

Genesis 196
Demonic Portals
Genesis 50:1-3
March 30, 2025
Dr. Andy Woods

Let us take our Bibles and open them to Genesis 50:1. We will be looking today at Genesis 50:1-5. The title of our message this morning is "Demonic Portals."

What is a portal? It is a doorway, an entryway, for either satanic or demonic activity. Do you guys know that Satan seeks that in your life as a Christian? There are things that we do to open the door, and this comes up in our study of the Book of Genesis. The end of the Book of Genesis is how God has worked so strategically to use Joseph to rescue the Nation of Israel from Canaan, and to incubate them safely in the Land of Goshen.

As we look at Genesis 50, here is an outline that we can use:

Death & Burial of Jacob & Joseph (Genesis 50:1-26)

- I. Events following Jacob's death (1-3)
 - A. Weeping
 - B. Embalming
 - 1. Command
 - 2. Days of embalming
- II. Jacob's burial (4-14)
- III. Brothers' fear & Joseph's reassurance (15-21)
- IV. Joseph's death (22-26)

We have the events surrounding Jacob's death (Genesis 50:1-3); Jacob's burial (Genesis 50:4-14); you have the brothers of Joseph in fear, needing reassurance (Genesis 50:15-21); and then you have Joseph's death (Genesis 50:22-26).

Notice, if you will, Genesis 50:1-3. These are the events following Jacob's death. There is some weeping and then there is some embalming. Genesis 50:1 says,

"Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him and kissed him."

This is Joseph's reaction at the death of his father, Jacob. The reason he is crying is because Joseph is Jacob's favorite son. Jacob, for a long time, thought that Joseph was dead. Now the two of them have been reunited in Egypt for about 17 years. Think of an estranged relationship that you might have; there is a reuniting of that relationship that goes on for about 17 years; and then Jacob dies. That is why Joseph is weeping.

There is a strange teaching going around Christianity or Christendom. It is this idea that when a loved one in Christ dies, you should not weep. Obviously, that is contradicted by this passage, because Joseph here is really crying up a storm at the death of Jacob, who has just gone on to be with his loved ones in heaven. I have always tried to figure out

where this strange teaching comes from. I think it comes from a misreading of 1 Thessalonians 4:13. Paul the apostle says,

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope."

You will notice here that the Apostle Paul does not say, "Do not grieve." He just says, "Do not grieve as those who have no hope." It is completely reasonable, it is completely expected that when someone dies, even if that person is a Christian, even if that person is a believer, that you would grieve for them; just do not do it as those who have no hope as the rest, who have no hope. Do not go on and on with your grieving as if you will never see that person again, which is what they did in the world.

That is what they did in Egypt. You are going to see them again, either at death or the Rapture, whichever comes first; but even though that is true, if a loved one in Christ dies, it is appropriate to grieve. We just do not do it like the unsaved world. Certainly you see Joseph here, falling on his father Jacob's face, upon his death, and he is grieving.

Then something very interesting happens in Genesis 50:2-3 related to the embalming. That was common in Egypt; we see that described in Genesis 50:2-3. What does Joseph want done with Jacob's body? Look at Genesis 50:2. We have a command:.

"Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel."

First of all, notice the shift in names from Israel to Jacob. Jacob's name is used at the end of chapter 49, Genesis 49:33; but now you see the name Israel used for Jacob, who has now passed on. That is because, when God formed the nation of Israel through the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Jacob was given a new name, the name Israel. The two are used as synonyms.

One of the things that is very interesting to note here (and a lot of commentators just jump right over this), when Joseph had Jacob embalmed in Egypt, he did not use the professional embalmers for the project. Instead, what he did is he hired the physicians. You see the word "physicians" there in Genesis 50:2.

"Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel."

You will see the word "physicians" used twice. (I am reading here out of the New American Standard Bible.) That is not the normal embalming process. Herodotus, a historian that wrote around 450 BC, outlines 13 steps of how this embalming process transpired in Egypt. Some of it is so specific that if I explain to you what they did, it might ruin your lunch for this afternoon. Part of it involves taking a long tool and grabbing the brain of the deceased and pulling it out through the nose. (How's that for a happy thought for the day?).

