

“The Blessings (Part 1)”  
Genesis 48

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vv. 1-2 Context =

- A.
1. Joseph has come to see his father who is \_\_\_\_\_ (and dying).
  2. He brings with him his two sons: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

vv. 3-4 Q. What did Israel do?

- A.
1. Jacob recounts his \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
  2. Jacob restates the \_\_\_\_\_ that God made with him.

v. 5 Q. What does Israel promise Joseph?

- A. Jacob \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph's sons – his grandsons – as his own son's essentially giving Joseph a \_\_\_\_\_ of the divine inheritance [instead of Rueben]. Joseph would not be given land nor would the Levites as a future priesthood.

Note: Ephraim would be the \_\_\_\_\_ given to the northern ten tribes under the split with Rehoboam (Solomon's son).

v. 6 Q. What further explanation does Israel give?

A. If you have any more children, they shall be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ as yours – your children whose inheritance shall be  
in \_\_\_\_\_. I.e., the \_\_\_\_\_ born will be the \_\_\_\_\_  
born.

v. 7 Q. What does Israel recount and why?

A. Jacob recounts the \_\_\_\_\_ of Joseph's mother, Rachel,  
because he was in \_\_\_\_\_ when she died and did not know  
what became of her.

Rashi has a fuller explanation which is intriguing.

“AND I BURIED HERE THERE and did not carry her even the short  
distance to Bethlehem to bring her into a city. I know that in your  
heart you feel some \_\_\_\_\_ against me. Know,  
however, that I buried her there by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God”.  
And the future proved that God had commanded him to do this in  
order that she might help her \_\_\_\_\_ when Nebuzaradan  
would take them into captivity.

“For when they were passing along that road Rachel came forth  
from her \_\_\_\_\_ and stood by her tomb \_\_\_\_\_  
and beseeching mercy for them, as it is said, (Jeremiah 31:15) “A  
voice is heard in Rama, [the sound of weeping ... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ for her children]”, and the Holy One, blessed  
be He, replied to her (v. 16) “There is a \_\_\_\_\_ for thy work,  
says the Lord etc. (v. 17) for thy children will return to their own  
border”.

v. 8 Q. Why does Israel ask this? Cf v. 10.

A. His \_\_\_\_\_ were failing.

v. 9 Q. What is Israel's intent?

A. To \_\_\_\_\_ Manasseh and Ephraim.

v. 10 Q. Israel is described as being....

A.

1. Failing \_\_\_\_\_ because of age.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Note: We really don't see this \_\_\_\_\_ side of Jacob, especially with his other children, except for here.

v. 11 Q. How was Israel blessed?

A. He was able to see his \_\_\_\_\_ again but also the \_\_\_\_\_ from that son.

vv. 12-13 Q. Describe what Joseph did with his children to prepare them for the blessings?

A.

1. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ his children from the knees of his father. This indicates that they are still \_\_\_\_\_ children.

2. Joseph, all though second in command in Egypt, still shows \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to his father by bowing before him.

3. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ his children according to birth \_\_\_\_\_ to Jacob's appropriate hands: right to the first born, left to the second born.

v. 14 Q. What countercultural action did Israel do and why?

A. Jacob \_\_\_\_\_ his hands and gave the greater blessing to the younger and not the firstborn.

vv. 15-16 a Notice who is blessed. Q. What does this mean?

A. Although Manasseh and Ephraim are being blessed, the Scripture tells us that \_\_\_\_\_ is the one being blessed. We know that when our \_\_\_\_\_ are declared blessed, it blesses us as \_\_\_\_\_.

Q. Describe the God he is invoking for the blessing?

A.

1. The God in whom Abraham and Isaac \_\_\_\_\_ faithfully.
2. The God who has been Jacob's \_\_\_\_\_ all his life to the present.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ who delivered him from all harm.

Note: \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are the same.

v. 16b Q. What was included in the blessing?

A.

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

From this point forward, God will choose to \_\_\_\_\_ Himself with the covenant language of, "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

vv. 17-18 Q. How did Joseph respond?

A. Joseph wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ about the violation of culture norms. Perhaps he thought his father was \_\_\_\_\_ in his old age.

v. 19 Q. How did Israel respond?

A. Jacob was not \_\_\_\_\_. Instead, he was offering a \_\_\_\_\_ word about the two boys. Ephraim would be the greater and more prominent of the two.

Note: Historically, \_\_\_\_\_ was split into two geographically upon entering the Promised Land. Half of the trip elected not to go in but to remain on the other side of the Jordan. Hence, never really becoming a sizable or \_\_\_\_\_ tribe. (Num. 32)

Note: \_\_\_\_\_ was from the tribe of Ephraim. (Joshua 24:30)

v. 20 Q. What was the final blessing?

A. That Joseph's sons would \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ blessing of the house of Jacob.

vv. 21-22 Q. What does he remind Joseph of (continued blessing)?

A.

1. He is about to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God's \_\_\_\_\_ will be with you.
3. You (Joseph) will \_\_\_\_\_ home.
4. He gives Joseph some personal \_\_\_\_\_ associated with his personal \_\_\_\_\_ over God's enemies.

Application Questions:

Q. Why is it important to pass down God's promises/blessings?

A.

Q. Joseph had everything the world could offer. Why would he want to go home? How does this connect with modern followers of Jesus?

A.