

BIBLE ENDINGS

(Part 1)

Introduction

- 1) **James 5:11** – “you have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen **the end** intended by the Lord – that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful”
- 2) We live in a realm of limited and finite time and space where we anticipate endings of those things that exist in this realm, even of our own lives
- 3) There are various endings in the Bible – ending of books, lives, and events
 - a) There are lessons to be learned as we contemplate and study various **Bible endings**

I) THE SEVENTH DAY OF CREATION (Gen. 1:31-2:1)

- A) All that God made was “very good” – characteristic of all of God’s works (Jas. 1:17)
- B) All was accomplished in six days, and God rested on the seventh day, which has become the end day of every week
 - 1) Man’s general evolutionary theory keeps evolving according to his theories, while God’s creative work was finished from the foundation of the world (Heb. 4:3)

II) LEAVING THE GARDEN OF EDEN (Gen. 2:9; 3:22-24)

- A) When man sinned, he was driven out of the garden of Eden and access to the tree of life ended
- B) All mankind is now subject to physical death, the end of earthly life (3:19)
- C) Sin separates man from God and from the true source of life and light (1 Jn. 1:5-6)

III) DEATH OF JOSEPH (Gen. 50:22-26)

- A) Found at the end of the book of Genesis; a time of sadness at the patriarch’s passing
- B) But Joseph speaks of the promise of God with unwavering hope and faith
- C) Gives instructions concerning his bones “by faith” (Heb. 11:22)
 - 1) His body was taken to the Promised Land (Ex. 13:19; Josh. 24:32)

IV) EXODUS FROM EGYPT (Ex. 12:40-42; 13:3, 18)

- A) After a sojourn in Egypt that included becoming slaves to the Egyptians, the children of Israel were led out by God’s power, ending their captivity and bondage
- B) God granted them freedom because of His promise to Abraham (Gen. 15:13-14)
- C) Man now finds freedom from the captivity of sin through Christ (Jn. 8:32-34; Rom. 6:6-7)

V) DEATH OF MOSES (Deut. 34)

- A) The death of Moses came at the end of the wilderness wanderings as Israel was preparing to enter the Promised Land – also the end of the Pentateuch/Torah (Five Books of Moses)
 - 1) Moses shown the Promised Land from Mt. Nebo (vv. 1-4); God’s grace allowed this even though he was not allowed to enter due to his sin at Meribah (Num. 20:11-12; Deut. 1:34-37; 3:25-27)
 - 2) His leadership ended and it was passed on to Joshua, and honor was given to the life and work of Moses – often when there is an ending, there is also a beginning. The work goes on!

Conclusion

These “endings” teach us to be filled with faith and trust in God whom we serve while we live. Let us remember and apply the lessons from these endings in the books of Moses.