

Passage: Genesis 48

Title: The Blessings That Flow When We Choose to Bless Others

Summary: There's something profoundly beautiful about visiting someone who is sick or struggling. You arrive thinking you're the one bringing comfort, only to discover that you're the one who leaves transformed. This divine paradox appears throughout Scripture, and nowhere is it more evident than in the story of Jacob's final days in Genesis 48.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Recap

The children of Israel are settled into the land there in Egypt, specifically in the land of Goshen. There is less than five years left in the famine; Joseph is still second in command of all the land, and we pick the story up here:

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:
(Numbers 6:23 NKJV) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:
(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;
(Numbers 6:25 NKJV) The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;
(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."
(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

(Genesis 48:1 NKJV) Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, "Indeed your father is sick"; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
(Genesis 48:2 NKJV) And Jacob was told, "Look, your son Joseph is coming to you"; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.

Jacob Deathbed / Heard Strengthened

Jacob on his deathbed, he is approximately 147 years old, and word is sent to Joseph, your father is sick. Joseph immediately grabs the boys (Joseph about 56 and his sons are in their 20's) and heads to see dad, and when Jacob heard they were coming it says Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.

That's what a Visit Does

You know that is what a visit does to someone who is hurting, someone who is ill, they are strengthened. Beloved when the opportunity arises, take it to go visit someone who is sick, hospitalized, they will be blessed, they will be strengthened.

Matthew 25

Let me remind you what the Lord says about this:

(Matthew 25:34 NKJV) "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
(Matthew 25:35 NKJV) 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;
(Matthew 25:36 NKJV) 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'
(Matthew 25:37 NKJV) "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?
(Matthew 25:38 NKJV) 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?
(Matthew 25:39 NKJV) 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'
(Matthew 25:40 NKJV) "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Visiting Jesus – Jesus Visiting / Jacob Hears – Israel Strengthened

Yes the word says it is as we are visiting Jesus Himself, but for the person you are visiting, in a special way, it is as if the Lord Himself is visiting that person. It is a special time where we get to be just like Jesus. Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ, and he visits Jacob when he is sick, and Jacob is strengthened. Notice there in verse two, when Jacob hears, Israel is strengthened. Israel the name given to Jacob after he wrestles with God (Genesis 32) and is broken, when God says you will no longer be Jacob that sneaky self-serving conniver, but you shall now be called Israel, which means governed by God.

Genesis 32:27–28 (NKJV)

²⁷ So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." ²⁸ And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Ask the Sick Person / I need a Special Touch / Bring Bible – Word from the Lord

Ask any person who has been there, day after day, hour by hour, laying in that bed sick, a person can grow faint on heart, they can cry out oh God I need a special touch from you, I feel so broken, alone. And then you walk in, a breath from heaven to them, an answer to that plead to God for that special touch. You come in and bring compassion, someone who cares. You bring your Bible and you say I have a word for you from the Lord, the God who loves you and cares for you; immediately that person is strengthened, they return to that place of being governed by God, and thankful for it, that they are not alone but the God who hears, has heard the cry of their heart.

(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

(Isaiah 43:1 NKJV) But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I

have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

(Isaiah 43:2 NKJV) When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

(Isaiah 43:3 NKJV) For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.

(Isaiah 44:1 NKJV) "Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, And Israel whom I have chosen.

(Isaiah 44:2 NKJV) Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

(Isaiah 44:3 NKJV) For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;

Take the Opportunity – Go Strengthen

Beloved, take those opportunities, go out of your way any time you can to see that person who is sick. Whether in the hospital, their home long-term, the Assisted Living, go and strengthen and bless them.

Don't know what to say to them you may say? Just go and read them the Word, and it will not return void.

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Watch what happens for Joseph

Hey, watch what happens to Joseph and sons for going, they are blessed, and so too will you.

(Genesis 48:3 NKJV) Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,

(Genesis 48:4 NKJV) "and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.'

