

W030118a – 06/03/26
Genesis 47:13-50:26
“The Life of Joseph-part three”

Introduction

- Tonight we will finish up our study of the Old Testament and the Book of Genesis, remember one last time...

The word Genesis means “beginnings”

- And truly so many things in scripture have their beginning in the book of Genesis
 - The universe, life in general
 - Man, marriage
 - Sin and evil, Language, government, nations
 - And specifically, we will see the nation of Israel
- In fact, understanding what this book is about is the beginning is really a good way to divide up our look at this book

Outline for the Book of Genesis

#1 – The Beginning of All Nations – Genesis 1-11

The Creation – Genesis 1-2

The Fall – Genesis 3-5

The Flood – Genesis 6-9

The Tables of Nations – Genesis 10-11

#2 – The Beginning of the Jewish Nation – Genesis 12-50

Abraham – Genesis 12-23

Isaac – Genesis 24-27

Jacob – Genesis 28-36

Joseph – Genesis 37-50

- And tonight we finish up the book by finishing up the final section of the book of Genesis and the section on Joseph

By the time we are done this evening, the nation of Israel will be settled in the land of Egypt where they will go from a family of 70 people to a nation of over 2 million

And how that happens and the prophecies leading up to the history of the nation of Israel is what we see this evening

- So if you are looking for an outline, which always helps me to follow along and understand what is going on – these four chapters deal can be summarized by 4 words

Genesis 47-50

#1 – Transition – Genesis Chapter 47

#2 – Blessing – Genesis Chapter 48

#3 – Prophecy – Genesis Chapter 49

#4 – Death – Genesis Chapter 50

- I know you wanted to end on a high note, so we will talk about death last tonight
 - But let's deal with these one at a time

Genesis 47-50

#1 – Transition – Genesis Chapter 47 - Start reading in V13

Genesis not only records the transition that happened in Israel, going from 70 people in one family to a nation of almost 2 to 3 million as Exodus opens

- Genesis also includes the story of the transition of how the government and the nation of Egypt looked from the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and what it looked like when Moses was raised up in his governmental structure

As a student of the Bible and of history, it is interesting to consider, historians have always noticed that something changes in the 16th dynasty of Egyptian Pharaohs

- And we will talk about these guys in great detail as we get to Exodus in a few weeks
 - Exodus is one of the books I taught at the Bible college so I am so excited to open it up to you

But one of the thing historians have noted is the fact that prior to the 16th Dynasty of Pharaohs which is where we are at as Genesis ends, the people owned the land of Egypt

The Pharaoh was in most cases an absolute monarch who was also consider a god, but the land was owned by the people in an almost free market system

- But something changes in the 16th Dynasty under Pharaoh Amenemhat II
 - All of sudden the Pharaoh owns all the land, and there is no free market system
 - The hieroglyphs show that Pharaoh all of sudden owns the land and all the people work for him and his family
- And of course, historians have no answer for why everything suddenly changed when it comes to the governmental structure when it comes specifically to land ownership
 - They have no idea why it changed and that is why it is good to be a student of history and the Bible
- Because we open up Genesis chapter 47 and we see exactly why the change took place – a change again, not that we need it, some do, a change verified by the pages of history – but let’s move on with the story...

Genesis 47-50

#1 – Transition – Genesis Chapter 47

#2 – Blessing – Genesis Chapter 48

- **As your read** – the reason Jacob doesn’t recognize the grandkids although he is talking about them is his vision is poor

As his family has been settling into the land of Goshen, Joseph has been spending the last few years, buying up all the land for the Pharaoh

- And after some time, Joseph is told, your father is sick and is about to die
 - So he takes his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh and they go to see dad and granddad

Jacob sees his boy Joseph, and he sits up in bed, because he has something important to do

He is going to put his hands on his grandsons and bless them

- You know I have really been considering this this week, of how important it is that we especially as men put on hands on our kids to bless them, to speak truth into their lives

So often when we think of blessing our kids, we think of providing something material for them

- if I can buy them a car, that is being a blessing
 - if I can take them on vacation, that is being a real blessing
 - and I sure those things are a blessing

