

## **The Death of Jacob**

Genesis 49 – 50

by Don Falkos

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Jacob called together all his sons, said good-bye, and blessed each one of them. He turned over the leadership of the family to his fourth son, Judah, saying, "The great King will arise from the line of Judah, and all will honor him."

After speaking to his sons, Jacob died. Joseph threw himself on his father and wept.

With permission from Pharaoh, Joseph went to bury his father in Canaan. His brothers and their families went with him. Jacob was buried in the cave of Machpelah, beside Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and his wife Leah.

Having returned to Egypt, Joseph's brothers were afraid. "Now that our father is dead, Joseph will exact his vengeance for what we did to him all those years ago." Invoking the name of their father, they pleaded with Joseph to forgive them.

Joseph wept and said, "Don't be afraid of me. I know you wanted to hurt me, but God brought me here to save many people, including all of our family. And I promise I will continue to take care of you and your children."

Many years passed, and as Joseph was nearing the end of his life, he said to his brothers, "When God comes to help you and lead you out of Egypt, back to the land of Canaan, please take my bones with you."

When Joseph died, the Egyptians embalmed him, and his body was placed in a coffin in Egypt.