

**“The Bones of Joseph”**  
**Hebrews 11:22**

Introduction: Isn't it unusual that one of the last request of a man was what to do with his bones?

1. There are three types of Christ in the Old Testament: Joseph, Moses, and David.
  - a. Joseph Pictures the Moral Glories of Christ
  - b. Moses Pictures the Ministerial Glories of Christ
  - c. David Pictures the Messianic Glories of Christ
2. Of these three types, Joseph stands supreme. It is almost impossible to touch any part of his life and not be reminded at once of Jesus.
3. Notice some of the ways in which Joseph foreshadows Jesus:
  - a. Joseph's Birth- Joseph had a special relationship with his father. (Example: Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colors.)  
*Matthew 3:17- "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
  - b. Joseph's Brothers- Joseph's brothers hated him, rejected his message, and was mad that one day they would bow their knee to him.  
*John 1:11- "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."*
  - c. Joseph's Behavior- When we examine Joseph's character, career, and conduct we cannot find any fault in him.  
*Luke 23:4- "Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man."*
  - d. Joseph's Betrayal- The stories of Joseph and Jesus match side by side. Joseph was sold for the price of a slave. He was handed over to the Gentiles. He was made to suffer for sins not his own. He was rejected of men and put in the place of death. He was forgotten by people in the prison. However, the prison could not hold him. In the end, Joseph had the keys to the prison. In the fullness of time Joseph was brought forth, raised to the right hand of Pharaoh, and given a name above all names.
  - e. Joseph's Bride- When Joseph was rejected by the children of Israel, he was given a Gentile bride.
  - f. Joseph's Benevolence- During the time that all the executive powers of the throne were committed into his hands, he brought the children of Israel to the place of contrition and confession. Then he revealed himself to them, settled them in the best of the land, and chose from among them those he could use in the administration of the empire.

Body: If one of us had been the author of Hebrews, we doubtless would have mentioned Joseph's birth, his brothers, his behavior, his betrayal, his bride, and his benevolence, but surely not his bones. Why mention Joseph's bones and not the other attributes of Joseph?

- The bones of Joseph are mentioned three times in the Old Testament. Each time they have a message for us:
1. God will bring you **Out** Genesis 50:25- *"And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence."*

2. God will bring you **Through** Exodus 13:19- *“And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.”*
3. God will bring you **In** Joshua 24:32- *“And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.”*

I. Joseph’s Bones Spoke of Complete Redemption (Out) Genesis 50:25

- When Joseph died, what did his family expect to hear? To Judah I bequeath lordship of the land of Goshen on the Nile. To beloved Benjamin, the contents of my vault. To my son Ephraim, my robes, my mansion on the Nile, a letter recommending him for high office. To my son Manasseh, my stables, my horses, my golden chariot, my holdings in the Valley of the Kings.
  - However, in his final will and testament, Joseph left his kinsmen something much more valuable than corruptible silver and gold. He left them his bones! Genesis 50:24-25
  - Imagine how their faces fell!
- A. The Faith that Sustained Joseph Hebrews 11:22
    1. Joseph was able to die in faith because he lived by faith.
    2. He had lived by faith at home and abroad, in the midst of persecution and peril, in times of testing and in times of triumph.
    3. Surrounded by all the sin, seductiveness, and sensuality of Pharaoh’s court, Joseph lived for God. The temptations, treasures, and teachings of Egypt had not attracted him.
    4. The splendor, symbolism, and scope of Egypt’s religion had not enticed him.
    5. Adversity could not shake him, and advancement could not spoil him.
    6. Joseph held true to God’s promises. Genesis 15:13-16
  - B. The Fact that Strengthened Joseph
    1. Joseph was a man sick of Egypt. He had known Egypt as a slave and a statesman. He had seen the inside of its prisons, and he had seen its pomp and pageantry and power.
    2. However, he realized that Egypt was not his home. He belonged in Canaan.
    3. Joseph wanted to convey this fact to his brothers. Don’t settle for Egypt. Keep Canaan in view. Never lose sight of the Promise Land.
  - C. The Fear that Stirred Joseph
    1. Joseph was afraid that they might leave his remains behind in Egypt.
    2. He was not interested in a tomb in Egypt, where his body could lie around all of his wealth.
    3. Joseph wanted to be buried in Canaan so that he would not miss the glory of that land. Soon, the Star is to arise out of Jacob, a Messiah. He wanted his bones where the Messiah would be.
    4. Joseph said in effect, “Keep my body among you as a reminder that God will bring you out of this land into that land.”
    5. The Patriarchs coveted burial in Canaan because they wanted to be in the Promise Land when the promised Lord arrived. Hebrews 11:13-16

- II. Joseph's Bones Spoke of Canaan Rest (Through) Exodus 13:19
- A. In Genesis 50 the bones of Joseph said in effect, "God will bring you out," and in Exodus 13, they said, "God will bring you through."
  - B. Joseph promised the children of Israel that God would visit them in Genesis 50 and He did through the blood of the Passover Lamb.
  - C. The day had come for the Israelites to march out of Egypt and be bound for the Promise Land.
  - D. All the way from Egypt to Canaan, Moses carried with him the bones of Joseph. They reminded the children of Israel that they were not to perish in the wilderness, but enter into the Promise Land.
  - E. The Israelites found themselves trapped—the pharaoh and his chariots were behind them and the deep waters of the Red Sea rolled before them. They forgot the God that brought them out. Exodus 14:11-12
  - F. The Israelites forgot the misery of their slavery and the miracle of their salvation. But Moses did not forget. The memorial body whispered to him, "God will bring you out. God will bring you through."
  - G. And so it was that at every crisis—at the Red Sea, at Marah, at Rephidim, in the wilderness of Sin, at Sinai, at Kadesh-barnea, on the plains of Moab—Moses stood firm. He had the bones of Joseph with him.
  - H. On our present New Testament journey from Egypt to Canaan, we have with us what Moses had with him. Just as Joseph's bones spoke to Moses, the memorial body of our Lord—set before us in the communion service—declares, "*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*" (I Corinthians 11:26). That memorial body points us back and it points us on. It sees us through.
- III. Joseph's Bones Spoke of Coming Resurrection (In) Joshua 24:32
- A. The last Old Testament reference to Joseph's bones is in Joshua 24:32.
  - B. The bones were buried, but they still had something to say. They spoke of a rest that is better than Canaan rest, that is a Calvary rest.
  - C. I wonder what was happening when Joshua and his men were burying the box of Joseph's bones?
  - D. The foot bone is talking to the anklebone, the anklebone is talking to the shinbone, the shinbone is talking to the thighbone, and the thighbone is talking to the backbone, and the backbone is talking to the neck bone. What are they saying?
  - E. Genesis 50:25- "*And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.*"
  - F. The ultimate message of the bones of Joseph was that he died in the hope of a better resurrection. We can be certain that the morning in Jerusalem when Christ burst asunder the bars of death that Joseph arose with his Lord.
  - G. Matthew 27:50-53

Conclusion: We, too, die with faith in the resurrection. Death does not separate us from our loved ones forever. Our bones may be put in a box and buried deep, but death cannot hold them down. We will rise!