

Memory Verse

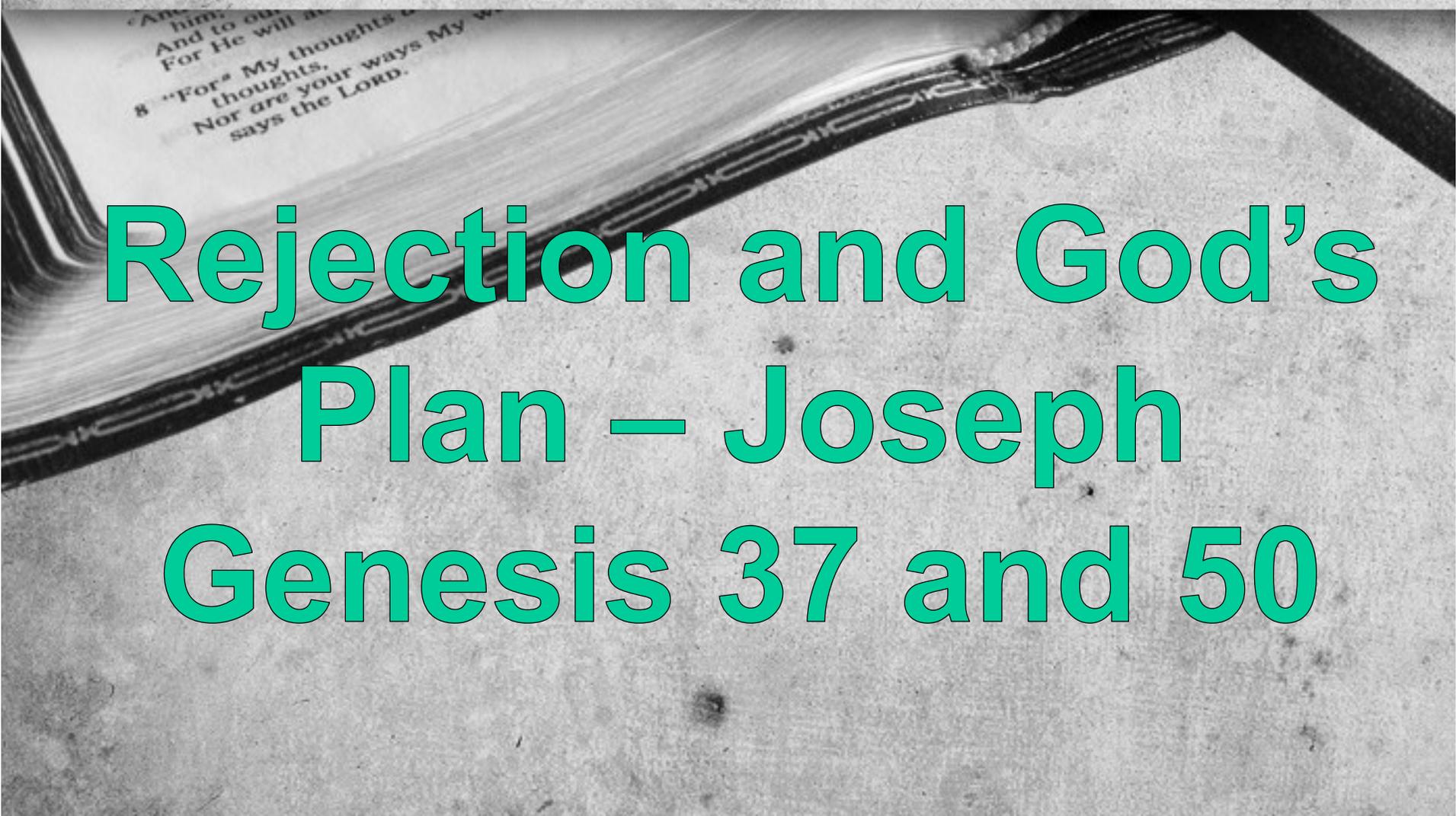
Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

GRACELIFE



CHURCH



And to our
For He will
8 "For" My thoughts
thoughts,
Nor are your ways My
says the Lord.