There are basically 13 steps in this embalming process. Here was number six on Herodotus's list. Once you see this, you will understand why Joseph wants the physicians to do this, and not the professional embalmers. It says:

"Sixth, later, the four entrails of the liver, the lungs, the stomach, and the intestines were put in four jars and each was dedicated to the four genies of the underworld. It was because of this particular magical, mystical art that was practiced that Joseph probably chose to use physicians rather than the professional embalmers."¹

In other words, Joseph chose not to use the normal process of embalming in Egypt because it involved interaction with the occult—Interaction with the demonic realm.

Joseph most likely knew that step number six was coming, and that had to do with the intestines in different jars and dedicating each to the underworld. This was how dominant the occult influenced normal Egyptian practices. What Joseph did here in this embalming process, by hiring the physicians or commanding the physicians, rather than the professional embalmers, is he took Jacob's embalming process and he took it out of the realm of the occult.

That becomes a tremendous practice for us, because when you follow practices that traffic in the occult, even if they are popular, a portal is opened and Satan can come into a person's life. He cannot possess it—that cannot happen once you become saved because your body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit, and Satan and God and the Holy Spirit are not very good roommates. However, when we open a portal, essentially what happens is the demonic realm can come into our lives and influence us. Influence? Yes. Possess. No. Oppress. Yes. Possess. No.

I think this is the thing that Joseph is seeking to avoid. He is laying out here in his practice of embalming something that God, centuries later, will take the Nation of Israel to Mount Sinai and routinely warn them against. The Jews will be told, the Hebrews will be told at Mount Sinai, to have nothing to do with the occult—the paranormal.

These are things like divination, condemned in Deuteronomy 18:10, which basically is fortune telling; things like Spiritism, contacting the dead (Deuteronomy 18:11); things like magic, condemned in Deuteronomy 18:11, involving the performance of miraculous powers; things like pharmakeia, the illicit use of drugs and foreign substances. All of these things make people feel good for a moment, but what they do not understand is they are opening a portal or a door for darkened forces to influence their lives.

The Bible, over and over again at Mount Sinai—and you also see it moving into the Samuel books, Kings books, Chronicles, and the prophets—outright condemns necromancy, which is the practice of speaking to the dead. Why is the Bible so rigid on this? Why is the Bible so clear on this? Why is the Bible so aggressive on this? Because God knows what these things do to us. They may make us feel good for a moment, but

¹ Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *The Book of Genesis*, 654-55.

they open a doorway or a portal where the fallen angelic realm, the demonic realm, Satan himself can influence us negatively.

That is never what is divulged to us on the front end. These practices look popular; they look expedient; they look helpful; they give us energy for a season. The Bible says, to be very careful about this. Be very careful about letting this into your personal life; be very careful about letting this into your household; be very careful about letting these kinds of things onto your iPhone; because they are opening doorways that you do not understand.

That is why Joseph is doing what he is doing here, where he is not following the traditional practices of embalmers in Egypt. He is role modeling, if you will, what will be declared and condemned by God later on at Mount Sinai.

One of the tragic predictions in the Scripture is that the day will arise when these demonic practices will enter the Church of Jesus Christ. This is going to happen in what 1 Timothy 4:1 calls the latter times. I understand the latter times are not just the last days, but the last of the last days. Technically speaking, the last days have been going on for the last 2,000 years; but there is something called the latter times, which would be the end of the last days—the end of the Church Age.

We are given a prediction here as to what the church will look like on the eve of the Rapture. Paul, in one of his final letters, says this:

"The spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Timothy 4:1).

I used to look at passages like this and say, "Yes, it is going to be pretty bad in the unsaved world before Jesus comes back," but that is not the context of this at all. Things have always been bad in the unsaved world. What this is talking about is what is going to happen in the life of the church in the latter times. This was written by Paul to Timothy, who was functioning as a pastor over the church at Ephesus.

First Timothy, like Second Timothy and Titus—three letters written by Paul to pastors—are called the pastoral epistles. This is not some common injunction about what is going to happen in unsaved society. This is a prediction about what is going to happen within professing Christendom, professing Christianity on the eve of the Rapture. The Holy Spirit is obviously very serious about this because Paul writes under the inspiration of the Spirit, *"the spirit explicitly says."* This kind of thing is coming.

