

# By Faith – Joseph

Sermon 38 in the Hebrews Series

## Hebrews 11:22

### I. A Faith in the Time of Death – Heb. 11:22

He had spent his entire life trusting God.  
When the hour of his death came, he was still trusting God.  
Joseph knew that their stay in Egypt was only temporary.

Jacob went down to Egypt with the promise that his seed would return to the promised land -- **Gen. 46:3,4.**

**Gen. 15:13** -- Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

It would appear the prophetic time-clock begins here with Jacob and his sons going down to Egypt.

#### **Genesis 50:22-26**

After the death of Jacob, Joseph lived another 50 years as ruler in Egypt.

**Exodus 13:19** -- And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you.”

**Joshua 24:32** -- The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.

### II. A True Story of Faith

#### A. The Genre

The life of Joseph – true history -- as recorded in the book of Genesis is a literary masterpiece.

Joseph’s life is recounted in Genesis 37-50.

Our author tells the account through literary devices.  
(some are adapted from Leland Ryken – Words of Delight)

1. His Clothing
  - Stripped of his coat of many colors
  - Stripped of his outer coat by Potipher's wife
  - Cleaned and well clothed as he goes before Pharaoh
  - Given royal garments in the style of the Egyptians
  
2. The Imprisonment/Confinement
  - The Pit
  - Slavery
  - Prison
  - Egypt itself was a form of confinement
  
3. The Dreams
  - His two dreams of family dominance
  - The dreams of the Butler and Baker interpreted
  - The two dreams of Pharaoh interpreted
  
4. Blessings and Adversity
  - Favor from Jacob and betrayal from his siblings
  - Favor from Potipher and then adversity from Potipher's wife.
  - Favor from the Jailer – but forgotten by the Butler
  - Favor from Pharaoh – second ruler in Egypt

## B. The Theme of Joseph's Life – God's Providence

### III. Joseph Meets His Brothers

#### A. All in God's Providence

#### B. A time for Vengeance? Gen. 50:15-18

#### C. Vengeance is Mine Saith the Lord Gen. 50:19-21

1. Joseph left the righting of all wrongs to God.  
Rom 12:19; 1 Th 5:15; 1 Pet 4:19
  
2. Joseph looked beyond the sinful dealings of man and saw the sovereignty of God. Gen. 45:5-8
  
3. Joseph did not repay evil with evil, and went even beyond simple forgiveness to genuine affection.

#### D. His Long and Prosperous Life 50:22-23