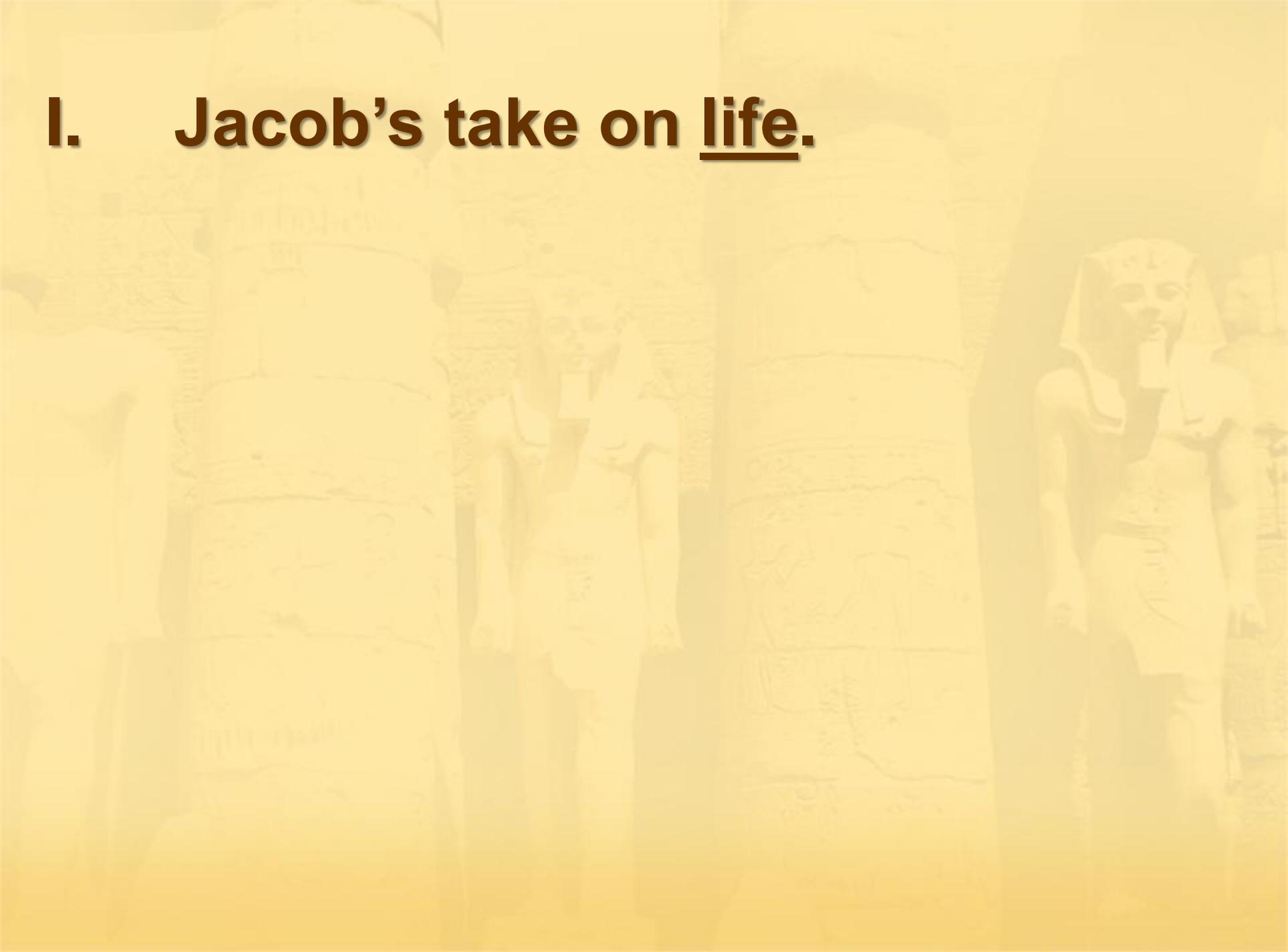
The background of the slide features a photograph of an ancient Egyptian temple interior. It shows several large, light-colored stone columns with hieroglyphs and papyrus-bundle capitals. Between the columns stand several statues of female figures, likely goddesses or queens, wearing traditional Egyptian attire including a headdress and a long dress. The scene is brightly lit, casting shadows on the stone surfaces.

Life, Work & Death

(Genesis 47)

I. Jacob's take on life.



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- Life is a journey (temporary).

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- Life is short.

