

Date: August 23, 2026

Pastor: Asa Hart

Title: “The End of the Beginning”

Series: Genesis – Beginnings

Text: Genesis 50:15-26

Main point: *We can trust the Lord in life and death because He is good, sovereign, and faithful.*

I. The Lord is **Good**, so **Draw Near** to Him, vv. 15-21 (*see also Gen. 37:5-10; 49:23; Exod. 34:6-7; 1 Chr. 16:34; Ps. 25:8; 34:8; 100:5; Nah. 1:7; John 6:35-40; Heb. 4:14-16; 1 Jn. 1:5*)

II. The Lord is **Sovereign**, so **Trust** Him, vs. 19-21 (*see also Genesis 3:5; 45:5-7; Ps. 37:23; Is. 45:5-7; 46:8-13; Acts 2:23-24; Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:11; 1 Tim. 6:15-16*)

III. The Lord is **Faithful**, so **Rest** in His promises, vv. 22-26 (*see also Gen. 15:6, 14; 46:4; 48:21; Exod. 1:8; 3:16-17; 13:18-19; Josh. 24:32; Is. 53:10; Mark 12:18-27; Heb. 11:17-22*)

Questions for Reflection

1. Read Genesis 50:15-21. Why do the brothers fabricate this story about their dead father's request to Joseph? Why do they use a mediator to go before Joseph? Why does Joseph weep and how does that result in the brothers approaching him afterward? How do both Joseph and the brothers agree about how they treated Joseph? How does this help us think about reconciliation? In what ways might we be like the brothers when we approach the Lord when we sin? Read John 6:35-40. When you sin, are you more inclined to run to Christ or away from him? Why?

2. Read Genesis 3:5. What themes or words do we see in Genesis 3:5 that are repeated in 50:19-20. How does Joseph reject the Tempter's appeal? How are these words helpful to us when we struggle with God's providence in difficult seasons? Read Habakkuk 1:13 and Acts 2:23-24. Are our questions about God's providence in difficult seasons all that new? How are we helped by Joseph's example? How does the cross of Christ shape our understanding of God's sovereign goodness? Read Romans 8:28-30. How is God inviting you to trust him in this season of your life? How does this help us to suffer faithfully?

3. Read Genesis 50:22-26. What repetition do you see in this passage? Why is that repetition significant? What is Joseph expressing confidence in as he dies in this way? What gives Joseph such impressive confidence? Read Hebrews 11:17-22. How can we obtain that same confidence? Genesis began in a life-filled Garden in Eden and ends with bones in a coffin in Egypt. How does that set the table for God's big picture of redemption to unfold? What have you learned from our time in Genesis that has challenged or changed you?

4. Christ is speaking so that you might hear and in hearing you might turn to him, and in turning to him, he might heal you. What do you need to bring before him today?

NEXT WEEK: Acts 6:1-7, Andy McClellan

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