But as we see the patriarchs of the Bible, we don't see them bestowing gifts as much as we see them laying hands on their kids and pronouncing blessing

- my kids love to be touched, my two girls, my son, they love to snuggle close even as they are now all young adults
 - and I have been thinking about this passage for a couple weeks and as they do, I have been trying to not just wrestle them, or snuggle with them, but to pray for them, to bless them
 - and maybe you have a teenage son, a teenage daughter and they are looking at you right now with a look that says, "don't you touch me!"
- But I want to encourage you, I believe our young men and women, need godly, holy, not creepy, not perverted, godly touch, instilling in them blessing
 - I believe part of the problem is dad's stops being affectionate with their daughter when they turn 12 or 13 and I understand there is a holy reason – yet they are still girls and need male affection and some 14 year old boy will love to fill your place dad

And I have felt a command from the Lord in my life, to touch my son, to put a hand on his shoulder and bless him – you are going to be a godly man, a man who walks in purity and strength

I don't want others telling my son who he is, what he can accomplish

- I want him to get courage, strength as I speak truth in his life

I want to put my hand on my daughters and speak truth into their lives, you will be a woman of purity and righteousness

- I don't want some magazine telling my girls who they are and what they need to look like
 - I don't want there to be a hole in my kid's heart or my wife's heart – I want them to hear from me the good things I see in them
- We see it all throughout the Bible and I just want to encourage you who are parents, or grandparents, don't be afraid to pull your kids close, put a hand on their shoulder and speak truth and blessing into their lives

Jacob blesses his grandsons and tells Joseph I am going to adopt your sons, I am going to include them into my inheritance, in essence giving you the double portion

- meaning when we leave Egypt and God gives us the promise land – they will inherit a portion of the land just as Joseph's 11 brothers would
 - And in doing this – it is interesting to see what happens

It is common knowledge that there are twelve tribes of Israel

- But in reality there are really 13 or 14 if you count Joseph and his two sons as tribes

That is why when God lists the tribes in the Bible for one reason or another, He can leave a tribe out, but still have the list be 12 names long

- A great example – when they come into the land, the priestly tribe of Levi did not inherit any land, so they are left off the list, and Joseph is represented by his 2 sons – giving you 12 tribes that get land, though the name of Joseph or Levi isn't mentioned

In the book of Revelation, chapter 7 they are mentioning the tribes that are sealed and protected by God – in this list there are again 12 tribes, and this time Joseph is mentioned, but Dan and Ephraim are left off the list – most scholars believe because it was through these tribes that idolatry entered the life of Israel

- But my point is there are always 12 tribes of Israel listed in the scriptures, and yet as you become more familiar with the Word, it isn't always the same 12 names, so if you were ever confused by that, Genesis chapter 48 is the reason
 - Jacob adopts Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, and gives them full inheritance rights, as much as any of his actual 12 sons

But as Jacob is blessing these two grandsons of his, did you notice what happened?

- As Jacob goes to bless Joseph's boys, Joseph walks them over to his father, with Manasseh the oldest toward Jacob's right hand, and Ephraim (the younger) toward his left hand
 - For the custom was to bless the first born with the right hand as he would receive the greater blessing,
- You read the phrase, "Son of my right hand", this is the implication, the son who is blessed
 - But notice this is not what happens

In fact, if you have paying attention, it seems that for God to bless the younger and use him in a greater way than the real firstborn is almost the norm

- But I point that out to you because we may not see the significance of that, but the ancient Jews, in fact the ancient world – would have been amazed that this happened
 - And it just shows me once again that God does not fit into our cultural box

We come to the Lord with all of our preconceived ideas about how He can and can not work – how this just doesn't happen, it's never been that way before here, so why try?

- And don't misunderstand me, we need to be wise and learn from those who have gone before us
 - But God won't be put in your box

And I want you to see – that He choose Able over Cain (the firstborn), and Isaac over Ishmael (the firstborn), and Jacob over Esau, (the firstborn), and Joseph over Ruben (the firstborn), and now Ephraim over Manasseh

- Because God does things differently than the world does them

Paul says in I Corinthians chapter 1...