Perfect Peace @ Deathbed

Jacob is in perfect peace, and his deathbed, and we know that he knows whose hands he is in. He knows who is faithful to him. He knows the promises of God are yes and amen to his life. And those very words will be recorded by the apostle Paul, nearly 4000 years later, that all the promises of God are yes, and amen. And that is so true to you as well. And here is Jacob knowing and having peace at the end of his life, and how do we know that ultimately is on his deathbed, he is prophesying. of the continuation of the God that called him is the God that will be faithful to continually to call and to bless and to lead the children of Israel as he prophesies over Joseph and his sons.

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

³ You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through US.

Jacob's Maturity / God's Presence – Goodness – Promise / Maturity does That

Jacob showing his maturity, proclaiming the presence of God in his life (*God Almighty appeared to me at Luz*), the goodness of God (*and blessed me*), and the promises of God (*'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession*). Spiritual maturity in our lives will bring us into that same place, that we constantly and keenly aware of His presence in our lives, that every day we know that He walks with us every step that we take whether big stuff or little stuff. That He is with me at Rita's having an ice cream, and He is with me there at the hospital. And that we would daily see the goodness of God, His blessings upon our lives. Thank you for your daily provisions in my life, for my wife, for my family, for my brethren, for this country, Lord you are so good to me. And we rejoice in the promises He gives, inspite of the circumstances around us, Lord you have saved me from the wrath to come.

Just Think if Jacob had Quit

Just imagine if Jacob would have quit 22 years ago, in this case, it's 39 years later, just think if quit when his family was divided, he thinks that his son has been torn to piece by beast. And just think, if he'd have quit, saying, what's the use, where's God? How could he allow such a thing? And if you want to get to it as well, just think if Joseph would have quit, says, where's God? Why did he allow this slavery? I'm just gonna throw myself into this sin with this man's wife because God's not here. And yet here we see 2 men who continue on in the faith, even in the midst of the hardest times. But they don't quit so that they can complete God's story. And do you realize our story should be God's story? And too often we want to write our own story, how we think life should go and how it should end. Whereas a, God's story, is this is what God's done in my life. I yielded to him and I trusted in him. And my whole life was for one thing, that God might be glorified. And we're reading a story of glory. Because Jacob didn't quit because Joseph didn't quit. And I just say unto you, don't quit.

God Never Told Them What He was Doing

And just a reminder, for those 22 years, God never told Jacob that Joseph was alive. You know, God could have gave him a word of knowledge. To say. Hold fast, your son's alive. But God doesn't tell him. And there's times God doesn't tell us. In his sovereignty, what he's doing and why he's doing. It. And there's just this place of faith. that we have to trust him. Joseph did everything that was right. And suffered, and in the end, God did this greatness. And Jacob suffered. But here we see a man perfected. I think there was something in the life of Joseph. over these 22 years. is what made Jacob the man that we read here in these last 2 chapters of his life. And I don't know what the chapters of your life are right now. But I know there's a God who's faithful to you. Who's holding you? and is performing a great work in you. If only you'll be held. And let him do. What he desires to do. In you. And through you.

Long Road / Abide

Jacob took the Long Road to maturity; but one thing I noticed, although Jacob may have drifted off coarse a bit here and there, didn't always use the best discernment, one thing I notice is that Jacob never walked away from the Lord. Beloved, as long as we continue with the Lord, the Lord can continue His work in us. Should we leave, walk a different road, then there is nothing there for the Lord to work with. Continue abiding, and God will see us through, bring us into the best chapters of our lives.

(John 15:4 NKJV) "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

(John 15:5 NKJV) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Proof-Text the Land is Israel's

Once again, we have our proof text that surpasses politics, and cultural bias, and racism, and that God is promising the land to Jacob, whose name is Israel, and The 12 sons.

(Genesis 48:5 NKJV) "And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

(Genesis 48:6 NKJV) "Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

(Genesis 48:7 NKJV) "But as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

(Genesis 48:8 NKJV) Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these?"

(Genesis 48:9 NKJV) And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place." And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them."

They go to Bless – But are Blessed / Do Missions

Joseph and sons show up to bless Jacob, but they are the ones that will be blessed. How often we go somewhere and think we will be bestowing blessings to upon others, but we end up being the one who

receives the blessings tenfold. Missions is like that, you think you are going to go bless the lost or unfortunate and return home being the one who was greatly blessed. That's just God's economy on how He does things. You can't out give God.