The Josephs who stood against these occult practices in Egypt, you will not have those kinds of people at the end of the Church Age. The church will give in to these practices.

I am here to tell you folks that these practices are alive and well within Christianity. In my whole life, I have been stunned at the acceleration of how Christians are opening the door to the occult and opening up into their lives portals that they do not understand.

Here is some writing from a book by Steve and Sarah Berger. This was written in 2010. They are pastors. He is a pastor, and the title of it is "Have Heart: Bridging the Gulf

Between Heaven and Earth." It deals with the fact that he had a son that died (I, of course, have nothing but compassion for anyone in that circumstance). The son's name was Josiah.

By the way, when you look at this book and you look at the endorsements, it almost reads like the who's who of Christianity. I will not belabor you by calling out all their names, but if I called out their names, you would all know who they are.

In the book, he talks about how his son died. (I feel very badly for him about that). Then he goes on and he talks about how he talks to his deceased son regularly, which is nothing more than necromancy. That is the very thing that is condemned at Mount Sinai. Here is a little bit of verbiage here from this book:

"And then one night, Josiah [their son] showed up in a dream."²

"Josiah came into the sanctuary...It wasn't like he just appeared there. It was a sense of him coming into the aisle, and he got down on one knee and bent into my ear...Then, as quickly as he came, he left. It wasn't that he disappeared; rather it was a sense of him leaving the sanctuary.... He had a sense of speed about him, not that he was hurried, but as if life on earth was much slower than Heaven—it's a different place, a different plane. I stood and went over to my wife and told her, "Josiah was just here."³

"God granted Josiah permission to make an appearance...it demonstrates his presence in not only our lives but in the lives of his friends as well."⁴

"Yes, the residents of Heaven are personally present, they are aware, and they are near!"⁵

"We want all of us to continue to have a relationship with Siah right up until the day that we are face-to-face in Heaven with him."⁶

Here he is completely butchering Hebrews 12:1, which talks about a great cloud of witnesses:

"The cloud of witnesses [of Christian loved ones in Heaven] is personal, and we believe that it is part of their work in the spiritual realm to cheer on their loved ones still on the earth..."⁷

² Steve Berger & Sarah Berger, *Have Heart: Bridging the Gulf Between Heaven and Earth* (Franklin, TN: Grace Chapel, 2010), 69.

³ Berger, 99-100.

⁴ Berger, 100.

⁵ Berger, 100-101.

⁶ Berger, 103.

⁷ Berger, 107.

"Our loved ones may show up in dreams or visits or other ways (who can limit God's imagination?), but the fact is that we are connected....There is a thin veil, and we're connected to them, forever, in Christ."⁸

"You don't father or mother a child for nineteen years and then hear God say, 'Oh, now you can't talk to him. You no longer have a relationship with him until you see him face-to-face in Heaven....' We still talk to Josiah, and it's going to be so great when we're together again."⁹

The fact of the matter is, these practices are unbiblical. There is not a shred of biblical evidence anywhere that you have the opportunity in this life to talk to your deceased loved ones. In 2 Samuel 12:22-23, you will remember, David committed adultery with Bathsheba. From that unholy union Bathsheba became pregnant, and the child died. This is what David says in 2 Samuel 12:22-23:

"While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me, that the child may live.' But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

What David is saying is, "When I die, I am going to go be with this child who died beneath the age of accountability; but I cannot bring him back now." That is exactly the opposite of what Steve and Sarah Berger, probably very well-intentioned people, are saying in this particular book that their deceased son, Josiah, makes regular appearances in their lives and they talk to him regularly. This is the church in the last days, opening the door to demonic spirits. It is a practice called necromancy.

You remember the man Lazarus and the rich man that died, and they went to their respective places. There is absolutely no mention in that passage of being able to go back onto the earth to talk to people. The rich man, concerned about his five brothers in unbelief, wants to send someone (Lazarus) back to talk to them. That is not possible, because once you die, you enter the eternal realm, which cuts off communication between the dead and the living on the earth.

Luke 16:24-26:

"And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able to, and that none may cross over from there to us.'"

⁸ Berger, 110.

⁹ Berger, 125.

You see how in death things become fixed. You enter the eternal realm, and there is no evidence anywhere in the Scripture of the departed making guest appearances into this life for purposes of comfort, consolation, or whatever.

