

Jacob the deceiver is deceived by Laban. He wanted Rachel, but he receives Leah first. He schemes with flocks, wages, and family arrangements. Yet through all of this mess, God is still building the family of Israel.

The birth of Jacob's sons introduces the twelve tribes of Israel. This is a major moment in the Bible's story, but it is not presented in a clean or sentimental way. The tribes come from a home full of competition, envy, favoritism, and sorrow. Genesis refuses to pretend that God's people are naturally righteous. God's grace is the reason this family survives.

Eventually Jacob returns toward the land, but before he meets Esau, he is confronted in the night. A mysterious divine messenger wrestles with him until daybreak. This is not merely a strange interruption in the story. It is a testing moment in the wilderness, much like Abraham's test in Genesis 22. Jacob is alone, vulnerable, and facing the consequences of his past. Before he can face Esau, he must be brought to the end of himself.

The figure wounds Jacob, but Jacob refuses to let go without a blessing. This is a different Jacob than the one who grasped by deception in Genesis 27. He is still clinging, but now he is clinging in weakness and dependence rather than scheming in strength. The messenger gives him a new name: Israel, because he has striven with God and with men and has prevailed.

Jacob names the place Peniel because he recognizes that this encounter was ultimately before the face of God. He has survived a holy confrontation that should have undone him. He leaves blessed, but limping. Jacob passes the test, but he does not walk away proud. He walks away marked by weakness.

Jacob's life teaches us that God's blessing does not mean God ignores sin. God loves His people enough to confront their pride, expose their weakness, and teach them dependence. The chosen son returns to the land not as a self-confident schemer, but as a humbled man who must walk by grace.

### **Key Threads Introduced**

- Jacob experiences exile from the land.
- The family of Israel begins to grow.
- The twelve tribes begin with a broken household.
- God blesses Jacob despite his weakness.
- Jacob the deceiver is deceived.
- God disciplines those He blesses.
- Jacob is tested in the wilderness before returning to the land.
- The mysterious divine messenger opposes and wounds Jacob.

- Jacob clings for blessing in weakness rather than grasping by deception.
- Jacob receives the name Israel.
- Return to the land comes through humility and grace.
- Jacob's limp becomes a sign of weakness and dependence.
- Esau's line becomes Edom.

### **Important Questions**

- How does Jacob's exile mirror earlier exile themes in Genesis?
- What does Jacob's family show us about sin within the covenant people?
- How does God bless Jacob while also humbling him?
- How does Peniel function as a wilderness testing moment for Jacob?
- Why is it significant that Jacob is wounded before he is renamed?
- How is Jacob different at Peniel from the Jacob who deceived Isaac?
- What does Jacob's limp teach us about dependence on God?
- Why does Jacob receive the name Israel?
- Why does Genesis include the line of Esau?

## **7. Joseph: Rejection, Suffering, and Hidden Providence**

### **Genesis 37-41**

Joseph is loved by his father and hated by his brothers. Jacob's favoritism creates more division in an already fractured family. Joseph's dreams show that he will one day be exalted, but his brothers resent him and reject him. Joseph is thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, and taken down to Egypt. At this point, it looks like evil has won. The family of promise is tearing itself apart from the inside.

Yet the Lord is with Joseph. This is the key to Joseph's story. God's presence does not keep Joseph from suffering, but it sustains him through suffering and positions him for God's purposes. In Potiphar's house, Joseph is faithful, but he is falsely accused and imprisoned. Even in prison, the Lord is with him. Joseph interprets dreams, but he is forgotten. The waiting continues.

Then finally, Pharaoh dreams, and Joseph is brought from the prison to the palace. God gives Joseph wisdom to interpret the dreams and prepare Egypt for famine. Joseph is exalted to a position of authority so that many lives may be preserved. Joseph's descent is not wasted. God is preparing him to preserve life.