“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.” – 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

You might say, “I'm weak, I'm not mighty, I'm despised, foolish at times”, God can't use me, no friend you are just the type of person God uses

- He does things differently than the world does

When He wants to save the Gentiles

- He calls the ultimate religious Jew – Paul the Apostle to save them, I would have picked someone who was uncouth, you know a man who could relate to the Gentile world, not the former Pharisee Paul

When he wants to reach the Jews

- He calls Peter, Mr. Unorthodox – to do a work in them

In the 70's when God wanted to save thousands of Hippies, He calls this old balding suit, named Chuck Smith to begin what Time magazine would later call the Jesus movement of Calvary Chapel and many other churches

- That is what God does
 - He takes the foolish things like me and you
 - And He puts His Spirit within us and works through us and the experts say – that doesn't make any sense?
- Right, but it is the Lord! – He gets the glory
 - we need to stop making excuses of why God isn't and can't work in and through our lives, and simply submit to Him

Genesis 47-50

#1 – Transition – Genesis Chapter 47

#2 – Blessing – Genesis Chapter 48

#3 – Prophecy – Genesis Chapter 49 - verses 1-2

Here in chapter 49, Jacob isn't going to just bless Joseph's two sons, he also, before he dies calls his own 12 sons to come before him and he – well the title is usually Jacob blesses his 12 sons

- But the reality is, the only son He blesses is Joseph
 - What is really going on here is Jacob is prophesying over his sons of what would happen to them, notice verse 1, “in the last days”

Now in this context I believe the phrase, “the last days” is referring to the latter history of these tribes, what would happen to them in the future

- Rather than what will happen to them at the end of world or something along those lines
 - He is prophesying about their future

And as we consider them individually, we will see that Jacob, led of the Lord, foretells for many of them in great details what their future as a tribe of Israel would entail

We are going to look at them individually and then I want us to consider something very important about them corporately

- Jacob begins with the sons of his first wife Leah

The Sons of Leah – Genesis 49:3-12

Reuben – Genesis 49:3-4

- I bet as Jacob began Simeon was saying that's right Dad, "beginning of strength, right on..."
 - But then verse 4 – Jacob brings up a sin that took place in Reuben's life 40 years before this moment

A sin no doubt Reuben thought he had gotten away with – but here it was catching up with him and costing him his birthright

- Jacob says, "you're unstable" – and truly this would be the future for the tribe of Reuben
 - No leaders would come from this tribe
- In fact, just the opposite – Dathan and Abiram, who you can read about in Numbers 16, were from the tribe of Reuben and started the Rebellion at Korah that costs Israel, thousands of lives
 - Reuben and his kids were unstable just like God said they would be

The Sons of Leah – Genesis 49:3-12

Reuben – Genesis 49:3-4

Simeon & Levi – Genesis 49:5-7

- Reuben's sin was sexual in nature

Simeon and Levi were violent, killing the men, of the people who had violated their sister

- And they too because of their sin would lose the rights as firstborn sons

Jacob says of them, "I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel"

- Levi would never inherit any land in the promise land, though Levi does so become they are the priestly tribe for reasons we will see when we study Exodus

Simeon's land is assimilated into the tribe of Judah as far as the land distribution goes (Josh 15), so the tribe of Simeon doesn't really get any land of their own either

- So the prophecy will come to pass exactly as God said it would

The Sons of Leah – Genesis 49:3-12

Reuben – Genesis 49:3-4

Simeon & Levi – Genesis 49:5-7

Judah – Genesis 49:8-12

- Judah who definitely had his shortcomings in life, but in the end repented and took responsibility (Kill me not kill my sons when promising to bring Benjamin home) – and Jacob has some good things to say about him

From Judah would be the tribe the rulers of Israel would come from

- After the first King, King Saul – who was from the tribe of Benjamin, every Jewish King at least from the Southern Kingdom after that point was from the tribe of Judah
 - His tribe would be the ruling tribe in Israel

Another interesting prophecy is given in context with Judah in verse 10 – the scepter shall not pass

- Jewish scholars interpreted this verse to mean that Israel would not lose the power to govern its own affairs with the death penalty until the Messiah had come