Hebrews 9:27 says,

"And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment."

If Josiah, the Berger's child, is not the being or entity communicating with them regularly, who is talking to them?

Second Corinthians 11:14 says,

"No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

I know who they are talking to: they are talking to a demon. Now the demon is not going to say "Hi, I am Mr. Demon." The demon is an instrument of deception. Jesus said of Satan in John 8:44, that Satan is the father of lies. There is nothing better that Satan would like than to convince you that you are talking to your deceased child when it is really a demon masquerading—doesn't it say "disguising" here?—as that deceased child?

Since Satan was there when the deceased child was born and lived a short life on earth, Satan knows the mannerisms of that deceased child, the communication style of that deceased child, the temperament of that deceased child; therefore convincing these misguided parents that it really is the deceased child, when in reality it is not the deceased child. The Bible says you cannot talk to the dead—it is impossible.

When Paul talked about doctrines of demons entering the church in the last days, these are the kind of practices that he was talking about. They are the very practices that Joseph is avoiding here by rejecting the normal embalming process and instead commanding physicians, rather than professional embalmers, to do the embalming.

Now, here is where I am going to get myself into trouble if I have not already. There is just a lot of agitation going on today. Have you noticed that? I wonder why that is. Maybe the devil knew I was going to go this direction; maybe the devil looked at my slideshow. We are in an age today where Christians normally open themselves up to these practices thinking that they are benevolent, thinking that they are benign; but the only thing they are really doing at the end of the day is exactly what the Bergers were foolishly doing—they were opening a portal to Satanic influence.

I do not doubt the Bergers' salvation. I do not think the demons and Satan use that to possess them; but I think he continues to, as long as they are open to these practices, radically influence them because of a doorway they opened up.

We have had kids here, and parents here, talk about how proud they were that their kids were reading the Harry Potter series, because after all, the kids are learning to read. No

big deal. I say, if you are teaching your kids to read, there are a lot of other books they could read besides Harry Potter. Even the Roman Catholic Church has figured that out.

Here is a news excerpt from not long ago. It says,

"A Roman Catholic school in Tennessee has banished J.K. Rowling's universally popular series of 'Harry Potter' novels from its library shelves after its pastor took exception to their portrayal of magic, warning the spells and curses that the author describes are real and 'risk conjuring up evil spirits' when read... 'These books represent magic as both good and evil, which is not true, but in fact a clever deception. The curses and spells used in the books are actual curses and spells; which when read by a human being risk conjuring up evil spirits into the presence of a person reading the text.' the Reverend Reehill wrote, apparently in all seriousness."¹⁰

This particular article is making fun of him for having that level of discernment. I am not making fun of him. I say may his tribe increase. We do not need to be monkeying around with all this stuff. "Pastor, have you read all the 'Harry Potter' series?" They say that to act as if I cannot cast a judgment unless I have read every book, every footnote. I know that the ocean is filled with salt, and I do not have to drink the whole ocean to figure that out.

It is not just the "Harry Potter" series. This was put together by my classmate Christine Tan. We were in the PhD program together. Her father was a very famous prophecy teacher, Paul Lee Tan. She has a tremendous ministry abroad, but she compiled this and she put down the websites where you can get a Biblical analysis of all of these things that Christians routinely open the doorway to and let in their lives.

Dangerous Influences on our Children & Youth
Dr. Christine J. Tan (May 21, 2017)

Sue Bohlin (PROBE.org)—on Harry Potter

<https://www.probe.org/harry-potter/>

Sue Bohlin (PROBE.org)—on Twilight

<https://www.probe.org/the-darkness-of-twilight>

Matt Slick (CARM)—on Pokemon

<https://carm.org/what-is-pokemon>

Patrick Zukeran (EvidenceAndAnswers.org)—on Worldview of Star Wars

<http://evidenceandanswers.org/article/worldview-star-wars/>

¹⁰ Joe Sommerlad, Harry Potter books removed from school library because they contain 'real' curses and spells, "Independent," online: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/harry-potter-banned-school-library-nashville-tennessee-exorcist-a9087676.html>.