### **Key Threads Introduced**

- Favoritism fractures Jacob's family.
- Joseph is the beloved son who is rejected by his brothers.
- Dreams reveal God's future purposes.
- Joseph descends before he is exalted.
- The Lord is with Joseph in suffering.
- God works through injustice and delay.
- Joseph resists temptation and suffers unjustly.
- Egypt becomes the place where God preserves His people.
- God exalts Joseph to preserve life.

### **Important Questions**

- Why do Joseph's brothers hate him?
- How does Joseph's suffering seem to threaten the promise?
- What does it mean that the Lord was with Joseph?
- How does Joseph resist temptation?
- How does Joseph's descent prepare for his exaltation?
- How does Joseph point us toward Christ?

## **8. Joseph, Judah, and Israel in Egypt: Forgiveness, Blessing, and Hope Beyond Genesis**

### **Genesis 42-50**

The famine brings Joseph's brothers to Egypt. They do not recognize him, but he recognizes them. Joseph's dreams are beginning to come true, but the deeper question is what has happened in the hearts of his brothers.

Joseph tests them, not out of cruelty, but to reveal whether they have changed. Their guilt begins to rise to the surface. They remember what they did to Joseph. Years may have passed, but sin has not disappeared.

Judah becomes especially important here. Earlier, Judah had failed terribly. But now he offers himself as a substitute for Benjamin. This is a major turning point. The one through whom the royal line will come begins to look like one who would give himself for his brother.

Joseph finally reveals himself and forgives his brothers. He sees what they could not see. They were responsible for their evil, but God was not absent. God was using even their sin to preserve life. This does not excuse their wickedness. They meant evil. But evil does not have the final word. God means good, and His purpose stands.

Jacob and his family then go down to Egypt. This is both rescue and preparation for future exile. God is preserving His people through Joseph, but Genesis ends outside the promised land. In Egypt, the family grows and receives provision. God's promise to make Abraham into a great nation is beginning to unfold, but the location is important. They are not home. Egypt is a place of rescue now, but it will become a place of bondage later.

Before Jacob dies, he blesses Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. Once again, the younger is placed before the older. The pattern of grace continues. God's blessing does not run according to human expectations.

Jacob then blesses his sons. The most important blessing is given to Judah. The scepter will not depart from Judah. A ruler is coming from his line, and the nations will obey him. This pushes the promise forward. The promised seed will be royal. He will be a king.

After Jacob dies, Joseph's brothers fear that Joseph will finally take revenge. But Joseph speaks one of the clearest statements of providence in all of Scripture: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." Joseph sees that God used suffering to preserve many people alive.

Joseph also dies in faith. He knows Egypt is not the final home of God's people. He makes Israel promise to carry his bones out when God visits them. Genesis ends with a coffin in Egypt, but also with hope. God will keep His promise. He will bring His people home.

### **Key Threads Introduced**

- Famine threatens the family of promise.
- Joseph's brothers are brought face-to-face with their guilt.
- Joseph tests his brothers to reveal their hearts.
- Judah offers himself as a substitute.
- Joseph reveals himself and forgives.
- God preserves life through suffering.
- Reconciliation begins in a broken family.
- God preserves Israel through Egypt.
- Egypt is rescue now, but bondage later.
- The younger is blessed before the older again.
- Jacob blesses the twelve tribes.
- Judah receives the promise of kingship.

- The promised seed is now tied to a royal line.
- Joseph forgives because he trusts God's providence.
- Evil does not overthrow God's promise.
- Joseph believes God will bring His people back to the land.
- Genesis ends with death, but not despair.
- The promise continues into Exodus.

### **Important Questions**

- Why does Joseph test his brothers?
- How are the brothers forced to face their guilt?
- How has Judah changed?
- Why is Judah's offer to substitute himself important?
- What does Joseph's forgiveness teach us?
- How does God use evil without being evil?
- Why does God send Jacob's family to Egypt?
- How is Egypt both rescue and future danger?
- Why does Jacob bless Ephraim before Manasseh?
- Why is Judah's blessing so important?
- How does Genesis 49 point toward a coming king?
- What does Genesis 50:20 teach us about evil and providence?
- Why does Joseph want his bones carried out of Egypt?
- How does Genesis end with both death and hope?