

Genesis Study—Final Days, Blessings of the 12 Sons

Genesis 48-50

- 1. Jacob's remembers God's promise---God Almighty appeared to me at Luz:** Luz is another name for _____, where Jacob first met God. Jacob vividly remembered this outstanding encounter with the LORD. **Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you:** Jacob's phrasing is reminiscent of exact promises God made to Abraham in Genesis 17 (see Genesis 17:2, 17:6, and 17:8). Abraham was careful to pass down the exact words of God's covenant with him to the inheritors of the covenant, because the exact words of God were important.
- 2. Jacob adopts Joseph's sons as his own.** "And now your two sons, **Ephraim and Manasseh**, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. Jacob receives the two sons of Joseph as adopted into the family at the _____ (as if they were the first and second born). And, perhaps, they are _____ for Reuben and Simeon, who were in a sense disqualified from positions of status and leadership in Israel's family because of _____ (Genesis 34:25, 35:22). There is no tribe _____ listed except in Revelation 7. The 12 tribes are listed in various combos (20).
- 3. The Number 12 is often associated with government or administration in God's eyes.** There are 12 tribes, 12 apostles, 12 princes of Ishmael, 12 pillars on Moses' altar, 12 stones on the high priest's breastplate, 12 cakes of showbread, 12 silver platters, silver bowls, and gold pans for the service of the tabernacle, 12 spies to search out the land, 12 memorial stones, 12 governors under Solomon, 12 stones in Elijah's altar, 12 in each group of musicians and singers for Israel's worship, 12 hours in a day, 12 months in a year, 12 Ephesian men filled with the Holy Spirit, 12,000 from 12 tribes sealed and preserved through the tribulation, heaven has 12 gates of 12 pearls, and 12 angels at the gates, the New Jerusalem has 12 foundations, each with the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb, its length, breadth, and height are all 12,000 furlongs, and the tree of life in heaven has 12 fruits. The number 12 is special to God.
- 4. Jacob blesses Manasseh and Ephraim.** "Who are these?" "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!"

>**He bowed down with his face to the earth:** Joseph lived his own life as a high official of Egypt for many years, and had no contact with his father during that time. Yet it has not diminished the _____ he has towards his father.
- 5. Jacob puts the favored hand on the second-born, despite Joseph's efforts.**
Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand: The **right hand** in the Bible always has the idea of the _____ because generally speaking, the right hand is the hand of strength and skill and God's strength (Exodus 15:6), favor (Psalm 16:11), and help (Psalm 20:6). see Mark 14:62

>This was fulfilled in Israel's history. Both tribes were blessed, but Ephraim was greater as a tribe, even to the point where the name "Ephraim" was used to refer to the whole _____ of Israel (see examples in Isaiah 7:8, 7:17, and 11:13). Jeremiah 31:9 describes this: *For I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn* (Jeremiah 31:9). **Why did Joseph try to correct Jacob? idea of firstborn** David had the position of firstborn, even though he was the youngest son (1 Samuel 16:11 and Psalm 89:27). First born does not mean _____!

6. **The God who has fed me all my life long to this day:** Jacob's testimony was a testimony of grace, not personal merit. He was not saying how faithful he was to God, but how faithful God was to him.
>The phrase, "**the God who has fed me**" is literally "The God who has shepherded me." This is the first mention in the Bible of God as a _____ to His people.

7. **One portion above your brothers:** This refers to Joseph being father of _____
>**Which I took from the hand of the Amorite:** Apparently, while still in Canaan, Jacob battled for control of a portion of land from the Amorites. he deeded the land to Joseph/descendants.

