

Passing on the Promise

Scripture: Genesis 48 (NASB 95)

Introduction

Every one of us will one day hand everything we have to someone else, our home, our savings, our possessions. We spend countless hours preparing for that reality. But the greater question every believer must ask is this: when my life is over, what will I leave that has eternal value? In Genesis 48, Jacob is 147 years old and knows his race is nearly finished. Rather than speaking of property or possessions, he speaks of God's covenant, God's promises, and God's faithfulness. We are witnessing a dying saint intentionally passing the promises of God to the next generation.

Main Points

1. The Covenant R_____ — *A Legacy Built on God's Promises*

- **Key Scripture:** Genesis 48:3–4
 - Before speaking of inheritance, Jacob first reminds Joseph of the God who gave it.
 - He recalls God Almighty's covenant promise at Bethel, nearly seventy years earlier.
 - Jacob's confidence rests not in his circumstances, but in the character of the God who made the promise.
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2. The Birthright B_____ — *A Family Received Into the Covenant*

- **Key Scripture:** Genesis 48:5–6, 15–16
 - Jacob formally adopts Ephraim and Manasseh, transferring Joseph's rights as firstborn.
 - Through this act, Joseph's family receives a double portion, one inheritance through each son.
 - Jacob's blessing testifies to a lifetime shepherded, redeemed, and kept by God's faithfulness.
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3. The Sovereign C_____ **Displayed** — *God's Purposes Are Not Bound by Tradition*

- **Key Scripture:** Genesis 48:17–20
 - Joseph arranges his sons by custom, but Jacob crosses his hands to bless Ephraim over Manasseh.
 - This is not failing eyesight but settled conviction, God's purposes are not bound by human tradition.
 - Throughout Genesis, God repeatedly chooses according to His sovereign will, not birth order or merit.
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4. The Future S_____ — *Confidence in What God Will Do Next*

- **Key Scripture:** Genesis 48:21–22
 - Jacob faces death without fear, turning Joseph's eyes from his own end to God's abiding presence.
 - He speaks with certainty of a land Israel does not yet possess, God's word settles the matter before history catches up.
 - Like a runner in a relay, Jacob passes the promise into the next generation's hands, because the race must continue.
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Application

For Unbelievers: Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of every promise God has ever made — the greater Seed, the greater Son of Abraham and David. Repent of your sin and place your faith in Him, and you will be forgiven, adopted into God's family, and made an heir of His eternal promises.

For Believers: Examine the legacy you are building. Are you passing on a bank account, or a knowledge of God? Will the next generation know the God you have come to know because they knew you?

Closing Thought

Jacob's race was ending, but God's promises were not. Every generation has faithfully carried the baton of God's promise until it reached its fulfillment in Christ. Now the baton is in our hands. May we run with endurance, guard the truth entrusted to us, and faithfully pass on the promise.