Joseph

“Crossing his hands”
Genesis 48, 49

Week Seven // 2026-11-08 // Pastor Joel

Think of a child you love.

What do you hope is true for them when they’re your age?

Genesis 47:27-31— Jacob Nears Death

- Joseph puts his hand under Jacob’s thigh was a way of signifying an oath
- This oath is a way of ensuring the generations later will return to the Promised Land



Genesis 48:1-7 - Jacob still nears death

- Read Gen 48:1-7
- *At 147 years old, Jacob prepares for his final days on earth*
- The firstborn blessing goes to Joseph and his sons
  - Not with trickery!
- Why does Jacob bring up Rachel?

Genesis 48:8-22 - Blessing Joseph's Sons

- *What is this practice of family blessings?*
- In scripture:
  - Public declaration of God's favor upon a person's life
  - Not just declaring but bestowing the power and blessing of God
    - The blessings of the patriarchs guided them in their lives (by faith)

Genesis 49 - Blessing the Sons

- These are blessings that are tied to *people* but also to *tribes*
- It’d be helpful to talk a bit about the tribes of Israel before getting into the blessing

Genesis 49 - 12 Tribes

- Israel's story finds its fulfillment in Christ, the faithful Israelite who does what the nation couldn't
  - "Out of Egypt I called my son" (Hosea 11:1, quoted in Mt 2:15)
- "Israelite" or "Hebrew" for the Old Testament people, "Jew" for the later people, and "Israeli" for a citizen of the modern state

Genesis 49 - 12 Tribes

- There’s one people of God, not two plans
  - Paul’s single olive tree has natural branches and grafted ones (Ro 11:17–24), and Christ has broken down the dividing wall (Eph 2:14)
- The church doesn’t replace Israel. Israel is fulfilled in Christ, so that Gentiles become Abraham’s offspring (Gal 3:29)
  - Paul also warns against Gentile boasting: “remember it is not you who support the root” (Ro 11:18)

Genesis 49 - 12 Tribes

- God hasn’t rejected his people
  - Paul grieves over his kinsmen (Ro 9:1–5) and insists “the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable” (Ro 11:29)
  - The Jewish people are still “beloved for the sake of their forefathers” (Ro 11:28)
- Abraham was looking for “a better country, a heavenly one” (Hebrews 11:16)

Genesis 49 - Blessings

- Read Genesis 49:1-27, pausing after each blessing
- We'll us *Meant for Good* to answer questions