



Message 12-22-18
VaYechi-And He Lived
Genesis 47:28-50:26
1 Kings 2:1-12
Hebrews 11:9-10, 13

Introduction

We often do not recognize the larger import of events because we stick to our own interpretations. We plan how we behave from our own perspectives, and we analyze its consequences from our own viewpoints. The result is that we often fail to see the harmony and unity that links everything that exists to everything else and provide understanding by pointing to the Source of all existence.

Genesis 50:19-22

19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus, he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. ²² So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years. (ESV)

Joseph's brothers were afraid of what Joseph would do to them now that their father had died, and there was nothing to stand in his way from seeking revenge for what they had done. They had this mind-set when they first encountered Joseph in Egypt, and he revealed to them who he was. They had learned nothing about Joseph and how he had changed because of his experiences, pleasant and unpleasant.

Joseph had been seventeen years old when things began to go sideways with his brothers. Jacob came down to Egypt much later and spent seventeen years in Egypt with Joseph. It was as though the Holy One gave back the years they had been together as a blessing over what both had been through suffering their own tribulations. Nothing happens by chance no matter what we may think. Things are what they are because the Almighty is in control, not us. It would be so much easier for us if we understood this. The Almighty created everything, so He is the source of all things through His Son Yeshua in whom everything there is was created. All we must do is look up into the night sky and see the stars, the moon, and the heavenly host. In the morning, we can see the sun, and some days we see clouds. But it is all good because the Holy One placed them where they are.

When you hear the pagan stories of gods, demi-gods, and creation stories, you need to keep in mind these are poor imitations for the Biblical truth. There are those who discount the Bible because it came to us later in written form while the pagan stories were recorded. Man had turned away from the Holy One thousands of years ago, and there were only a few in each generation who believed the stories were passed down verbally until the time of Moses who first put them down in writing and organized them the way the Almighty wanted them. This is not a justification for the Oral Torah because the Oral Torah contains the opinions of the rabbis. While they claim God-given authority for their opinions, it fails the test because it names rabbis not the author of the Torah, Moses as its source. But lest we forget what the Church has done to the Torah is a terrible injustice of changing Biblical truth being turned into the truth of men just as the rabbis have done. We might find some truth in most anything, but God's truth lasts the test of time.

Genesis 37:2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being **seventeen** years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. (ESV)

Genesis 47:28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt **seventeen** years. So, the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years. (ESV)

After Jacob had died and his brothers came to him with a lie they had made up to turn his thirst for revenge away from them, Joseph simply replied to them he was not God and did not stand in His place, so they should be at peace. He told them what they had meant for evil God had meant for good because so many of their people would be saved from the famine and would thrive in Egypt under his care. Did the Almighty share a bit of the future with Joseph about what would happen once he died, and a new Pharaoh would not know who he was and what he had done for Egypt? Most likely not or else Joseph might not have felt the way he did at that moment. One thing we do know is God is in control, and when we learn to let go of the reins, things will be better for us.

1 Kings 2:3-4

3 "Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Torah of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, ⁴ so that the LORD may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.' (NAU)

We know that Joseph did his best to follow God in Egypt. After all, when he was brought to Pharaoh to interpret his dreams, he gave honor to God for any answers that would come through him. In the Haftarah portion, David is dying, talking to Solomon, his son, and giving him instructions to secure his throne after him so that the House of David would never lack a man on the throne. He tells Solomon to **keep the charge of the Lord, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances and His testimonies according to what is written in the Torah of Moses, so you may succeed.** Solomon would need the Torah to succeed and to establish the throne of his

father. David was not a perfect man, but he was a man who loved God and tried to walk in his ways. He wandered off the path at times, but don't we all do the same thing? Of course, David had committed adultery, gotten another man's wife pregnant, tried to cover it up, and when that did not work, he conspired to have the husband killed. A man after God's own heart? Yes! Because when David was confronted by Nathan the Prophet about his sin, he admitted what he had done and sought God's forgiveness. Was it the Father's forgiveness or the Son's he received?

The Holy One of Israel's love of His people overrides all else if they try to follow His Torah – His teachings and instructions. It leads us into the path of righteousness because it explains to us what the Father requires of His children, and they must try to walk His way and not their own road. His road leads to Messiah Yeshua, His Son, who died to take away the sin of the world. It is in Him you can find the power to follow Torah with the help of the *Ruach HaKodesh*/the Holy Spirit. David veered off course, so did Solomon, and the other kings of Israel and Judah. Some returned to God's path, while others did not. No matter what country we live in, we all have the same choice. Walk God's way or don't. Yes, in some countries you might die for your beliefs, but so many already have. No matter how free you might think you are, you really aren't unless you walk the way of Messiah Yeshua guided by the Ruach of God and His Torah.

Hebrews 11:9-10, 13

9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. **13** These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. (ESV)

Abraham went to live in the Land of Promise. Isaac and Jacob also did the same thing, and they lived as nomads, wanderers in a place that had been promised to those who would come after them. They all looked to promise of the future for what was to come. It would be a city whose foundations, designer, and builder is the Holy One of Israel and His Son Yeshua. Those who came before the promise had been fulfilled died in faith, seeing them from afar and knowing they were strangers and exiles on the earth. Their home was in the heavenly Jerusalem, which will one day descend from heaven to the earth to take its rightful place where all the faithful of all the ages will come and walk its street, and we shall walk in the ways of Torah before our Father and His Son. Amen!

Torah Man says: "God's work must be done in God's way."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

Rabbi, Etz Chayim-Tree of Life Messianic Congregation, Las Cruces, NM.

TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119.



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chayim**
Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

Rabbi Mordecai Silver, Ph.D.

Tel: (866) 874-7250
Fax: (866) 800-2390
www.etz-chayim.org
tolmm@etz-chayim.org

P.O.Box 467, Organ, New Mexico, 88052