

# LEAVING A LEGACY – PT. I | GENESIS 48 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 06/30/2024

\* I. Jacob Blesses His Grandsons (48) | II. Jacob Blesses His Sons (49)

**INTRO:** *What kind of legacy will you leave in life?* When you breathe your last breath, **how will you be remembered?** Well, in this study we will see the final actions of Jacob's life, and how **he gathered his family to bless them before he died**. He told them of the faithfulness of God and all that was ahead for them. **Genesis 48-49** then, is about **LEAVING A LEGACY** \*

**I. JACOB BLESSES HIS GRANDSONS (GEN 48)** – Following his seventeen-year stay in Egypt, *Israel is about to pass away*, but not before fulfilling the traditional process of **bestowing the patriarchal blessing on Joseph and his two sons (48)**, and then on to all of his other sons (49).

**A. Joseph's Visit Turns Into Blessings (1-7)** – As time went on Jacob could sense that his strength was beginning to grow weak. His servant probably **notified Joseph**, so he immediately gathered his two young sons and rushed to his father's bedside. (*Go to comfort, go to bless!*)

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**1. Refreshing Presence (1-2)** – Joseph wanted to be near his father before he passed! **And his visit revived Jacob!** – *Visiting the sick helps strengthen others!* – In (Matt 25:35-40), Jesus says, *'Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

*Jacob Sat-Up and began...*

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**2. Restating God's Promises (3-4)** – Jacob immediately told his son of *God's Blessing on him at Luz (28:10-22)*. Luz was Bethel, where God appeared to him twice! **First**, God appeared in a dream (*aka Jacob's ladder*). It was a place of awareness and affirmation. His **Second** encounter with God was in (**tt. 35:9-14**), where *God Almighty transferred the Abrahamic Covenant to Jacob* (*God promised the Land of Canaan & multiplication of his descendants - Jacob wanted Joseph to know that*)

**P/A** – *It's importance to tell our family members what God has done for us before we pass!*

*With that said, Jacob began...*

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**3. Reassigning Relationships (5-6)** – God put it on Jacob's heart to **formally adopt Manasseh and Ephraim**, as his own. – **He made them equal to Reuben and Simeon**, who would now have an inheritance in the land. – Quite possibly, this was because he wanted Rachel's offspring to have a larger portion in the inheritance. (*He really only wanted kids from Rachel, expd.*)

- Only another note, Joseph must have been overwhelmed at his father's decision! **His two sons who were born in Egypt were both granted a high patriarchal status amongst the tribes!**
- **This adoption actually makes 13 sons of Israel.** (*Though 12 were born, Joseph was divided into two tribes*) – Worth noting is that the 12 tribes are often listed in different combinations.
- Apparently, **the number 12 is Special to God**. It is often associated with **Government or Administration** in God's eyes. *There are 12 tribes; 12 apostles; 12 spies; 12 memorial stones; etc.*

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**4. Recalling Rachel's death (7)** – As Jacob communicated his intentions for adopting Joseph's sons, *it must have stuck a chord in his heart, as he seemingly lamented the loss of his beloved wife Rachel*, after the birth of their son Benjamin (**35:16-18**). – Rachel's burial is described in (**35:19-20**). **P/A:** *I've found that that when I go to bless others, I am often the one blessed!*

After his statement...

**B. Jacob's Pronounces Blessings on Joseph's Two Sons (8-16)** – *Shaking off his thoughts of Rachel...*

Jacob now...

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**1. Refocuses on Joseph's Sons (8-12)** – Jacob probably saw “*a blurred image*” move nearby, so, he asked, “**WHO ARE THESE?**” – **Knowing what he pulled with his blind father Isaac in (27:18-24), Israel wanted identification before he pronouncing blessings on Joseph's sons (8-9).** – As Joseph confirmed them and brought them near (10), **ISRAEL embraced his grandsons!**

P/A – **What an awesome privilege!** *If you want to Leave a Legacy, start by embracing them!*

- In (v.11) – Israel never thought to see **the face of Joseph again**, but now he understood that **it was the Grace of God** that allowed him to see even Joseph's sons up close!