Kerby Anderson (PROBE.org)—on High Tech Witchcraft

<https://www.probe.org/high-tech-witchcraft/>

Patrick Zukeran (EvidenceAndAnswers.org)—on the Occult

<http://evidenceandanswers.org/article/the-world-of-the-occult/>

Michael Gleghorn (PROBE.org)—on Yoga and Christianity

<https://www.probe.org/yoga-and-christianity-are-they-compatible/>

Michael Gleghorn (PROBE.org)—on OK for Christian to do yoga?

<https://www.probe.org/is-it-ok-for-a-christian-to-practice-yoga/>

Patrick Zukeran (EvidenceAndAnswers.org)—on Yoga

<http://evidenceandanswers.org/podcast/episode-280-yoga-great-exercise-or-dangerous-worship/>

Michael Gleghorn (PROBE.org)—on Hypnosis

<https://www.probe.org/is-hypnosis-ok-or-a-problem/>

Oropeza (Christian Research Institute)—on some Martial Arts

<http://www.equip.org/articles/should-a-christian-practice-the-martial-arts/>

Some names I have heard of, some I have not. How about "Twilight?" How about "Pokemon?" "Wait a minute! Now you are meddling. I love Pokemon." You might say, "My son or daughter or granddaughter loves Pokemon." This kind of stuff is not new. When I was coming of age, the big thing was Dungeons and Dragons—D&D for short. As a seventh grader, I wanted to play Dungeons and Dragons. No one was going to take that away from me. It was not just Dungeons and Dragons, it was Ouija charts. (I think they still have those.)

Then I got saved, and I wanted to hold on to my Dungeons and Dragons. I asked the guy that led me to Christ, "Can I keep playing Dungeons and Dragons?" Here is what he said to me: "Let me ask you a simple question. Is playing Dungeons and Dragons bringing you closer to the Lord, or moving you further away from the Lord?" I had to answer, "It is not enhancing my relationship with Jesus." Then why do it?

I feel that way about Harry Potter, Twilight, and Pokemon. You may want to fight and argue with me about this; your fight is not with me—it is with the Holy Spirit who is convicting you of things. You ask yourself the same question that was posed to me when I was coming of age as a Christian. Is this going to help or hurt your relationship to the Lord?

Now we are really meddling here—Star Wars. I love Star Wars. In the 70s, I stood in those ridiculously long lines to watch it. You remember those lines? They were longer than the gas lines. They were wrapped around the building several times. What is the

worldview of Star Wars? It is not Christian. Why are we continually devoting ourselves to these kinds of things? Star Wars, everything: outfits, cups, on and on we could go.

There is more. Kirby Anderson at www.PROBE.org has a lot of good stuff condemning high tech witchcraft. Pat Zukeran, a Dallas seminary guy—his website is www.evidenceandanswers.org. There is great stuff on that, talking about the occult. Michael Gleghorn of Probe is talking about yoga. "Oh, come on, it is just exercise." There is more to it than "it is just exercise." If you want to get some exercise, there are some easy ways to do that without opening a portal.

You want to teach your kids and your grandchildren to read. There are a lot better ways to do it other than opening a portal. I guarantee you that if you saw the long-term effects of these portals, you would rue the day that you ever opened the portal to begin with. That is what Joseph is avoiding here.

Speaking of yoga, what about hypnosis? I talk to a lot of Christians that go to people to get hypnotized, which basically puts you into an altered state of consciousness. That is also what drugs do—they put you into an altered state of consciousness where you are without your rational faculties. Satan and the demons will take that portal as well. Martial arts. A lot of the eastern practices brought in through martial arts is a potential portal that can be opened.

I am not in a position for you to come to me and say, "What about this? What about that?" You have your own relationship with the Lord. You go to the Lord with this and you ask Him, "Is this going to help or hurt my relationship with You?" Then you walk it out by faith. As your pastor, I can only do so much. I do not have any control over your life—I have a difficult time controlling my own life—but I can give you basic guidelines to follow.

What I see Joseph doing is a clear guideline. "I am not going to do the embalming the exact way the Egyptians did, because it is going to open a portal into the satanic and demonic realm." A few centuries down the road, God is going to condemn these practices at Mount Sinai.