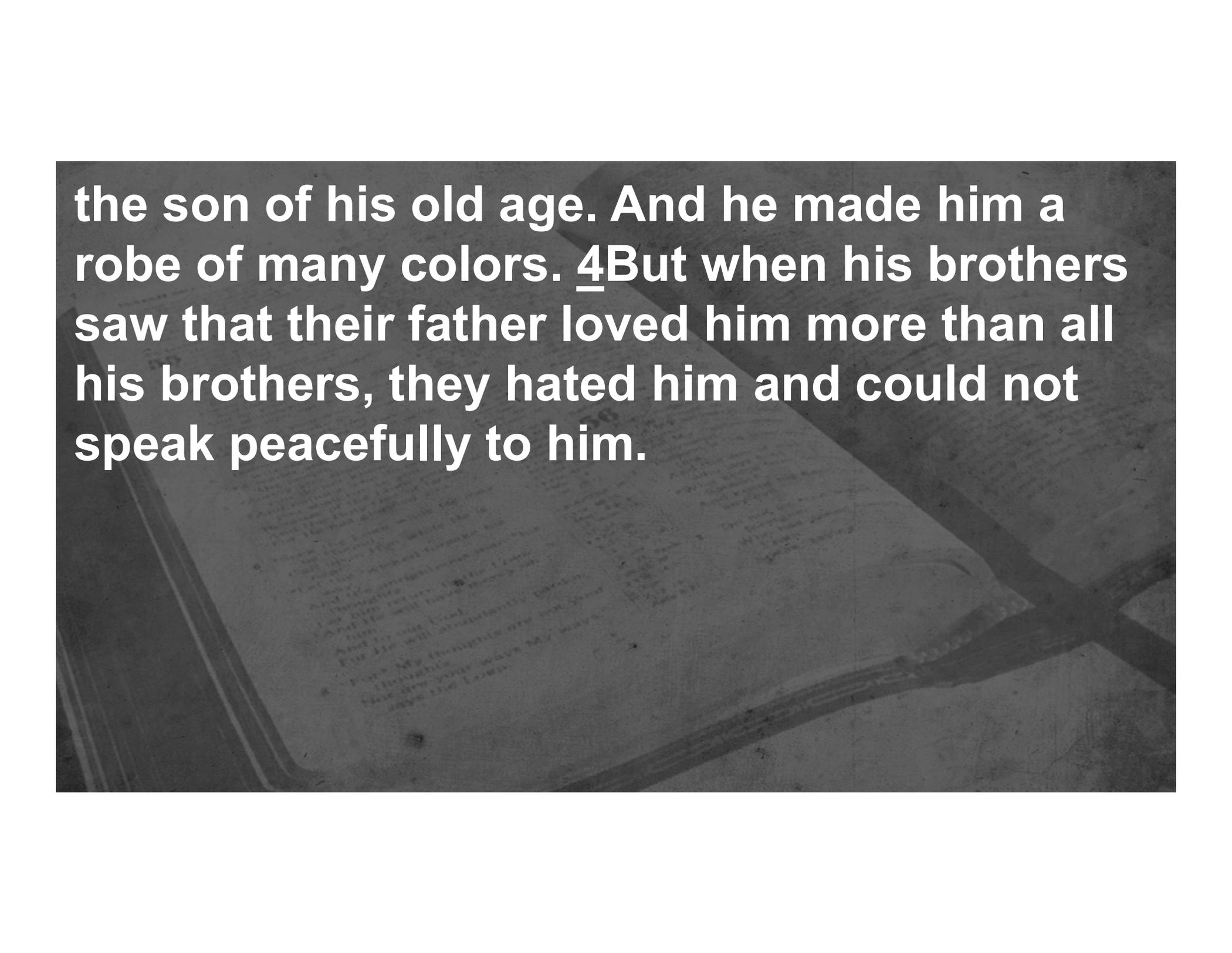
Rejection and God's Plan – Joseph Genesis 37 and 50