P/A – **Do you consider it “God's Grace” when meeting with your family members!** – **Be thankful!**

- **Joseph recognized the special moment (12)**, so he brought **Manasseh and Ephraim** forward and respectfully bowed in humility, **waiting for whatever blessing Israel might bestow.**

Joseph expected, but His father... READ

**2. Redirected Blessings (13-16)** – He brought them up so that **Jacob's right hand would rest upon Manasseh** and **his left hand would rest upon Ephraim**, because **Manasseh was the older** and the firstborn blessing should go to **the older son! (13-14).**

- **Israel Guided His Hands Knowingly (14)**, placing his right hand on Ephraim's head, **who was the younger!** *Sound familiar?* Back in (27:25-29), **Jacob pulled a deceitful switcheroo on his father** for the firstborn blessing! But **NOW**, **Israel pulls a crossover** when bestowing the firstborn blessing upon Joseph's two sons.
- As Israel placed his hands on each head of his grandsons (15), **he directed his prayer-blessing towards Joseph!** By the way he said it, **he implied** that these two would succeed his son Joseph, under Abraham and Isaac. – **He was Transferring the Blessing to Joseph and his sons, thus LEAVING THE LEGACY the way God instructed him to!**
- **The pronouncement this BLESSING (15-16), manifested in three parts: each describing a Trinitarian Involvement.** It was Patriarchal (15a), Provisional (15b), and Protective (16a)
  - **Patriarchal:** **GOD** established the covenant with Abraham as he walked with him (12:1-3).
  - **Provisional:** The **GOD** who **Fed** Jacob all his days is a reference to the WORK of the HOLY SPIRIT. “**Fed**” = “**Ra' ah**,” lit. shepherd, tend or graze, implying **Caring Provision.**
  - **Protective:** The **ANGEL** who “**Redeemed**” Jacob, “**Ga' al**,” (Lev 25:25-28) is a reference to God the Son! As He did after the slaughter of Shechem (35:5), **he put a fear over them!**

P/A – **How Blessed it was for Jacob to KNOW that the Almighty God**, in His complete fullness, as **Promiser, Provider, and Protector**, was **ALWAYS** working for him! – If we are believer's in Jesus Christ, then the GODHEAD will likewise be there for us. – In (Deut 3:22) Moses instructed God's children... **You must not fear them, for the Lord your God Himself fights for you (Deut 3:22)**

**CLOSING POINT:** Israel's decision to **"BLESS THE LADS,"** even Ephraim over Manasseh (13-14), shows that **God's blessings don't follow human expectations!** – Then ISRAEL pronounced his name upon them (16b), desiring for them to **grow and multiply** under the Abrahamic Covenant (16c). **The Transfer of Blessing was from God but spoken by Israel... IN FAITH!**

Finally, we see that...

**C. Jacob's Blessing Needs Explanation (17-22)** – Up to this point we find no real fault in the Life of Joseph. But now he speaks up to correct his father for what he believes was in error...

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**1. Resenting the Blessing (17-18)** – It actually tells us that Joseph was **DISPLEASED with his father's action**, so Joseph quickly removed his father's hands. *"no, no, no, dad...that's not how it's supposed to be done!"* –

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**2. Reinforcing the Blessing (19-20)** – His father **may have been blind** he certainly knew what he was doing! (19) – Israel then foretold that Manasseh's younger brother shall be greater than he: **Ephraim was not the firstborn**, but **here we see that GOD CHOSE HIM to take the position of firstborn**. – The prophet Jeremiah later described this in **(Jer 31:9), For I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn**

P/A – Which goes to show, that even if we are servants of God, We don't always have full understanding of what God is doing. And we certainly **we can't tell God how to bless people!** However, we should always realign ourselves with His plans when revealed!

- In his final blessing for Joseph's sons (20), Israel reinforced his decision by mentioning the acknowledgment of his descendants in the future: *"The people of Israel will use your names when they give a blessing. They will say, 'May God make you as prosperous as Ephraim and Manasseh.'"*

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**3. Returning to Canaan (21-22)** – When Israel told Joseph that **he was dying**, it really meant that **he was passing the torch to Joseph**. *And Jacob's Dying Words for Joseph were prophetic in nature*, i.e., **God would also bring Joseph back to the promised land one day!** (Josh 24:32)

- Israel was blessed by his son Joseph, so, **he bestowed the blessing of a firstborn...** i.e. the **double portion**. It manifested when his two sons received their inheritance in the promised land.
- **But Israel also had a special plot of stashed away**, which he transferred to him. However, there is no mentioned in scripture as to **WHEN** Jacob fought the Amorite for it.

P/A – *The blessing of Joseph's two sons was in view of the perpetual blessing of Israel!* – And Israel's blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh shows the importance of passing on faith to the next generation. i.e., **Leaving a Legacy**.

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** What you do now, will AFFECT your descendants in some way shape or form. **What kind of legacy are you leaving?**

The Greatest inheritance that a father or mother can leave to his or her children is a life lived for Jesus Christ. Through good and bad times, through times of plenty and need, through times of celebration and tragedy, and through times of joy and disappointment.

### **The Blessings of God to the Believer are in Christ Alone!**

- They are NOT based on national identity
- They are NOT based on Human achievements
- They are NOT based on sinless perfection
- The **ARE** based on **faith in Jesus Christ ALONE**, who is the Messiah...  
**the Savior of the world!**

**LET'S PRAY**