

Introduction: A quote from Pastor Tim Keller's A Reason for God and a brief look at Psalm 90

I. Genuine Faith Must Grow. This is seen in a number of ways:

- A. In the blessings Jacob pronounced
 - The negative ones – God's ways must take priority
 - The positive ones – God will do as He promised (taking His people into the land) and He will raise up a ruler from Judah.
- B. Jacob insisted on being buried in Canaan.
- C. Joseph recognized the good plan and purpose of God (50:20)
- D. Joseph insisted that his bones be carried back to Canaan.
- E. Jacob's and Joseph's examples called the rest of the brothers to love by faith.

II. When Faith is Genuine, Two Things Happen

- A. Future hope grows
 - 1. There is great encouragement here:
 - The story Moses was telling must continue. Egypt was not Israel's home; there was a great promise to be fulfilled.
 - To live by faith is to live in hope – not necessarily that things will get better here, but that there is a future that will so surpass *here* that it makes the issues of this life seem puny in comparison!
 - 2. There is also a great challenge here:
 - Riches, power and possessions must not be central.
 - Neither can we allow the difficulties of life to rob us of the hope God gives to believers
- B. God's family is a priority

Jacob's and Joseph's actions regarding their deaths told the Israelites not to identify with Egypt, but with God's special call to His people. But since God's call was not to private individuals, identification with His call necessarily implies identification with His people.

Conclusion – What does the end of Genesis teach us? That living out the faith we profess is the setting where God places us is essential. That's how God is glorified in His people!