8. Joseph as a picture of Jesus (list continued from the end of Genesis 41).

35. His brethren were driven out of their own land.
36. In his second appearing, he did not first go to his brothers; they came to him.
37. He knew his brethren even while unknown and unrecognized by them.
38. He blessed his brethren without their knowledge.
39. He wanted *all* of his brethren to come to him.
40. There was significant time gap between his initial relationship w/ his brothers & his second relationship to his brothers.
41. He his brothers a way of deliverance through substitution.
42. His "2nd coming" to his brothers had 2 appearances--made himself known to his brethren at his 2nd appearing to them.
43. He was revealed as a man of compassion.
44. His brothers repented of rejecting him, with great wonder and tears.
45. He allowed no fellowship (as in eating together) until his brothers repented and he revealed himself.
46. His brethren went forth to proclaim his glory.
47. He made provision for his brethren.
48. He prepared a place for his brethren, and he received them into it.
49. He brought Jew and Gentile together in the land.

9. Summary of Blessings/Statements to the Sons of Jacob--Jacob called his sons

What shall befall you in the last days: Some of these are not so much "blessings" as they are prophecies regarding what God will do with these tribes in the future. First prophecies by a _____.

Reuben: **You shall not excel.** Reuben's immorality with his father's concubine Bilhah (the mother of his brothers Dan and Naphtali) is recorded in Genesis 35:22. He was also unstable. The tribe of Reuben never did excel. No prophet, no judge, or no king came from the tribe of Reuben. Reuben is a great example of how the _____ (Matthew 19:30).

Simeon and Levi: **I will . . . scatter them in Israel.** The second-born son Simeon and the third-born son Levi received the same "blessing" for the same evil deed. They were **instruments of cruelty** when they wiped out all the men of Shechem in retaliation for the rape of their sister Dinah (Genesis 34:25-29). The sins of our past can come back and haunt us. Even when forgiven, they may carry consequences we must face for a lifetime. They had serious _____! The Bible speaks of a godly anger (*Be angry and do not sin*, Ephesians 4:26) and an ungodly anger (*Let all bitterness, wrath, anger . . . be put away from you*, Ephesians 4:31). Often, the difference between a godly, righteous anger and an ungodly anger is *self-will*.

Judah: **The scepter shall not depart from Judah.** Judah started badly but ended well. He is the tribe that Jesus will come from (Rev. 5:5) **You are he whom your brothers shall praise . . . as a lion . . . the scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet . . . to Him shall be the obedience of the people:** Each of these refer to the *ruling* position Judah will have among his brethren. He inherited the leadership aspect of the _____
"The firstborn normally had two rights. First, he became the leader of the family, the new patriarch. Second, he was entitled to a double share of the inheritance, receiving twice as much as any of the other brothers." (Boice)

Until Shiloh comes: The "leadership" prophecy took some _____ to fulfill in part (with the reign of David, first of Judah's dynasty of kings), and some _____ to fulfill in Jesus. Jesus is referred to as **Shiloh**, the name meaning, "He whose right it is" and a title anciently understood to speak of the _____.

Zebulun: A haven for ships. Jacob now skipped the birth order, moving to the tenth-born and ninth-born sons, but staying with the sons born of _____. Jesus lineage is thru Leah not Rachel. The tribe of Zebulun was noted for its faithfulness to David, supplying the largest number of soldiers to David's army of any single tribe: *of Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks* (1 Chronicles 12:33).

Issachar: A strong donkey. Issachar was a large tribe - third in size according to the Numbers 26 census. Because of their size and abundance, they were often targets of oppressive foreign armies who put them into servitude. Thus, they **became a _____**. "The meaning seems to be that Issachar was strong, but docile and lazy.

Dan: A serpent by the way-- But Dan was a troublesome tribe. They introduced idolatry into Israel (Jud. 18:30). Jeroboam set up one of his idolatrous golden calves in Dan (1 Kings 12:26-30) and later Dan became a center of idol worship in Israel (Amos 8:14). Some think the **serpent by the way** refers to the idea that the Antichrist comes from the tribe of Dan (based on Daniel 11:37 and Jeremiah 8:16).

Dan shall judge his people: The tribe of Dan did **judge his people**. They supplied one of the most prominent of the Judges, _____ (Judges 13:2).

Gad: He shall triumph at last. The tribe of Gad supplied many fine _____ for David (1 Chron.12:14). **A troop shall tramp upon him:** In the days of Jeremiah (among other times) foreign armies oppressed Gad (Jeremiah 49:1).