Measured Out- Measured Given Back

That is why Jesus is so into us ministering, because when we do, it is an avenue where the blessings can flow to us. To measure you use, is the measure that will be given back to you:

(Mark 4:20 NKJV) "But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

(Mark 4:21 NKJV) Also He said to them, "Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand?"

(Mark 4:22 NKJV) "For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light."

(Mark 4:23 NKJV) "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

(Mark 4:24 NKJV) Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given."

(Mark 4:25 NKJV) "For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

Out –Back / Pray for Emotional – Your Lifted / Explain Truths – See Truths

It is in giving out that you get back. It is praying for those who are doing poorly emotionally that you find your emotions lifted high, into the heavenly places as you intercede and God lifts you up to the throne. It is explaining truths to others that you get to see God's truths in ways you had never seen before.

Son's Adopted / Jacob Recognizing Joseph as First Born

In verse 5 - And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine - Jacob adopts Joseph's two sons, and gives them equal status with the rest of the sons. They will become tribes of Israel. The first-born was to receive a double portion of the inheritance over the rest of the sons. Jacob is saying Joseph I recognize you as the first born, for your mother Rachael was my first love, should have been my first wife (maybe his only wife? - had Uncle Laban not deceived him), and you would have been my firstborn Joseph. So Jacob is recognizing Joseph as firstborn, and he is giving the double portion through the two sons.

Joseph Receives Double Blessing

So for Joseph's family it is a double blessing. Rather than just Joseph being a tribe, now his family will have 2 tribes, double blessing

12 tribes – 14 Tribes

Note on the 12 tribes. There are 12 sons of Jacob including Joseph. Add Joseph's 2 sons and you have 14. But when the children of Israel come into the Promised Land after the Exodus, Joseph will not be counted, but his 2 sons will (Ephraim and Manasseh). Levi will not be given the land, for they will be the Levitical priesthood and they will not be given a portion of the land for the Lord will be their inheritance/possession. Just keep that in mind as you read through the Scriptures.

(Genesis 48:10 NKJV) Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.

Blind Isaac – Blind Jacob / Sons enjoy Blessing – No Fear / Don't Force a Blessings

Amazingly, many years prior Jacob has to trick and steal the blessing from his blind father, and here he is nearly blind willingly giving the blessing. Surely he must have reflected on this and took peace in how far God has brought him from Jacob, to Israel, one governed by God. These two boys won't have to go on the run, they won't have to live in fear of their brothers, they can enjoy the blessing because the blessing was freely given to them, not like Jacob. Example for us in all our dealings, receive the blessings given freely by the Lord and enjoy them fully, don't try to force a blessing into your life, try to force God to work to your plan, rather than His plan. Life just flows when we say, Lord, let your will be done, I refer you to last weeks study, life just flows when you are in God's flow:

(Genesis 48:11 NKJV) And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!"

(Genesis 48:12 NKJV) So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth.

(Genesis 48:13 NKJV) And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him.

(Genesis 48:14 NKJV) Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn.

Right Hand – Crosses Hand

When giving a blessing the right hand was to go on the older, but Jacob switches his hands, crosses them, putting his right on the younger son, Ephraim.

(Genesis 48:15 NKJV) And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day,

(Genesis 48:16 NKJV) The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

Jehovah Ra / Genesis 28

Verse 15 - The God who has fed me all my life long to this day.- The God who fed me, in the Hebrew is "Jehovah Ra", the God who shepherded me all my life long. Takes me back to when Jacob begins his journey with the Lord after the Lord broke him in that wrestling match.

(Genesis 28:20 NKJV) Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,

(Genesis 28:21 NKJV) "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.

(Genesis 28:22 NKJV) "And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

(Genesis 29:1 NKJV) So Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East.