***Genesis* is the book of beginnings, written by Moses about 1450BC. *Chapters 1-36* include creation, the fall, worldwide flood, tower of Babel, God's call of and Covenant with Abraham, the lives of Isaac and Jacob. The Patriarchs or fathers, marry, have children and we see their development of faith and more. By *Genesis 37* Jacob has 12 sons, who will become the 12 tribes of Israel.**

Genesis 37:1-5 - Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan.

2These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.

3Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was

The background of the image is a dark, grayscale photograph of an open book. The pages are visible, with some text faintly legible, including the words "And he will", "For he will", and "My thoughts are not just". The book is open, showing two pages. The overall tone is somber and historical.

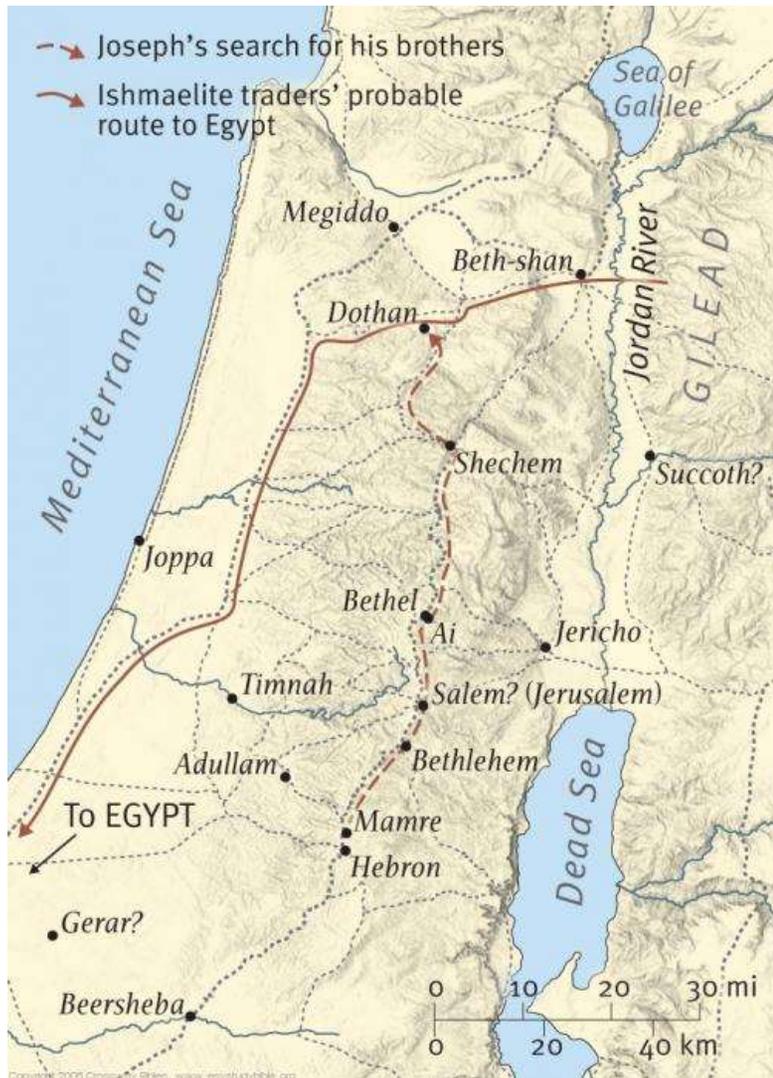
the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. 4But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

A. 37:1-17 – A Favored Son

37:1-5 - Jacob lived in Canaan where Abraham had lived. Joseph, at **17 years old**, fed the flock with his brothers and *told on them*. Jacob/Israel loved Joseph more than all his other children. He made Joseph a *tunic of many colors*, “*long sleeved robe*,” “*ornamented tunic*” or “*robe/coat of many colors*.”

