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Pastor's Bible Study
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Genesis
THE END OF THE BEGINNING
Genesis 50
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The story of Joseph, introduced in Genesis 37, will now dominate the remainder of the Book of Genesis. Joseph will become one of the most revered and loved characters in the Patriarchal narrative. There will be direct references to him as well as allusions to him in the New Testament (Acts 7:9-16; Hebrews 11:21-22; Matthew 1-2).

THE DEATH OF JACOB—THE END OF AN ERA: Jacob's death signals the end of the Patriarchal Period. His request to be buried with Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, and Leah is honored by Joseph and the Egyptians. In a foreshadowing of the Exodus, Israel's descendants return to Canaan for the funeral.

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS: Joseph's dreams are fulfilled once again! His brothers ask for and receive his forgiveness.

JOSEPH'S PERSPECTIVE: Joseph embraced a trust in God's ability to decide the affairs of humanity, he expressed a providential view of history, and he also demonstrated the power of forgiveness.

THE DEATH OF JOSEPH: An acknowledgment of current reality and the expression of hope for the future marks the end of Genesis --- the end of the beginning.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. In the beginning, God! Our God is eternal and self-existent.
2. God is the Creator of the universe. Creation exists due to the will of God and is an expression of His majesty and glory.
3. Creation is one example of the revelatory activity of God.
4. Human beings have been created uniquely in the very Image of God.
5. Human beings exist to bear God's image and reflect His glory in His world.
6. God responded to the brokenness and sinfulness of humanity with both judgement and redemption.
7. God chose Abraham and his descendants to shepherd the promise of redemption for all of humanity.
8. From Eden to an Egyptian coffin: Genesis recounts the marvelous story of creation to the choice of God to use one family to redeem all that has fallen. Genesis is a riveting narrative chronicling the history of all of humanity in general, and the particular history of Abraham's family in the story of redemption. It begins in darkness and ends with the burgeoning nation of God's chosen people, sheltered by a pagan empire. It begins in majesty and promise, and it ends in reality and hope.