That is why Josephus records for us that in 12 AD the religious leaders in Jerusalem ran into the streets and tore their clothes, questioning the very validity of the Bible

- You see in 12AD – Rome had taken away the right of the Jews to meet out capital punishment on their own people – and this, though they had lost many governing rights many times before, even in Babylon they could kill their own criminals and this order from Rome was the final straw – God's Word did not come to pass in their minds
 - They had lost the scepter to rule and Messiah had not come for them

God's Word did not come to pass in their minds

- But what the scholars of the day did not realize, is at the same time, there was a young man up in Nazareth. A young man from the tribe of Judah
 - Who would become Christ the King
 - And the lesson of course - God's word always, always, always comes to pass friends
- You might not see it, you might not understand it, but there one thing God honors above His name, His Word

The Sons of Bilhah & Zilpah – Genesis 49:13-21

Zebulum – Genesis 49:13

- Zebulum would receive the land near the sea, and the tribe would trade with many sea faring nations – just as Jacob foretold
 - Some great judges came from Zebulum such as Deborah and Barac – Judges chapter 4
 - Don't you mean Berock? Barac is the Hebrew pronunciation – in Arabic it is Berock– now that is not a political statement that is just a linguistic point but you can do with that whatever you want ☺

The Sons of Bilhah & Zilpah – Genesis 49:13-21

Zebulum – Genesis 49:13

Issachar – Genesis 49:14-15

- Issachar settled in a fertile valley, in fact the Jezreel valley which will be later known as the Valley of Armageddon
 - But before it will be known as a valley of death, then and today it is valley that produces much fruit - the produce from their tribe blesses the entire nation

They were used in this way to bless Israel

- However Jewish history records they traded their liberty when they choose to live as serfs rather than labor in a less fertile district, they traded liberty for humiliation of slavery
 - Just like Jacob had foretold

The Sons of Bilhah & Zilpah – Genesis 49:13-21

Zebulum – Genesis 49:13

Issachar – Genesis 49:14-15

Dan – Genesis 49:16-18

- not much good said about the tribe of Dan
 - As we will follow their history they could not drive out the Philistines in the land they were given in southern Israel, so the tribe of Dan went North and attacked a defenseless people in a city called Lashish and took their land instead (Judges 18)
- Samson – who struggled greatly with sin was from the tribe of Dan
 - And sadly, it was through the tribe of Dan that idolatry first entered Israel, that eventually brought about their captivity to Assyria and Babylon

The Sons of Bilhah & Zilpah – Genesis 49:13-21

Zebulum – Genesis 49:13

Issachar – Genesis 49:14-15

Dan – Genesis 49:16-18

Gad – Genesis 49:19

- They settled to the East of the Jordan river

Kind of an unsettling prophecy – a troop is coming to beat you up, if you see a group of men coming at you, run boy – but we see it came to pass

- Because they settled on the other side of the Jordan, they were one of the first tribes to be taken over when the Assyrians invaded Israel

The Sons of Bilhah & Zilpah – Genesis 49:13-21

Zebulum – Genesis 49:13

Issachar – Genesis 49:14-15

Dan – Genesis 49:16-18

Gad – Genesis 49:19

Asher – Genesis 49:20

- Jacob tells them they would be known for their ability to make wonderful bread and treats

And Hebrew history tells us that is just what happened, the breads of Asher were famous for many years in the dynasties of Israel before the invasion of the Assyrian Empire

The Sons of Bilhah & Zilpah – Genesis 49:13-21

Zebulum – Genesis 49:13

Issachar – Genesis 49:14-15

Dan – Genesis 49:16-18

Gad – Genesis 49:19

Asher – Genesis 49:20

Naphtali – Genesis 49:21

- Naphtali was eventually given the land around the sea of Galilee
 - The people there were known to do things differently than those in Jerusalem – they would celebrate Passover as soon as the 14th of Nisan began, the Jews and Jerusalem waited until the end of the day – that is why we see Jesus have Passover with His disciples on what we would consider Thursday night and the Jews in Jerusalem on Friday afternoon, sacrificing their Passover lamb just as Jesus our Passover lamb was dying for our sin

