

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Faith & Blessing"
Genesis 48:1-22
Study-78

Apostle Paul: Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

The Bible is a book of life that records death. God said Genesis 2:17

Hebrews 9:27 it is appointed for men to die once

Hebrews 11:21 Jacob's faith in God's covenant promises and Holy Spirit's leading

Hebrews 11 (hall of faith chapter) makes clear that one of the greatest acts of faith in Jacob's life was on his deathbed.

Genesis 47-50 The Final Days Of Jacob And Joseph:

**The Bible records the deaths of God's people.
The Bible's longest recorded death is that of Jacob.
God designates three chapters. Genesis 47- 49**

Thought Of Our Passage: "Through Eyes Of Faith, The Believer Can See God's Blessings In The Past, Present, And For The Future."

- 1. Verses 1-4 Seeing God's Past Blessings:**
- 2. Verses 5-7 Seeing God's Present Blessings:**
- 3. Verses 8-22 Seeing God's Future Blessings:**

1. Verses 1-4 Seeing God's Past Blessings:

Genesis 48:1 Now it came about after these things
Context - What things are being referred to? **Genesis 47:27-31**

Genesis 48:1 Joseph was told, "Behold, your father is sick."
(Possibly a few months had passed)

So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him.
Death is part of life

Genesis 48:2 Israel (*spiritual name – "governed by God"*) **collected his strength and sat up in the bed.** Or "*leaned on his staff*"

Genesis 48:3 Then Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty
Notice the first words out of his mouth! ("**God**" used 8 times)
"God Almighty El Shadi
"The all powerful One" "The mighty One"

appeared to me at Luz this is the old name for **Bethel, Genesis 28:19**

first time we see Jacob using God's name was when he was deceiving his father into believing that he was Esau instead of Jacob. **Genesis 27:20**
Verse 11, 15, 16, 20, 21

**His whole life, in the end, is consumed with God.
God is in his heart and on his lips.
This is the sustaining force in Jacob's life.**

**Notice that it is God who has blessed him!
and blessed me,
Six times "blessed"**

Verses - 3,9,15,16,20 first encounter with God.
Genesis 28:13-15, 20 years later, **Genesis 35:6-13**

Genesis 48:4 and He said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and numerous,

**In Old Age, We Can Look Back In Pride.
In Old Age, We Can Look Back In Bitterness.**

**I want to end my days like Jacob, giving glory to God and not being
prideful or bitter.**

2. Verses 5-7 Seeing God's Present Blessings:

Genesis 48:5 are mine;
Jacob adopts two sons of Joseph
Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are.

Ephraim – "*Double Fruitful*"
Jacob, the youngest of Isaac, received the blessing, so now Ephraim, the youngest, receives the blessing. **1 Chronicles 5:1-2**

and Manasseh – "*Causing me to forget*" the older of the brothers.
Rueben was disqualified for his sinful life. The blessing is now doubled for Joseph.

Genesis 48:6 "But your offspring that have been born after them shall be yours;

Genesis 48:7 (Seeing Joseph now reminds Jacob of his wife Rachel)

Rachel died, to my sorrow
Rachel is brought up because her early death prevented Jacob from having more children. Jacob will adopt **Ephraim and Manasseh**

There is no bitterness in his life. It has been maybe 35 years. **Genesis 35:16-19**
No bitterness in his life, there was sorrow but no bitterness!
(Believer lives by faith not explanations)

3. Verses 8-22 Seeing God's Future Blessings:

Genesis 48:8 When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?"
Notice how the eyes of Jacob were failing to the point that he could not recognize

Genesis 48:9 my sons, whom God has given me here."

Notice that children are given to us from God!

Psalm 127:3 children are a gift of the LORD,

Genesis 48:10 eyes of Israel were so dim from age that he could not see. His physical eyes were bad, but his spiritual discernment was strong.
2 Corinthians 4:16

Genesis 48:11 God has let me see your children as well."

Jacob's gratitude to God!

12 Then Joseph took them from his knees,

They were born before Jacob came to Egypt. So they were 18-20 years old.

Ephesians 3:20

Genesis 48:13 Manasseh was the eldest so he would be on Jacob's right.

Genesis 48:14

But Jacob did a switch and placed his right hand on the younger son Ephraim

Genesis 48:15 been my shepherd "to feed, to pasture"

This is the **1st Time we see the Lord referred to as a Shepherd. (Psalm 23)** It was Jacob not David that first saw God as a shepherd.

all my life to this day, I love these words. God has always been my shepherd.

Genesis 48:16 The angel (messenger) – Is a reference to a Christophany or a Theophany, which was an appearance of Jesus in the OT.

redeemed me from all evil – 1st Time we see the phrase Redeemed Me.

Note its connection is with the Christophany or a Theophany, work of Jesus is redemption.

may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

God's promise to Israel.

Genesis 48:17-18

Joseph thought that what his father Jacob was doing was wrong (Poor Eyesight).

We need to be careful that what we are displeased with is not what the Lord is doing.

Genesis 48:19 "I know, my son, I know; A great lesson that God blesses who He wills: God's providential grace.

Ephraim would become greater in numbers starting in **Numbers 1:32-35** and known as the Northern Kingdom (931-722 BC) **Isaiah 7:2,5,8-9;**

Hosea 9:13;12:1,8 (Ephraim was used for "Northern Kingdom)

Jeroboam was an Ephraimite who led the rebellion **1 Kings 11:26**

Divine Side: God can do what He pleases, and it is always just and right! Because He is God.

Human Side: That if we reject God, we are fully responsible for our eternal destiny. **1 Corinthians 1:27**

Genesis 48:20 "By you Israel will pronounce blessing, saying, 'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh!' These grandsons would be included in the 12 tribes

Verses 21-22 Joseph's Double Blessing:
Genesis 48:21 but God will be with you

Dependence Upon God: God will be with you

1. **When Jacob ran from his brother God came to him at Bethel**
Genesis 28:15
2. **20 years later as Jacob was being sent by God back to Canaan**
Genesis 31:3
3. **In his latter years Jacob Genesis 35:3 has been with me wherever I have gone."**

and bring you (*Plural in Hebrew, meaning Israel*)

Joseph repeats **Genesis 50:24**

Genesis 48:22 "I give you one portion more than your brothers,
(Double The Blessing)

which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."

This could refer to Jacob's absence for a time. **Genesis 35:4-5** when he returned, an Amorite had taken possession of his land, so he took it back by force. **Philippians 3:20**

Application:

1. When We Look Back In Time In Our Lives, Do We See God As Being Really Faithful? Even In Those Times When We Took Matters Into Our Own Hands, Did We See That God Remained Faithful To His Promises?
2. Jacob's Wife, Rachel, Had Died, Preventing Jacob From Having More Sons. God Revealed To Jacob That Through Their Son Joseph, God Had Blessed Him With Two Grandsons That Jacob Could Adopt As His Own.
3. As Jacob Looked To The Future, He Saw God As His Shepherd Who Had Cared For Him And Would Always Care For Him. He Saw God As His Redeemer Who Had Redeemed Him From All Evil.