Your Translation / Shepherd – Wandering Sheep

Maybe your translation says, the God who has fed me all my life long to this day; but in the original language it is much deeper and richer than just being fed. The phrase Jacob uses is Jehovah Ra, the Lord shepherded him. The Lord prepared a place for Jacob, He gave him rest in the green pastures, besides the still water. He anointed his head with oil, the Lord shepherded Jacob all the days of his life. A shepherd does more than feed the sheep, he guides them, protects them, if a sheep was wayward, constantly wandering away from the flock, the shepherd would break his leg so the sheep was helpless, then carry that sheep around his neck until it was healed, but something wonderful would happen along the way, all that time next to the Shepherds body would cause the sheep to become connected to the Shepherd. From that point on the sheep would always walk right by the side of the Shepherd. That is what God has done to and for Jacob, and that is what God will do to and for us if need be, because He loves us that much:

(Psalms 23:1 NKJV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

(Psalms 23:2 NKJV) He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

(Psalms 23:3 NKJV) He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

(Psalms 23:4 NKJV) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

(Psalms 23:5 NKJV) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

(Psalms 23:6 NKJV) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Capital A / Redeemer

Notice the capital "A" on the word Angel there in verse 16, the reason it is capitalized is because it is referring to Jesus Christ. The word for "redeemed" is "ga'al", which is the first mention of the ga'al, the redeemer in the Scripture. Jesus would become our "ga'al", our kinsman (next of kin) redeemer. Redeemer means to purchase back, pay the ransom for, Jesus is our Redeemer. This is an important principle in the Scriptures and we will be talking about it in depth in Leviticus, Ruth, and of course in the New Testament.

Isaiah 44:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who makes all *things*, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;

Compound Name of God

Shepherd

Jehovah Ra - (Psalm 23:1) - The Lord God our Shepherd

Banner

Jehovah Nissi - (Exodus 17:15 - The Lord God our Banner

Healer

Jehovah Raphah - (Exodus 15:26) - The Lord God our Healer

Provider

Jehovah Jireh - (Genesis 22:14) - The Lord God our Provider / The Lord that Sees

Peace

Jehovah Shalom - (Judges 6:24) - The Lord God our Peace

Presence

Jehovah Shammah - (Ezekiel 48:35) - The Lord God our Ever Present One

Protector

Jehovah-Sabbaoth - (1 Samuel 1:3) - The Lord of Hosts/Army/Power

Righteousness

Jehovah Tsidqenuw - (Jeremiah 23:6) - The Lord God our Righteousness

Sanctifier

Jehovah Maccaddeshcem - (Leviticus 20:8) - The Lord thy Sanctifier

(Genesis 48:17 NKJV) Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

(Genesis 48:18 NKJV) And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."

Joseph tries to Fix

Joseph thinks dad can't see well, so he tries to fix Jacob's hand, but dad says I know what I am doing.

(Genesis 48:19 NKJV) But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."

(Genesis 48:20 NKJV) So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!' " And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

Spirit Revealed Younger will be Greater / Northern Tribe

Jacob is saying the Spirit of God has revealed to me that the younger shall be greater than the older. That is exactly what happens too. Ephraim become a greater tribe than Manasseh did. Numerically and historically, we will see in the Bible Ephraim playing key roles throughout our studies in Kings and Chronicles. When the kingdom splits, often Ephraim will be the name used often to refer to the ten Northern tribes.

Not First / Cain- Abel / Jacob-Esau / Moses-Aaron / David - Brothers

This isn't the first we will see this in the Bible either. Culturally the eldest son was thought to be the one who would be the greatest, and do the greatest, but that isn't always the way we see it in the Scriptures. Able obviously was greater than his older brother Cain who killed him. Isaac more blessed than his older brother Ishmael. Jacob more blessed than his older brother Esau. Moses more blessed than his oldest brother Aaron, and David was the youngest of his family.

Why Does God Do That? / Avoid the Cultural Flow - Stay in God's Flow

We will see often the Lord using the younger more greatly than the older, even though culturally the older is suppose to be the one destined for greatest over all the others in the family. Why does God do that? God does that so that we never get caught up in the flow of what is going on in our cultural, but that we stay focused on the flow that God is doing. We know God's flow, because His Word points the way for us.

