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February 8, 2020

## JOSEPH'S BONES

“And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, ‘God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you’” (Exod. 13:19).

What do Joseph’s bones teach us? Almost spoiled by the love of his father, Joseph was raised in a “golden cradle.” Highly favored above his brothers, he wore the finest clothes his father could get. As an easy life and overprotection may jeopardize a child’s character development, the Lord mercifully allowed him to be taken far from his home, suddenly losing all that this world can offer, except life and health.

But instead of feeling discouraged, Joseph decided to make a commitment to put God first in all things. And his resolve was not shaken even after he was unjustly sent to prison and placed into what was likely the lowest position a human could attain other than death. But from there, the Lord brought him directly to the second-highest position in the most powerful country in the then-known world. All the comforts of life were again available to him.

When Satan is not able to knock us down with trials, he often is more successful by offering sophistication and ease. Would Joseph’s character thrive under this new ensnaring trial? Would he keep his eyes focused on his eternal future, or would he be charmed by the life at the court? A very strange request that he later made of his brothers reveals that he stood firm in his commitment to God! His eyes were still on the Promised Land, and not on the luxury or pomp of Egypt. “God will surely visit you,” he said to his brothers, “and you shall carry up my bones from here [Gen. 50:25].” Joseph was not planning to be distracted by Egypt’s easy life. His eyes were fixed on God’s plan for the future, in another land, yet to be given by the Lord to His people!

**APPEAL:** By returning our tithe and giving our Promise (regular, percentage-based offering) we regularly remind ourselves that our spiritual, emotional, and material resources should be invested in another Land!

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, please accept our tithes and offerings as a symbol of our desire to inherit eternal life in heaven, and to put You first in all things here!