

## STUDY FORTY FOUR

# GOD WORKS FOR GOOD

## Genesis 49:29—50:26

### Introduction

The story of Genesis now comes to an end. Jacob dies and is buried in Canaan. But before the story concludes one final incident is recorded: Joseph's brothers are worried that now their father is dead Joseph will want to get back at them for the evil they had done to him. In Joseph's reply we learn an important lesson.

### Questions for Discussion

1.a) What was Jacob's concern as he lay dying (49:29-33)?

b) How should we live our lives in the light of eternity?

2.a) How did Joseph react to his father's death (50:1)?

b) What funeral ceremonies did Joseph follow (50:2-14)?

c) What do these things tell us about Joseph's attitude to the death of a loved one?

d) What is the attitude to death of the society we live in?

e) How should we react when a loved one dies?

f) What difference does it make if the loved-one is a believer? (See 1Cor. 15:55-57)

### 3. Review Joseph's life as it is recorded in Genesis.

a) How was Joseph able to live a godly life in the midst of an ungodly society? (See Heb. 11:22)

b) Is any sin recorded in the story of Joseph?

c) Was Joseph sinless? (See Ro. 3:23)

d) Is it possible for a believer to live without sin?

e) Who is the only one who has never sinned? (See 2Cor. 5:21)

f) Why is that important?

4. Genesis 50:20 is the most important lesson from Joseph's life. In the New Testament Romans 8:28 teaches the same truth.

a) In what situations does God work?

b) In whose lives does God work for good?

5.a) At the end of his life did Joseph show any bitterness (50:24-26)?

b) What do Joseph's instructions about his bones tell us about his character? (See Heb. 11:22)

6. Review the book of Genesis.

a) What are the most significant lessons you have learned from this book?

b) Who is your favourite character?

### **For Further Thought And Action**

Can you see God working in the small or difficult events in your life? If not ask him for help to see.

### **Memory Verse**

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28