The Emerging/Seeker Church

Let me give you something to keep an eye out for, it is in its early stages, but I believe is going to grow into the new hype, it is called the "Emerging/Seeker Church". The Emerging/Seeker Church is based on what is relevant in today's cultural, what people are into, and then they frame the church around it. Not let the church through the Word conform the person, rather let the cultural conform the church. They are saying do an analysis on what the people want in a church, and then make your church that. It sounds good at the surface, but the fact is, because the word says, that in the last days people will have itching ears, they will not be able to endure sound doctrine, so these churches most likely are going to preach a water downed, don't offend anyone, everyone is accepted gospel. More to come on this as we keep an eye as it develops.

(2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

(2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

As For You / John Baptist / Apostles

As for you here right now, apart from the Emerging/Seeker Church, what blessing do we see in God breaking the cultural sacred cows, we can be excited about God using us. God breaks the cultural mentality that only the gifted and talented will be used by God.

- God has shown us that He will use the weak to confound the wise.
- Look at little shepherd boy David slaying the giant and becoming a king.
- Who would you have picked to prepare the way of the Messiah, a great public official, the leading man in the synagogue, the greatest actor in Hollywood, the chart topping musician? No God picks a man (John the Baptist) who ate locust and wore a camel hair suit.
- The Apostles, there are 12 for you, fisherman, whoever believes fisherman.
- A tax collector, who trusts a tax collector.

Don't ever exempt yourself being used by the Lord because the world may say you don't fit the cultural mold. It seems the ones that do fit the mold today are just that. Christian go for it, expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.

(Genesis 48:21 NKJV) Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers.

I am Dying

Says, must die, and that is a truth, a fact, for every last person, we must die. We will die, barring the event of the rapture, we must die, and even in the event of the rapture, there is a death that comes before that, and that is, that we die to ourselves, stating and knowing and declaring that we cannot cleanse ourselves from our unrighteousness. And then we need a god who will come down and trade places with us and take our sin and our shame so that we can take places as sons and daughters to the Father God in heaven. And that is what we call the substitutionary attainment, where Jesus, the lamb of God, becomes the one who the punishment for sin comes upon, so that we may be. Atoned, which means at one meant with God.

Believers need not fear death

49:29 – Bury Me in the Land

I absolutely love this, that Jacob says, don't bury me in Egypt because you know what, it would have been nothing for them to build a monument for Joseph, a burial place in Memorial Monument for Jacob, the father of Joseph. They could have been immortalized before man on earth. But both of them will say, don't bury me here. Take me to the promised land, fence word, I want my identity to be, that I want to be known for the man of faith, who believed that God would fulfill his promise to Israel and make us a great nation in this very land on this very soil. And then ultimately, that I will have a home in heaven, who's built, not by hands of man, but by God himself. And if you wonder why Satan wants to wipe Israel off the map, because he wants this promise, he wants these pictures erased that we would go. There is no promise of God that is sure and true. But when we look at Israel today, and we see a nation in the land, and the Messiah came through, not just the build, a house in heaven, but for us to be, the body of Christ himself that God would dwell in. Of course, the devil wants to steal, kill, and destroy that picture.

Genesis 49:29–33 (NKJV)

²⁹ Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that *is* in the field of Ephron the Hittite, ³⁰ in the cave that *is* in the field of Machpelah, which *is* before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place. ³¹ There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah. ³² The field and the cave that *is* there *were* purchased from the sons of Heth." ³³ And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

(Genesis 48:22 NKJV) "Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."

No Details When this Happened

No details of when this took place, but Jacob drove the Amorites from a portion of the land by the use of the sword.

Portion – Shechem /

The word here for "portion", is "Shechem", and interestingly in Joshua 24:32; Joseph bones will be laid to rest after they leave Egypt in Shechem. Shechem today is the modern city named Nablus, which is in what is called the West Bank. You hear about the West Bank continually as that is where the Arabs live (they try to call it Palestine – but there really is no such thing), and the West Bank is where they want to make this so called two-state solution. But here again is a passage that the Land has always been given and covenanted with Israel.

(Joshua 24:32 NKJV) The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

(Numbers 6:23 NKJV) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

*(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;
(Numbers 6:25 NKJV) The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;
(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."
(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."*