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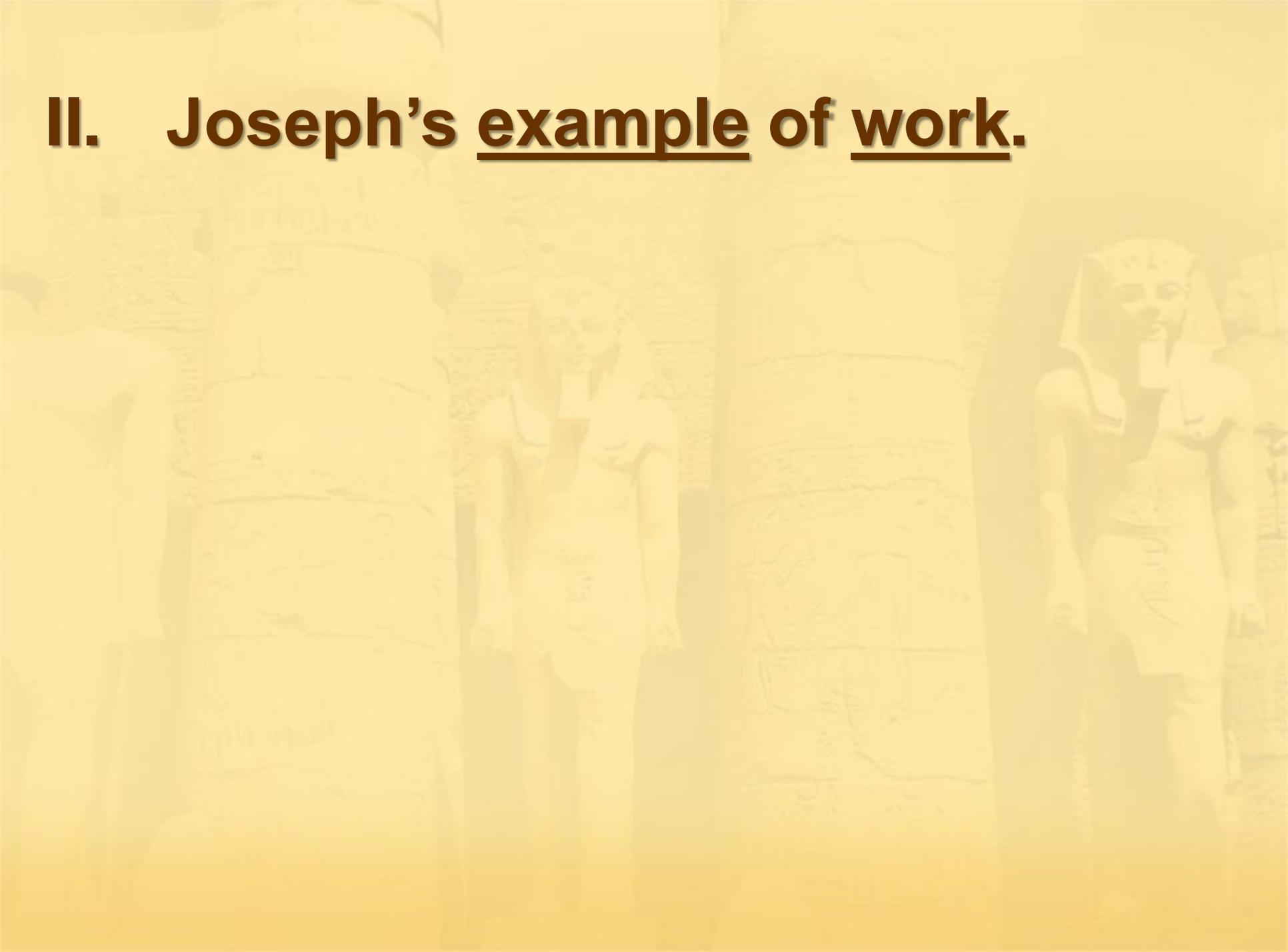
- Life is a journey (temporary).
- Life is short.
- Life is hard.

Psalm 90:10

¹⁰ As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is *but* labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away.

“Jacob was sovereign old age personified, unimpressed by rank, he cares nothing about court ceremonies – this king (the Pharaoh) has encountered the father of promise and the promise bearer held court.” – D. Kidner

II. Joseph's example of work.



“Some men do their lifework as if every joint were stiff with rheumatism, or as if they were exuding some adhesive viscus, making their snail progress as painful as it is slow. Others are somnambulists, looking for something and forgetting what they seek; not able to find their tools; always late, taking their passage when the ship has sailed; insuring their furniture when the house is in flames; locking the door when the horse is gone. Beware of imitating any of these. First choose a pursuit, however humble, into which you can rightly throw your energy, and then put into it all your forces. Make the most of your time....be methodical...be prompt...be energetic.”