Unfortunately, the Joseph mentality will not dominate in the last days. Paul says that the church, on the eve of the Rapture in the latter times, will become progressively open to these things. If you do not think these things are harmful, look at what the church at Ephesus did with these things. This is Paul's third missionary journey. He had his most prolific ministry on that third missionary journey in a place called Ephesus, where everyone heard the word of the Lord. The converts there were innumerable. Acts 19:9 says of Paul's ministry in Ephesus:

"...he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus."

Paul was a schoolmaster, and he used the lecture method of all things to win countless people to Christ in the Asia Minor area.

Acts 19:10 says,

"This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks."

Now you get to Acts 19:19, and these new converts, coming fresh out of paganism, had a chance to mature. They had a chance to grow. They were steeped in black magic; they were steeped in probably the ancient version of Harry Potter, probably playing Dungeons and Dragons in the Roman-Greco sense, all kinds of things they were open to. What did these converts do in Paul's most productive, prolific, fruitful, prosperous ministry in Asia, where all these people over a two-year period of time came to know Christ? Acts 19:19 tells you. It says,

"And many of those who practiced magic..."

This was part of their lives. There are people who will not make a move in the morning until they check the astrological projections—until they consult the stars—as if God did not create the stars. Why are you running to a star or stars when you can go to the God of the universe?

"And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver" (Acts 19:19).

Why would they take these practices that they were steeped in—probably from birth; part of the culture—after they got saved, why would they take all their books and burn them? They recognized what I am trying to explain here: that their involvement in these things was not bringing them closer to Jesus. It was dragging them away from Jesus.

They had opened up portals and doors that they did not understand and they figured out they were being negatively influenced. "Let's take all this stuff and let's just burn it. Let's get rid of it." They did not even hide it in the closet somewhere. I am here to tell you that these people, unless they recognized the harm of these things, would not have done what you are reading about there in Acts 19:19.

One of the dominant things in our world today is palm reading—fortune telling. I am not denying that when you first start to experiment with some of that stuff, it can give you a feeling of security, and maybe it gives you an insight into something you did not have; but that is the part of it that the devil wants you to focus on, not the negative, not the portal—or the doorway or the influence—that just got opened up into your life.

By the way, *"fifty thousand pieces of silver,"* how much is that? Charles Ryrie says this:

"19:19: Magic. Magical spells written on scrolls. Fifty thousand pieces of silver. If the silver drachma is meant, the value would have been the equivalent of about 138 years' pay for a rural worker."¹¹

They just gave up a lifetime of wealth that was used to pay for all this stuff, and they burned it. Why would you do something like that if you did not realize the harm in these

¹¹ Charles Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, Genesis 19:19.

things? Yet, tragically, Paul says, these kinds of things will start to get normal. Forget society; I am talking about evangelical Christianity, where people open the door to these things. Joseph would not open the door. I hope and pray you do not open the door. As God is my witness, I am going to do everything within my power to not open the door either.

Be careful about your screen time; be careful about what you are watching; be careful about what your children and your grandchildren are doing, spending countless hours on these screens. What are they looking at? If it is one of our sermons, then it is okay, of course; but nine times out of ten, that is not what they are looking at. They are looking at something else; something that is negative.

You watch your own attitude. I know that my attitude, when I spend a lot of time on the screen, gets very cranky. I notice kids are like that. You see a real agitated kid talking back, irritated, challenging parental authority. Ask yourself, "How much time have you been on the screen today? As you are on that screen, what are you looking at exactly?"

We have a calling in these last days. We are supposed to be people whose practice is catching up with our position. That is what we are supposed to be doing. I am not going to sit around and challenge everybody's salvation if they happen to be steeped in these things. What I am going to say is this: If you are steeped in this, you are going to have a very difficult time in the middle tense of your salvation. You are not going to make a lot of progress. Joseph was the kind of guy who wanted to make progress.

As you go down to Genesis 50:3, you see the Egyptian embalming and the Egyptian weeping. After Joseph gives a command, you now have the days of embalming. This was a long process that Joseph de-occultized (if I can use that term). It says,

"Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days" (Genesis 50:3).

There were 40 days to embalm, and 70 days to weep. I have a tendency to think these two numbers overlapped. You could weep while the embalming was going on, but the total time it took to weep was 70 days. The embalming process (Herodotus describing all 13 steps in it), typically took 40 days.