Asher: He shall yield royal dainties. In Deuteronomy 33:24, Moses again took up this prophecy regarding Asher: *Asher is most blessed of sons; let him be favored by his brothers, and let him dip his foot in oil.*

Naphtali: He gives goodly words. Naphtali's land was in a key portion near the _____, the region where Jesus did much of His teaching and ministry. It is fittingly said of him that **he gives goodly words**. see (Matthew 4:12-16).

Joseph: A fruitful bough. This is more of an accounting of his life and a personal blessing. In a sense, Joseph's tribes were already blessed when his sons received their blessing in Genesis 48. **The archers have bitterly grieved him:** Though Joseph was **shot at** and **hated**, he was still a **fruitful bough**. This is because **the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob**. The idea is that God's hands were on Joseph's hands, giving him strength and skill to work the bow expertly. God was there, even when Joseph did not know it.

The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors: Jacob could say this because he was, for much of his life, a scoundrel. Now, at the end of his days, he saw just how good God was to him. He was _____ and _____ (Luke 7:47).

The Mighty God of Jacob: In his words about Joseph, Jacob listed five great titles for God. These titles show that Jacob did come to an understanding of who God is---**The Mighty God of Jacob, The Shepherd, The Stone of Israel, The God of your father, and The Almighty**

>This is much better than when Jacob referred to God as *the God of Abraham* or *the Fear of his father Isaac* (Genesis 31:53). Now he knows who God is for *himself*.

Benjamin: **a ravenous wolf**. This was the tribe with a reputation for fierceness. To see the great extent of this, look at Ehud (Judges 3:15-23), Saul (1 Samuel 9:1, 14:47-52), and Paul (Acts 8:1-3). The cruelty of the tribe in general is seen in Judges 19 and 20.

And he blessed them: Some of the things mentioned regarding these tribes may seem a bit cloudy, but only because we may not know _____ their fulfillment until the age to come.

10. Jacob's death

Bury me with my fathers: Though Jacob is now in Egypt, he knew he was not an Egyptian. He was a son of the promise, heir of God's covenant with Abraham, he will be buried in the land promised to Abraham by covenant.

In the cave that is in the field of Machpelah: Egypt was filled with magnificent tombs, and because of the respect Jacob had he could have been buried like a Pharaoh. But he wanted to be buried in an obscure cave in Canaan, because Canaan was the land of promise.

The Egyptians mourned him seventy days: Jacob was mourned for 70 days by the whole nation of Egypt. A *royal* mourning period in Egypt = 72 days. Jacob was obviously a _____ man. Jacob's body is brought to Canaan, and he is buried next to Leah, the wife who blessed him with his first four sons. This was a dramatic burial. The entire clan gathered together to pay tribute to this man who was the last link with the patriarchs. The life of this man's grandfather overlapped with the _____.

11. Joseph comforts his brothers' fears. What were the brothers fearful of?

12. What BIG story did the brothers tell Joseph?
What was Joseph's response?

13. The death of Joseph. Joseph is still in Egypt, but his heart was in Canaan.

God will surely visit you and bring you out of this land to the land which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob: Joseph was the human agent most responsible for bringing this family to Egypt. Yet he knew that because of the covenant God had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, this would not be their resting place. They were headed back to Canaan.

He was put in a coffin in Egypt: According to this passage and Hebrews 11:22, Joseph was never buried. His coffin laid aboveground for the _____ until it was taken back to Canaan. It was a silent witness for all those years that Israel was going back to the Promised Land, just as God said.

You shall carry up my bones from here: This promise was fulfilled some 400 years later, when Israel left Egypt (Exodus 13:19) This command showed that Joseph's heart was in the Promised Land. It also proved him to be a man of great faith, trusting in things not yet seen (Hebrews 11:22).

Joseph died looking forward to God's unfolding plan of redemption, and that is where the Book of Genesis - the Book of Beginnings - ends. It concludes looking forward to the continuation of God's eternal, loving, wise plan. AMEN!