A. 37:1-17 – A Favored Son

37:6-11 - Joseph had **2 dreams**, leading his brothers to hate him more. **1.** His brother's sheaves bowed to Joseph's sheaf or stalk of wheat, which stood taller. They replied angrily and asked *if he would rule over them!* **2.** The sun, moon and stars bowed to him. He told his father and brothers. Israel rebuked him and asked if he, his mother and brothers would bow to him!



Joseph went from Hebron to Shechem, then to Dothan, all together, about 70 miles north of where his family lived.

A. 37:18-36 – A Rejected Brother

37:18-20 - They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. 19They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. 20Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.”

A. 37:18-36 – A Rejected Brother

37:18-22 - The brothers see him in his colorful tunic far off.

They mock him by calling him the ...*dreamer* – or **master of dreams**. They decided to kill him, throw his body in a pit or cistern, and tell their father a ...*wild beast has devoured him*.



**Cisterns in the Middle East,
cut out of rock in the ground.**

A. 37:18-36 – A Rejected Brother

37:23-28 - Joseph arrives, his brothers strip the robe or tunic off of him and threw him in a pit, and *Wenham*, p. 354, suggests the action verbs state this conveys **speed** and **roughness** of the assault. *Genesis 42:21* says Joseph cried out, but they **ignored him** and in their hardness of heart, they sat down and ate! They saw a group of Ishmaelites *...coming from Gilead with their camels.*

A. 37:18-36 – A Rejected Brother

37:29-36 - Reuben returned to find Joseph gone and tore his clothes. They took Joseph's tunic, dipped it in goats' blood, sent it to their father and said they found it and asked if it was his son's. Israel assumed a wild animal killed Joseph and tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, *symbols of grief* and mourned for many days.

Joseph was sold to Potiphar, an officer in Pharaoh's court. He became a *trusted slave*, but Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, though he refused. Joseph is accused of attempted rape, though *innocent*, gets thrown in jail for **over 2 years**, and gets out because he could interpret dreams. He saves the country from famine, gets married, has 2 kids and his brothers visit him to ask for food. Later, he makes himself known, is reunited with his family who moves to Egypt and **all bow to him** in honor, *fulfilling the dreams*.

C. 50:1-18 – Fear of Revenge

Joseph weeps, Israel is embalmed and there is 70-days of mourning. Joseph leaves to bury his father in the Promised Land, then he and his brothers return to Egypt. The brothers, plagued by guilt, feared *Joseph would seek revenge*. They sent messengers to him and asked if he would forgive them. *Joseph wept.*

D. 50:19-26 – God’s Plan

50:19-21 - But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 20As for you, **you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. 21So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

D. 50:19-26 – God’s Plan

50:19-21 - Joseph says only God is the Ultimate Judge. It was not his desire or place to condemn them, though he had the authority and reasons to do so. *What they meant for evil, confronting the reality of their sin, God meant for good.* God used the evil of Joseph’s brothers to bring him to the point God had for Joseph.

D. 50:19-26 – God’s Plan

50:22-26 - At 110 years old, Joseph dies about 1800BC, but prophesies that *God will visit His people* and take them back to the land of Canaan. He asked that they carry his bones home and bury him there. Hundreds of years later, Moses leads Israel out of Egypt and Joshua buries Joseph’s bones in Shechem: *Joshua 24:32.*

Responding to Rejection:

1. *God is in control.*
2. *God has a purpose.*
3. *Remember that Jesus was rejected!*
4. *Forgive.*
5. *Serve them with joy.*
6. *Joseph was alone, but don't try to go through rejection alone.*
7. *Be faithful.*