What is interesting is you ask commentators, "What does 40 days mean?" "It means 40 days." "What does 70 days mean?" "It means 70 days." Look at Genesis 50:10. This is after they get to Canaan, *"and he observed seven days mourning for his father."*

What does "seven days" mean? Seven days. "Yom," the Hebrew word for "day;" "yamim," days, connected with a number. In this case, we call it a numerical modifier. A number connected with "yom" always is a literal period of time—always. People, giving commentary on the Book of Genesis, accept that meaning here. Then why is it then we get to Genesis 1, that they allegorize it?

There is "yom" plus a number: first day, second day, third day, fourth day, fifth day, sixth day. "That is an age of time. Those are 1 million or 1 billion years each in Genesis 1." "Okay. Can I do that in Genesis 50, 7 days means the weeping went on for 7 million years.

Can I do that?" "Oh, no, you cannot do that over there." "Why are you letting me do it in Genesis 1?"

Why? Why do they let you do it in Genesis 1? Because they have thrown in the towel to evolution, at a time when the evolutionists themselves are acknowledging the title of Michael Denton's book, "Evolution: A Theory in Crisis." Evolution is falling apart. I have tons of quotes that I could give you some time saying that. The theory of evolution is completely and totally falling apart; because now you have the soft tissue in the fossils, and the soft tissue was supposed to dissolve hundreds of thousands of years ago. In other words, it cannot be talking about a fossil, which is ancient, or else there would be no soft tissue in it.

Where is the evidence of the missing link? It is still missing; that is why it is called the missing link. Think about this for a minute: if evolution has been going on for billions of years and apes have been turning into human beings over billions of years, and this has been happening in all the different species, including the animal kingdom, and you have something that has been going on for billions of years, then shouldn't we find missing links everywhere? Yet they cannot produce a single one that is irrefutable?

I am not talking about the tooth of an extinct pig that they claimed was a missing link; I am talking about the real McCoy. "Why can't you guys find one single example of a missing link when this is a process that has been going on for billions of years?" They say, "You do not understand punctuated equilibrium." Ooh, big word time. "Punctuated equilibrium, what does that mean exactly, Mr. Scientist?" "Let me explain it to you. Sometimes these quantum leaps happen rapidly. Generally it is slow, but then there is this fast punctuated equilibrium—it happens so fast we do not even know where the missing links are."

The whole theory of evolution is collapsing, and the evangelical church has thrown in the towel to it. That is why they take "yom" plus a number differently in Genesis 1 than they would anywhere else in Scripture. It is insanity, yet that is the foundation of Christianity. If Adam in a garden did not sin against God and create in the process a constant life of sin terminated by death, then Jesus is irrelevant.

"You have to be saved." "Saved from what?" "There was Adam in the garden; he rebelled against God; he created a life of constant sin terminated by death. That is what you need to be saved from." "Oh, that. All that stuff is a myth. Those days are not real. There is no Garden of Eden. There is no historical Adam."

In fact, in the evangelical society today (I am not even talking about what they do in liberal groups; I am talking about what they are doing in the evangelical society today), do you know what the number one point of discussion is today? It is the historicity of Adam. That is what your evangelical scholars from your evangelical schools are talking about. This is not left-wing liberals doing this. This is supposedly the cream of the crop, the best of the best within evangelicalism.

What in the world has happened to us? We have thrown in the towel to evolution because we just do not have enough faith to believe what God says in Genesis 1. At a time when

the theory of evolution is falling apart in the secular world, the devil must be having one whale of a laugh at this point, looking at us and the things that we are involved in and the things that we are doing. Their standard practice is to interpret "yom" plus numbers differently in Genesis 50, but they do not do that in Genesis 1. May God help us understand the time period that we are living in.

Psalms 11:3 says,

*"If the foundations be destroyed,
What can the righteous do?"*

There is a reason why Satan, over and over and over again, attacks the Book of Genesis; because if you knock out the foundation, the whole platform upon which Christian belief rests dissolves. We are under spiritual attack; we are under philosophical attack. This is serious stuff. Would you not agree?

It says in Genesis 50:3:

"Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days."