Jesus didn't have Passover the night before because He knew He would be busy the next afternoon, dying for the sins of the world and all – it was because He was from Galilee, from a people who did things differently (ethnically Jesus was from the tribe of Judah, but where he lived, Galilee was in land given to the tribe of Naphtali)

- Jacob foresees this in calling them a “deer let loose” – breaking with tradition so to speak

Then Jacob prophesies over his two favorite sons

The Sons of Rachel – Genesis 49:22-28

Joseph – Genesis 49:22-26

- He repeats what Joseph is – a fruitful bough
 - He tells him what the future will hold – blessing

We looked at this passage last Sunday and saw Joseph's secret of how to have a successful life

- So if you missed last Sunday, it was an important study so you go back and listen to it online or on our app

The Sons of Rachel – Genesis 49:22-28

Joseph – Genesis 49:22-26

Benjamin – Genesis 49:27-28

- To his other son, Jacob is not as encouraging
 - And this prophecy is just a testament that God is speaking through Jacob because Jacob loves Benjamin as you know
 - But in this prophecy he calls him a 'ravenous wolf' – and it only take a causal look at scripture to see this come about

Judges 19-20 records the things that happen in the tribe of Benjamin and it is horrible sin

- The first King of Israel – King Saul was really a wolf kind of a guy in his kingdom
 - And even Saul of Tarsus – was from the tribe of Benjamin – he became Paul, but before that he ravages Christians in the name of the Lord

So the prophecies are given – but before we move into chapter 50 there is something I want us to notice about these prophecies

- the future for these men and their tribes was tied into their past
 - and I want you to see this, because the same thing is true for you and me
- Listen – how we behave today, the decisions we make, the choices we stand on – have an effect on who will we be tomorrow – we need to consider that and think it through

Tonight if you are making good choices, and following the way of the Lord, you need to see this

Because the enemy will say to you and me – it doesn't matter that you are living for the Lord, where is the fruit in your life???

- So just give up, just take it easy
 - No – what you are doing today, effects who you will be tomorrow
- And if you are living for the Lord, do not be fooled into thinking that that is no big deal
 - It is everything

But maybe tonight you are making bad choices, and walking away from the Lord, you need to think this through too – Hey grace brother, amen grace, but...

- God is not mocked, do not be deceived, whatever a man sows, so He will also reap
 - If you sow to the flesh – you will, not you might, you will reap corruption
- Reuben, Simeon and Levi all sowed to the flesh, and most likely thought it would never catch up with them - But it did

Wow – what a wonderful message, I'm so encouraged, so you are saying there is no hope for me then???

- No – I'm saying that unconfessed, unrepented of sin, will reap corruption in your life

But if you are in the place tonight, instead of being discouraged by Reuben and Simeon and Levi, - be encouraged by Judah

- Friends – Judah was just as bad as his 3 older brothers, worse I would say
 - But Judah repented, and got right with God and man and was blessed – that's the difference

God is just – and if you choose to live in sin – you will face the just consequences - But God is also full of Grace and Mercy – and if you will repent

- He will cast those things as far as the East is from the West and He will remember your sins no more

Notice Jacob doesn't say anything to Judah's about his sin with Tamar, or how it was Judah who said, "let's sell Joseph into slavery"

- Because Judah sin was washed by repentance, let that be a lesson to you and me

Doing well? – don't grow weary

- Doing poorly? – repent, get right
 - Because what you do right now, effects who you will be later – the future is still that – its future
 - Important lesson

Genesis 47-50

#1 – Transition – Genesis Chapter 47

#2 – Blessing – Genesis Chapter 48

#3 – Prophecy – Genesis Chapter 49

#4 – Death – Genesis Chapter 50

- Lets start reading in 49, verse 29 through verse 14 of chapter 50

Chapter 50 deals with death

The death of Jacob – Genesis 50:1-14

- Great mourning – 72 days was the required mourning for Pharaoh, and yet they mourned 70 days for Jacob, showing that in this generation, his family was loved in Egypt

He was embalmed which means his brains sucked out through the nose

- His side opened and organs removed, spices and salt was added – it is amazing what they did
 - In Jacob case they embalmed him in order to transport him to back to the land of Israel as he had requested and bury him next to, did you catch that in chapter 49, verse 31 – bury me next to who, to Leah?

