

Chapter 48

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 48 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class

In the mist of hatred, betrayal, and loss, Joseph kept his eyes on God. He named his first child Manasseh; which means causing to forget. And he named his second child Ephraim; which means double fruit. **Joseph counted his blessings not all his troubles.**

Count your blessing not your troubles.

1. Find two verses that have strengthened you in the past; or that you need right now to find strength and God's peace. Take the time to pray and read through those Scripture verses. Give thanks to God for His love grace and mercy.

God is still speaking forth His promises, reminding us He is faithful.

Let God alone strengthen your faith through your trials. Be still before the Lord and let Him search your heart. If He shows you that you have placed your faith in anyone or anything else repent and ask for forgiveness. Take the time to praise and thank Him for His faithfulness.

2. Look up the following verses.

1Corinthians 10:13 _____

1Thessalonians 5:24 _____

2 Timothy 2:13 _____

Use one or more of these in a time of prayer, worship, or in needed a time of repentance.

In a land of false gods and false worship, God blessed Joseph. We are now living in a land of false gods. Joseph didn't have what we have today, God's written word and His Holy Spirit. Yet Joseph clung to his God and he was strengthened and blessed.

Song of Solomon 1:7 *"Thou whom my soul loveth"*.

Who or what does your soul love? Has your soul become grayed out, weary and worn?

3. Search the Scriptures to find truth, God's Truth. Find a verse that will restore the joy of your salvation.

Share a verse that has strengthened you, given you hope, or one that will pour out God's love to those that hear it.

Verse 5-

"Jacob told Joseph that these two boys, his grandsons, are like sons to him — *"Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine like Reuben and Simeon."*² Thus, unlike all of Jacob's other grandchildren, Manasseh and Ephraim became two independent tribes — on par with their holy uncles, Jacob's sons. They both maintained their own "flags", and when the land of Israel was divided amongst the Israelites, they both received independent portions."

- Rabbi Shmuel Kogan from Chabad.org

Spurgeon's Study Bible Notes has this to say about verse 5, "God gave Joseph and his family a double portion in Israel, which never happened to any other of the twelve sons of Jacob. Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born in the land of Egypt before Jacob arrived there, became Jacob's sons, thus making each of them into a tribe."

Ephraim was Joseph's double fruit in the land of Egypt, and God fulfilled Ephraim's name by blessing Joseph's family with a double portion in Israel.

For years, Jacob mourned losing Rachel and Joseph, yet Isaiah 61:3 KJV says,

*"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion,
to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning,
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
that they might be called trees of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified."*

Verse 7-

Perhaps seeing Joseph and his sons one final time brought back memory of Joseph's mother Rachel. Jacob recounts that she is buried near Ephrath (Bethlehem).

4. Search which significant Biblical events happened in Bethlehem? There is more than the most well-known.

Verses 8-11

Joseph acknowledges that God is the one who gave him these sons in Egypt.

Jacob acknowledges the blessing of not only seeing Joseph again, but he was able to meet his grandsons too.

Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges- "To set a child upon the knees was to symbolize reception or adoption into the family. From this passage it would appear that Joseph had set Ephraim and Manasseh upon, or against, the knees of their grandfather, so that they might receive the formal symbol (not here described) of adoption. This being done, he then removes them from between the knees of Jacob."

Read Genesis 30:3, Genesis 50:23, Ruth 4:16,17 for similar acts of adoption.

5. What verses can you find regarding being adopted into God's family?

After our adoption into God's family, we now have a new inheritance.

The word "inheritance" appears 226 times in the Bible, 22 times in the New Testament.

6. Look in the New Testament and find three scriptures that speak of our inheritance as new creatures in Christ.

Share why and what you learned?

Verses 13,14

Joseph placed his sons by birth order for Jacob to bless. The older on Jacob's right, the younger on the left. At the end of his life, Jacob is used by God to prophesy about Joseph's sons.

Verses 15, 16

Let us not be like Jacob, who only comes out of his self-pity attitude *at the end of his life* to see and acknowledge God's presence and provision in his life.

Jacob pronounces blessing on Joseph through his sons by:

"The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked," He called upon the God (Elohim) of his father and grandfather.

"The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day," Just as Jacob spent decades caring for Laban's sheep and then his own, he had been cared for by the Good Shepherd.

"The angel who has redeemed me from all evil," The Angel of the Lord. Christ, the Kinsman redeemer. Read Genesis 32:24-30

Benson Commentary- "this Angel is called Jacob's *Redeemer*, a title appropriated by God to himself, Isaiah 43:14; Isaiah 47:4; is said to redeem him *from all evil*, and therefore from *sin*, from which certainly no created angel, but only Christ can deliver us,"

7. We, like Jacob, can pronounce blessings on our children, grandchildren, and others. How would you word the phrases above when blessing someone today? Write out a blessing for someone in your life, and follow through in blessing them in person, if it is possible to do so. Otherwise, make your blessing a prayer for them.

Verses 17-19

God does not see as we see.

*"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth And making it produce and sprout,
And providing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; 11So will My word be which goes out of
My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the purpose for which I sent it."*

Isaiah 55:9-11

We should stop and give thanks because He is the Alpha and the Omega. God sees the beginning all the way through our lives into eternity.

Joseph presumed that Jacob was confused about his sons' birth order.

Matthew Henry- "But Jacob acted neither by mistake, nor from a partial affection to one more than the other; but from a spirit of prophecy, and by the Divine counsel."

Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim. Read Numbers 13:8

Gideon was from the tribe of Manasseh- Read Judges 6:14-16

8. How did God use these two men, who were descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh?

Verse 20

"So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessing, saying, 'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh!'"

"This custom continues with the Jews to this day, to put their hands on persons to bless them; if a son, they say, "God make thee as Ephraim and Manasseh; "if a daughter, "God make thee as Sarah and Rebekah:"" -Gill's Exposition of the Bible

Verse 21

Jacob prophesies that his family will return to the Promised land.

Read Exodus 13:19 and Joshua 24:32

Where does your hope come from?

In the land of Egypt, a godless world, or in the promised land?

9. What did God promise Jacob in Genesis 28:15,16?

10. What do you see as the theme or the main point in these verses? _____

Were these promises to Jacob alone? Which of these promises do you believe can pertain to *your* personal walk with the Lord?

"So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. ⁴ I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes." Genesis 46:3-4

God's promises to Jacob are fulfilled.

Since God was with Jacob as well as Joseph in the godless land of Egypt, He can surely be with you wherever or whenever your wilderness time will be.

Praise our promise keeping, faithful God.