

Friday, January 25

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Genesis 50:1 - Exodus 2:10

50 **1** Joseph threw himself on his father and wept over him and kissed him. **2** Then Joseph told the physicians who served him to embalm his father's body; so Jacob was embalmed. **3** The embalming process took the usual forty days. And the Egyptians mourned his death for seventy days. **4** When the period of mourning was over, Joseph approached Pharaoh's advisers and said, "Please do me this favor and speak to Pharaoh on my behalf. **5** Tell him that my father made me swear an oath. He said to me, 'Listen, I am about to die. Take my body back to the land of Canaan, and bury me in the tomb I prepared for myself.' So please allow me to go and bury my father. After his burial, I will return without delay." **6** Pharaoh agreed to Joseph's request. "Go and bury your father, as he made you promise," he said. **7** So Joseph went up to bury his father. He was accompanied by all of Pharaoh's officials, all the senior members of Pharaoh's household, and all the senior officers of Egypt. **8** Joseph also took his entire household and his brothers and their households. But they left their little children and flocks and herds in the land of Goshen. **9** A great number of chariots and charioteers accompanied Joseph. **10** When they arrived at the threshing floor of Atad, near the Jordan River, they held a very great and solemn memorial service, with a seven-day period of mourning for Joseph's father. **11** The local residents, the Canaanites, watched them mourning at the threshing floor of Atad. Then they renamed that place (which is near the Jordan) Abel-mizraim, for they said, "This is a place of deep mourning for these Egyptians." **12** So Jacob's sons did as he had commanded them. **13** They carried his body to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre. This is the cave that Abraham had bought as a permanent burial site from Ephron the Hittite. **14** After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father's burial. **15** But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said. **16** So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us **17** to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin." When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. **18** Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said. **19** But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? **20** You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to

this position so I could save the lives of many people. **21** No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them. **22** So Joseph and his brothers and their families continued to live in Egypt. Joseph lived to the age of 110. **23** He lived to see three generations of descendants of his son Ephraim, and he lived to see the birth of the children of Manasseh's son Makir, whom he claimed as his own. **24** "Soon I will die," Joseph told his brothers, "but God will surely come to help you and lead you out of this land of Egypt. He will bring you back to the land he solemnly promised to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." **25** Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath, and he said, "When God comes to help you and lead you back, you must take my bones with you." **26** So Joseph died at the age of 110. The Egyptians embalmed him, and his body was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus

1 **1** These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who moved to Egypt with their father, each with his family: **2** Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, **3** Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, **4** Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. **5** In all, Jacob had seventy descendants in Egypt, including Joseph, who was already there. **6** In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. **7** But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land. **8** Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. **9** He said to his people, "Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are. **10** We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don't, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country. " **11** So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king. **12** But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became. **13** So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. **14** They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands. **15** Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah: **16** "When you help the Hebrew women as they give birth, watch as they deliver. If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live." **17** But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king's orders. They allowed the boys to live, too. **18** So the king of Egypt called for the midwives. "Why have you done this?" he demanded. "Why have you allowed the boys to live?" **19** "The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women," the midwives replied. "They are more vigorous and have their

babies so quickly that we cannot get there in time.” **20** So God was good to the midwives, and the Israelites continued to multiply, growing more and more powerful. **21** And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. **22** Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live.”

2 1 About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. **2** The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. **3** But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. **4** The baby’s sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him. **5** Soon Pharaoh’s daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. **6** When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This must be one of the Hebrew children,” she said. **7** Then the baby’s sister approached the princess. “Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” she asked. **8** “Yes, do!” the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby’s mother. **9** “Take this baby and nurse him for me,” the princess told the baby’s mother. “I will pay you for your help.” So the woman took her baby home and nursed him. **10** Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses, for she explained, “I lifted him out of the water.”

Matthew 16:13 - 17:9

16 13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” **14** “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” **15** Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” **16** Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” **17** Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. **18** Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. **19** And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.” **20** Then he sternly warned the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. **21** From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him

to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. **22** But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!” **23** Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.” **24** Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. **25** If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. **26** And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? **27** For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds. **28** And I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom.”

17 1 Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. **2** As the men watched, Jesus’ appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. **3** Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus. **4** Peter exclaimed, “Lord, it’s wonderful for us to be here! If you want, I’ll make three shelters as memorials —one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” **5** But even as he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him.” **6** The disciples were terrified and fell face down on the ground. **7** Then Jesus came over and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” **8** And when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus. **9** As they went back down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Psalm 21:1 - 13

21 1 How the king rejoices in your strength, O LORD ! He shouts with joy because you give him victory. **2** For you have given him his heart’s desire; you have withheld nothing he requested. Interlude **3** You welcomed him back with success and prosperity. You placed a crown of finest gold on his head. **4** He asked you to preserve his life, and you granted his request. The days of his life stretch on forever. **5** Your victory brings him great honor, and you have clothed him with splendor and majesty. **6** You have endowed him with eternal blessings and given him the joy of your presence. **7** For the king trusts in the LORD . The unfailing love of the Most High

will keep him from stumbling.**8** You will capture all your enemies. Your strong right hand will seize all who hate you. **9** You will throw them in a flaming furnace when you appear. The LORD will consume them in his anger; fire will devour them. **10** You will wipe their children from the face of the earth; they will never have descendants. **11** Although they plot against you, their evil schemes will never succeed. **12** For they will turn and run when they see your arrows aimed at them. **13** Rise up, O LORD, in all your power. With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts.

Proverbs 5:1 - 6

5 1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom; listen carefully to my wise counsel. **2** Then you will show discernment, and your lips will express what you've learned. **3** For the lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil. **4** But in the end she is as bitter as poison, as dangerous as a double-edged sword. **5** Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. **6** For she cares nothing about the path to life. She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn't realize it.