- F. B. Meyer

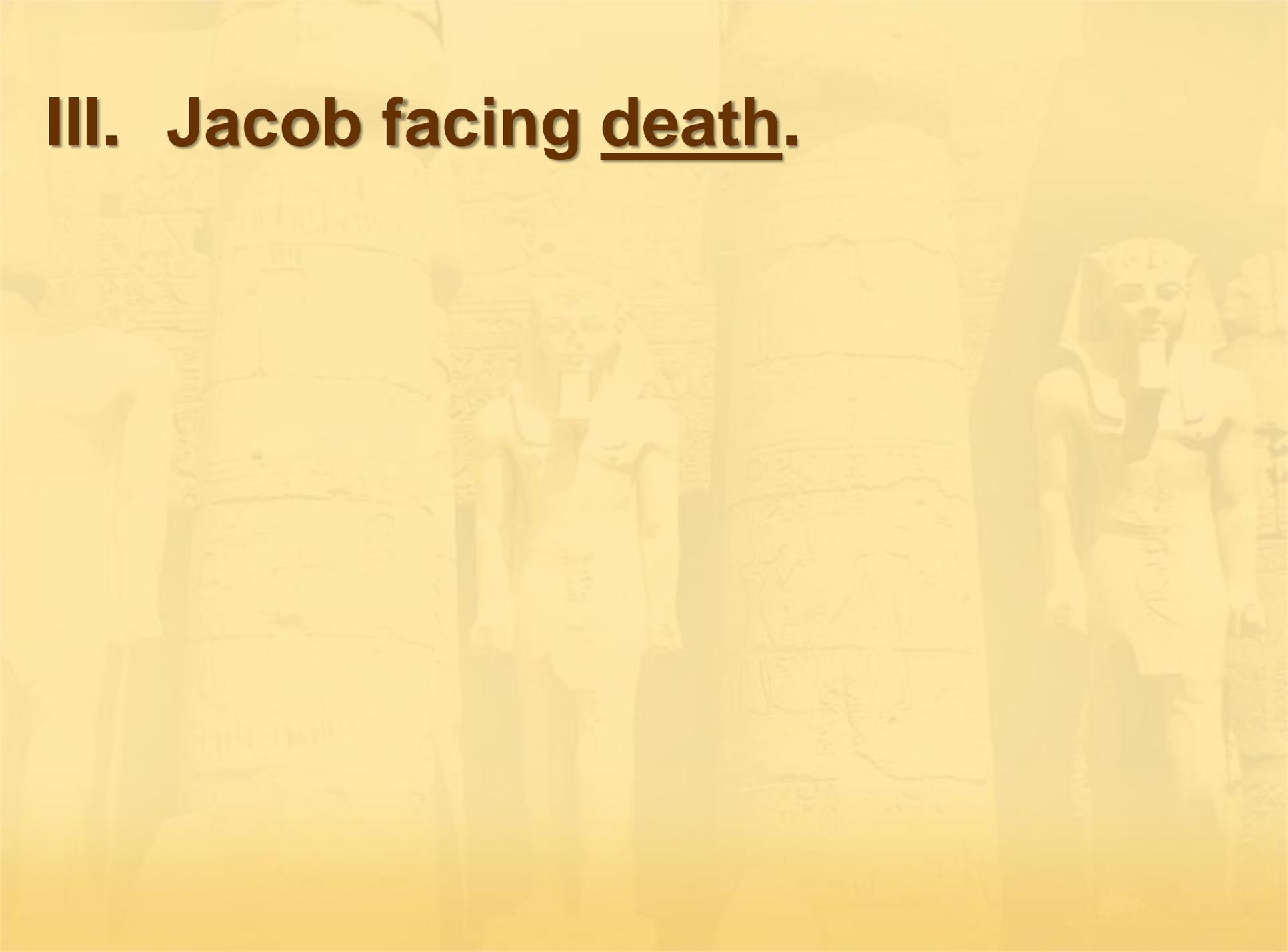
Main Thing

- Joseph's task points us to the providence of God and the infinite wisdom of God in how He works His plan.

Romans 11:33

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

III. **Jacob facing death.**



“At the close of chapter 47, after seventeen years in Goshen, Jacob is on his deathbed. He’s been talking about dying for years, especially during those depressing years after the disappearance of Joseph, his favorite son. He reminds me of the hypochondriac who was always complaining he was sick and found no sympathy from his family, who were frankly bored with his complaints. When he eventually died, he had arranged with the undertaker to have these words carved on his headstone: ‘I told you I was sick’!

This time Jacob really is sick and dying yet in a remarkable way this ranks alongside his blessing of Pharaoh as one of the greatest moments in his life. Sometimes people bear witness as much in their dying as they did in their lives. Somehow their whole life's work is focused as they lie dying and they are able to make an impact for God even on their deathbed. I rather think we should pray from time to time that we would die well. What I mean is that, when dying, we should pray that our faith would shine brightly and that we would witness a good confession to our risen Savior." – L. Goligher

III. Jacob facing death.

- Models how to die in faith, anchored in promise.