

## The Bones That Still Speak

### Scripture Focus: Exodus 13:19

#### Introduction: Bones That Tell a Story

Bones are remarkable creations of God — living, structured, and symbolic. They are more than what holds us upright; they remind us of life, movement, and purpose. Even in Scripture, bones have a voice that speaks beyond the grave.

- **Number of Bones:** Babies are born with approximately 300 bones, but as they grow, many fuse together, leaving adults with about 206.
- **Most and Least Bones:** Over half of your bones are found in your hands and feet. Each hand has 27 bones, and each foot has 26. The smallest bone in the body is the *stapes*, located in the middle ear.
- **Longest and Strongest Bone:** The *femur* (thigh bone) is the longest and strongest bone in the body.
- **Unconnected Bone:** The *hyoid bone*, at the base of the tongue, is the only bone not connected to any other bone.
- **Living Tissue:** Bones are alive. They constantly rebuild themselves and produce red and white blood cells in the marrow.
- **Protection and Movement:** Our skeletons protect vital organs like the brain, heart, and lungs, while joints and muscles work together to allow movement.

Just as bones give structure to the body, the faith of God's people gives structure to their walk with Him.

One man, in particular, left behind bones that still speak — **Joseph**.

#### Joseph's Life: A Legacy of Faith

Joseph's life was one of **favor**, **faith**, and **faithfulness**.

**Hebrews 11:22** tells us:

“By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.”

Though Joseph died in Egypt, his heart was in Canaan. Even in death, Joseph preached a message of faith in God's promises.

Let's look closely at *the bones of Joseph* — bones that still speak today — and learn the timeless lessons they teach us.

## 1. The Bones That Teach Us About Confidence

### Genesis 50:24–25

“And Joseph said to his brethren, ‘I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.’ Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, ‘God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.’”

Joseph’s confidence wasn’t in himself, in Pharaoh, or in Egypt — but in God.

### A Reassuring Confidence

Joseph’s faith rested on the promises of God, not on the power of Egypt. He knew that God would keep His Word.

### Matthew 6:19–21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Faith finds security not in possessions, but in promises.

### A Remembered Covenant

Joseph recalled God’s covenant with Abraham:

### Genesis 15:13–16

“Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs... but afterward they shall come out with great possessions.”

Faith remembers what God has said — even when generations pass.

### 2 Peter 3:8–9 reminds us:

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise... but is longsuffering toward us.”

### A Remarkable Certainty

Notice Joseph’s words — he did not say *if* God visits you, but *when*.

We must never place a **question mark** where God places a **period**.

### Numbers 23:19

“God is not a man, that He should lie... Has He said, and will He not do?”

True faith stands on the certainty of God’s Word.

**Hebrews 4:2** tells us that faith must mix with the Word to profit us.

## **2. The Bones That Teach Us About Character**

### **Genesis 50:25–26**

“Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, ‘God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.’ So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.”

Joseph’s character was marked by faith that outlived him.

### **A Personal Request**

“Carry up my bones...”

Joseph made his testimony clear to the next generation.

### **Psalms 78:4**

“We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD...”

He left behind a faith worth following.

### **A Perpetual Reminder**

His bones became a **sermon in a coffin**.

Every time Israel saw that box of bones, they remembered God’s promise.

### **Hebrews 11:13**

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off...”

### **A Powerful Responsibility**

For forty years, Israel carried Joseph’s bones through the wilderness.

Faith always leaves something for others to carry — not a burden, but a blessing.

### **Psalms 112:1–2**

“Blessed is the man who fears the LORD... His descendants will be mighty on earth.”

What will you leave behind — a testimony of faith or a trail of doubt?

## **3. The Bones That Teach Us About Completion**

### **Joshua 24:32**

“The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem...”

Joseph’s final resting place testified that God finishes what He starts.

## **A Faithful Journey**

From Egypt to Canaan, Joseph's bones kept moving. God's Word always reaches its destination.

### **Isaiah 55:10–11**

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth... It shall not return to Me void.”

## **A Final Resting Place**

Joseph's bones found rest in the Promised Land — proof that God keeps His word.

### **Philippians 1:6**

“He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

## **A Future Revelation**

Faith in God's promises always leads to future reward.

### **Romans 4:20–21**

“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief... being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”

Joseph never saw Canaan in life, but his faith carried him there in death.

The same God who carried Joseph's bones will carry *you* — through this life and into eternity.

## **Conclusion: When Bones Preach**

When Joseph died, all he left behind was a box of bones — but those bones preached louder than any sermon.

They declared a God who **delivers**, **develops**, and **deploys** His people — and who always **finishes what He begins**.

The question for us today is simple:

**When you're gone, will your “bones” — your testimony — still speak of faith?**

## **Reflection & Application**

### **Confidence**

- Where is my faith resting today?
- Am I trusting in what I can see and control, or in what God has spoken?

### **Character**

- What kind of faith legacy am I leaving behind?
- When others look at my life, do they see enduring faith or fading faith?

### **Completion**

- Do I believe that what God started, He will finish?
- Where in my life do I need to renew confidence that God will complete His work?

### **Prayer of Response**

#### **Heavenly Father,**

I come before You today in humble gratitude, thankful that You are a God who keeps His promises. Just as You remembered Joseph in Egypt and fulfilled Your Word to bring Israel home, we know You are faithful to complete the good work You have begun in me through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, teach me to live with **Joseph's confidence** — not in myself, not in my possessions, not in the systems of this world, but in the unchanging promises of Your Word. Forgive me when my faith wavers, when we try to take control of what belongs in Your hands. Help me to rest in the truth that You will surely abide with me — that Your presence and Your plan never fail.

Give me a mind that **remembers Your covenant**, even when the years are long and the waiting is hard. Remind me that Your timing is perfect and Your promises are sure. May I never place a question mark where You have placed a period.

Father, strengthen my **character** so that my life becomes a living testimony to those who come after me. Let my children, my family, and my church see in me a faith that endures through trial and triumph alike. Just as Joseph left behind a box of bones that testified to his faith, may I leave behind a legacy that points others to Your faithfulness and grace.

Help me carry the “bones” of faith through the wilderness seasons of life — not as a burden, but as a blessing. May my obedience today strengthen the faith of future generations tomorrow.

And Lord, help me to walk in **confidence of completion**. You are not a God who starts and forgets — You are the Alpha and the Omega. What You begin, You will bring to pass. So when the journey feels long, when the finish line seems far, remind me that You are still moving me toward Your promises.

Father, I thank You that in Christ, our eternal Canaan is already secure. Just as You carried Joseph's bones to the Promised Land, You will carry me safely home to glory. Until that day, keep me faithful, steadfast, and filled with hope.

Let my faith speak — even when my words fall silent. Let my life preach — even after I am gone. May the testimony of my obedience echo through the generations and declare that my God is worthy of trust, worthy of worship, and worthy of my all.

I pray all this in the strong and saving name of **Jesus Christ**, who was faithful unto death and now lives forevermore.

**Amen.**

Serm