Preparing for a Better Life
PART II
Genesis 50:22-26

Main Thought  Though Joseph was outwardly in Egypt, inwardly he was in the promised land where he wanted to be buried setting the example for others and foreshadowing the future Exodus from Egypt.

GOODBYE TO JOSEPH

HIS LAST DEED (22-23).
• Joseph and the Israelites stayed for 400 years in Egypt. This family stayed together in difficult circumstances (I Cor. 7:24).
• Joseph lived to be 110 years old (same age as Joshua – Josh. 24:29) – considered to be an ideal life span in Egypt.
• Before his death, he lived to see Ephraim’s children and adopt Manasseh’s son Makir’s children, his great-grandchildren – a sign of God’s blessing (Psa. 128:5-6; Isa. 53:10 – of Christ who will see his offspring).

HIS LAST WORDS (24-25).
• Brothers can mean relatives as Joseph (only Benjamin was younger) probably outlived his older brothers.
• His last words end with an expectation of God’s visitation to change their fortunes as with Sarah (Gen. 21:1). This would be fulfilled at the burning bush (Ex. 3:4, 16) and the report to the Israelites in which they believed (Ex. 4:29-31)! Sadly, they did NOT BELIEVE in the report of Jesus (Isa. 53:1; John 12:38; Rom. 10:16).
• The church received (John 1:11-12) the first visitation of Christ (Luke 1:68) and is now eagerly expecting the second visitation of Christ – our Blessed Hope (Tit. 2:13) – to change our fortunes. We must prepare ourselves for that future visitation (Ezek. 38:7-8).
• Joseph reiterates for future generations the theme of the patriarchs – the promise of national territory (Gen. 12:1).
• Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are mentioned for the first time together. An era has passed, not its hope.
• As with Jacob, he insisted his bones be carried up (to Israel) from Egypt (Heb. 11:22). Moses (Ex. 13:19) and Joshua (Josh. 24:32) fulfilled his wishes.

HIS LAST BREATH (26).
• Joseph dies, is embalmed like Jacob, and placed in a coffin (ARK – Deut. 10:5). In the Wilderness they carried two ARKS – the Ark of the Covenant of the ever-living God and the Ark of Joseph who was dead. One was a reminder of death and the other of salvation (Heb. 9:12-14).
• Thus ends the story of the Patriarchs and the book of Beginnings – Genesis. We are to keep the Faith of our fathers (Heb. 13:7).