Did you notice that the folks who were upset with Jacob's death, to the point where they wept regularly, were the Egyptians, not the Hebrews? They are going to weep, too, but that is how much Jacob, the patriarch, was loved by the Egyptians. He was loved by the Egyptians so much that when he died, they could not control their weeping for a period of 70 days.

When you go down to Genesis 50:11, when they finally make it to Canaan, the Egyptians—many of them are going to come with Joseph to bury Jacob—are going to keep weeping. In fact, in Canaan they are going to weep so much that they have to change the name of the place where Jacob was buried. Is that not amazing?

Genesis 50:11 says,

"Now when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, 'This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians.' Therefore it was named Abel-Mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan."

They had to name the place from Atad, which was the owner of this field, to Abel-Mizraim, which means "the mourning of Egypt." "These Egyptians are crying so much over Jacob, a Hebrew, that we Canaanites when we observe this, cannot believe what we are seeing, and we are going to have to rename the place where Jacob was buried." Jacob was a man who was loved not just by his own people, but by the secular world around him.

You say, "What does that have to do with anything? How is that practical? Pragmatic?" It was announced a little earlier that this is the last Sunday to nominate elders or deacons. What kind of elder or deacon do you nominate for leadership in a church? First Timothy 3:1-13 covers that, but in 1 Timothy 3:7 it says this:

"And he [the candidate for eldership] must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

The problem is, if you nominate someone who does not have a good reputation outside the church, then their character is open to further misalignment, and Satan will use that to attack church leadership through spreading innuendo, lies, rumors, defamation. Satan actually is going to have something to work with because that person does not have a good reputation outside the church.

We had a situation here (and I was not here when this happened, but some of our elders told me about it), where there was a guy that was nominated for eldership who was a nasty person related to his travel agent. He was known for berating his travel agent in public. So when his name came up as a potential elder for Sugar Land Bible Church, fortunately the elders at that time turned down that nomination, because he did not have a good reputation outside the church.

That is what I am seeing here with all of this weeping going on for Jacob, from not just the Hebrews, but the Egyptians. He was a man that was well regarded inside the Nation of Israel, and outside the Nation of Israel as well.

- II. Jacob's burial (4-14)
 - A. Joseph's request (4-5)
 - B. Request granted (6)
 - C. Funeral procession (7-9)
 - D. Arrival (10-11)
 - E. Jacob's burial (12-13)
 - F. Return to Egypt (14)

Then we come to Jacob's actual burial (Genesis 50:4-14), which will involve Joseph's request (Genesis 50:4-5). The request is granted (Genesis 50:6). A long funeral procession from Egypt to Canaan, not just by leadership of the Hebrews, but leadership of the Egyptians to bury Jacob in Canaan, which is about 250 miles away. They will arrive (Genesis 50:10-11); Jacob will be buried (Genesis 50:12-13); then they will return to Egypt (Genesis 50:14).

Then we are going to be coming up to that awesome verse in Genesis 50:20, where Joseph's brothers are afraid that he is going to turn on them because of what they did to him. He will say to them, "What you meant for evil, God used for good." It is a tremendous statement. Then Joseph, after giving those reassurances, will pass on and that will end the Book of Genesis.

Father, we are grateful for the Book of Genesis. Help us to stand and defend its integrity in these last days. Help us with the area of Spiritism—Occultism. Help us to live the kinds of lives where we are not opening doorways to things that we do not fully understand. Help us to walk circumspect and holy.

I pray for anyone, Lord, that may not know you personally. Maybe they are visiting, maybe they are listening online, maybe they are watching online, maybe they are watching or

listening to archives well, after the fact. I pray for them that today is the day of salvation, that the Holy Spirit would convict them of the most important decision that they need to make, which is to trust in the finished work of your Son.

I hope anyone hearing this message that does not know You personally would respond to that inner conviction by placing their trust completely into what You did 2,000 years ago for us, so that they can be saved; not looking at it as You did 90% and now we are going to kick in the remaining 10% through good works. We understand, Lord, that we are not saved by good works, but we are saved rather by the good work (singular) that You did for us 2,000 years ago.

I hope and pray that many people within the sound of my voice will be placing their faith in the Messiah—the finished work of Jesus Christ—so they can take care of the most important issue in their lives: their eternity with You. We ask and pray that You would do that great work, enlightening people to their need for trusting in the finished work of your Son, Jesus Christ.