

The Faith of Joseph

(Hebrews 11:22)

Introduction:

1. As we study Hebrews 11 we must keep in mind that *"the just shall live by faith"* (10:38).
2. In ch.11 we read about a number of Old Testament characters who lived by faith.
3. One practical point made in this chapter is that faith enabled 3 men [Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph] to look forward to the future with optimism, even as they faced death (vs.13).
4. (vs.22) Joseph demonstrated his faith at the end of his life as he:
 - a. *"made mention of the departing of the children of Israel"*
 - b. *"gave commandment concerning his bones."*
5. However, Joseph's faith was demonstrated earlier in his life when he:
 - a. was a slave in Potiphar's house (Genesis 39:1-4)
 - b. was in prison (Genesis 39:20-23)
 - c. interpreted Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41:14-16)
 - d. revealed himself to his brothers (Genesis 45:4-8)
 - e. spoke to his brothers after Jacob's death (Genesis 50:15-21).

Discussion:

- I. BY FAITH, JOSEPH *"MADE MENTION OF THE DEPARTING OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL"*
 - A. This is recorded in Genesis 50:22-24.
 1. Joseph was blessed with a long life in Egypt (vs.22-23).
 2. Just before his death, Joseph told his brethren that God would bring them from Egypt to Canaan (vs.24).
 - B. Joseph knew that God had promised to give Canaan to the descendants of:
 1. Abraham (Genesis 12:5-7)
 2. Isaac (Genesis 26:1-4)
 3. Jacob (Genesis 28:10-13).
 - C. Joseph had seen his father and his family settle in Egypt where they began to multiply (Genesis 47:27-28).
 - D. Joseph had faith that God would keep His promises by bringing the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan.
- II. BY FAITH, JOSEPH *"GAVE COMMANDMENT CONCERNING HIS BONES"*
 - A. This is recorded in Genesis 50:25-26.
 - B. Joseph's desires were carried out (Exodus 13:17-19; Joshua 21:43-45; 24:32).