Now wait a second that doesn't make any sense?

- Remember Jacob's marriage to Leah started out on a bad note – Jacob was tricked, he was deceived – He loved Rachel and for Leah it was a hard life

Yet, I believe Jacob here at the end realizes, it was the Lord, my marriage to Leah was the Lord– because you see through Leah comes Judah and from Judah comes Jesus, Shiloh – Jacob sees that now

➤ Through Leah – I see Jesus

So what? – well listen – this may be for just one of you tonight, but we can have the Jacob attitude toward our spouses sometimes

- He tricked me – He seemed so into God, so in love with me – but now – I have been deceived, I have been tricked – the enemy wants you to quit
 - She tricked me – she said she was this way and she is not
 - I am going to quit
- I encourage you to stick it out, because you are going to see Jesus in your life as you do
 - Jesus is going to be shaped in your life through your marriage, especially the tougher that marriage is
 - Bury me next to Leah, Jacob says, amazing
 - So we see the death of...

Chapter 50 Deals with Death

The death of Jacob – Genesis 50:1-14

The death of the brother's sin and guilt – Gen 50:15-21

- After dad dies, the brothers think Joseph is going to get them
 - And it breaks Joseph's heart because he did so much for them

It breaks his heart because they lie to him – “dad said on his death bed”

- Joseph was there when his dad died, he hadn't said this and he didn't need to – they don't get it – He weeps
 - This is one of the last pictures of Christ in Joseph – Christ has done so much for you and me
 - Yet we so often have this mentality that He is mad at us, ticked with us

I just see the Lord thinking - What else can I do? – I've died to keep our relationship unbroken

- But guilt will do that to you, as it did to the brothers
 - Believe I John 1:9 – confess your sin, believe He has washed, forgiven you, and cleansed you
- Joseph says, what you meant for evil, God meant it for good
 - God was at work - And He always is

Chapter 50 Deals with Death

The death of Jacob – Genesis 50:1-14

The death of the brother's sin and guilt – Gen 50:15-21

The death of Joseph – Genesis 50:22-26

- Kind of a bummer ending to such a great book
 - I don't know if you were expecting a princess to get saved or a Kingdom to be formed
 - At least a unicorn or something, but some guy in a coffin is kind of a bummer
- But church, it is important to realize that Genesis is not the end of the story
 - We are building a story, we have seen how the nation of Israel was formed, and how they got to Egypt

Then we will see how they get back to the promise land, how they receive the law, which they break all the time

- how the law can't save them
 - how human leaders can't save them
 - because eventually we get to Jesus
- He is highlight of the story, He is the hero

But nonetheless we come to the end of Genesis

- and we see Joseph with his kids, kids, sitting on his knee and he is blessing them
 - and by the way - This is the goal men
 - for so many men the goal is to be like Hugh Hefner, to be rich and spend all day in your PJ's with beautiful women

Oh men, don't let spending your life is your jammies be your goal

- Joseph's life, this is my dream, to see my kids, walking with Jesus, to see my grandkids walk with Jesus
 - You need to think generations ahead, to pray for who your kids will marry, to pray for their kids, years before they are on the horizon
 - To leave a legacy of walking with Jesus by example in your life
- This is the way we are going to affect the future
 - Have a long view friends
 - Maybe you didn't grow up learning Bible verses, nether did I – so you have issues – decide to be a patriarch
 - Maybe you started out deep in your enemies end zone – so you walk with Jesus and advance the ball to the 50 and teach your kids to walk with Jesus, they will advance to the red zone
- Teach your kids to teach their kids about Jesus, pray for them, watch them take it down to the goal line and score

You see I believe it may take 4 or 5 generations but if the Lord tarries I want our church family to affect this county for the name and the glory of Jesus Christ

- be a patriarch friends and start a new beginning in your family life as well
 - amen? Amen!