

Genesis 48:1-49:27 – 12 March 2020

“What Is A True Blessing?”

Introduction

- *Jacob, renamed Israel by God has moved his whole family of 70 people including 12 sons to Egypt.
- *This infant nation will be protected for a period of years under the watch of one of the 12 sons Joseph.
- *After 430 years when they have all that they need, God will bring them out and lead them into Canaan to take possession of the land He promised to them.
- *We've seen the blessing & special promises of God passed from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob, but now today, Jacob passes the blessings of God to a nation!!

But what is a true blessing?

Today we'll see 4 characteristics of a true blessing from God

What is a true blessing? #1 – It can only be given b/c God first gave to us (Chap 48:1-4)

Read Chap 48:1-4

1. Jacob is dying and want to pass the blessings of Abraham down to his family.
2. Remember that the blessings that Abraham passed down to Isaac and then to Jacob were also given directly from God to Jacob.
 - a. At Luz, renamed Bethel
3. Jacob only has a blessing to give b/c he recognizes that he himself has been blessed.
 - a. He has a hope & a promise to pass on.
 - b. There is a future and a plan.
 - c. *If you're a Christian, you have a hope and a future to pass on to the next generation!*
 - d. Read I Pet 1:3

-new-

Read Chap 48:5

1. The 2 sons of Joseph will literally become as the first and second born Reuben & Simeon.
 - a. Ephraim & Manasseh will receive the firstborn's birthright of a double portion

Read Chap 48:6-7

2. E & M will account for Joseph and 'give' Jacob 13 sons.
 - a. These 13 will then be used in many different configurations of 12.
 - i. 12 spots of land in Canaan (no Levi)
 - ii. 12 tribes sealed in Rev 7 (no Dan)
 - iii. About 20 different listings of the tribes

What is a true blessing? #2 – It may only be recognized in the latter days (Chap 48:8-12)

Read Chap 48:8-9

1. It took a long time for Joseph to see the hand of God in all the difficulties he's had in life.
 - a. More than 20 yrs he was dead to his family
 - b. *Blessings are much easier to recognize when the hope of it ever happening is 1st striped away.* (Repeat)
 - i. Someone who thinks they can't have kids, end up very grateful if they have one.

Read Chap 48:10-12

1. Jacob never thought to see Joseph again let alone his children or family.
2. If we would lower our expectation of who we are and what 'we deserve', we'll be enraptured by how much God has truly blessed us.
3. Be patient & trust God as He's weaving the pieces of your life together.

-And now the blessing of the two “new” sons of Jacob-

Read Chap 48:13-14

1. Jacob crossed over his hands on purpose to give Ephraim (younger) the higher blessing of right hand
2. He certainly seems to be led of the Lord, b/c Ephraim will be the one whose descendants received the greater blessings.

Read Chap 48:15-16

1. So the blessing of receiving them as his own sons.
2. Side note: “Angel” just means messenger
 - a. God wears many hats.
 - b. If the manager of a restaurant also takes out the trash sometime, then they’re also the trashman.
 - c. It’s not inappropriate or demeaning, it’s just another role.

What is a true blessing? #3 – It will be spiritual & not an earthly reward (Chap 48:17-20)

Read Chap 48:17-20

1. Remember Joseph was bowed down. It took a minute for him to know what was happening,
2. Joseph was going to help the old feeble man, so Jacob made it clear, he knew what he's doing.
3. 1stborn is position of eminence not birth order.
 - a. Read Jer 31:9 – “Ephraim is My 1stborn”
 - b. In I Sam 16:11, David the youngest was preferred over the older brothers
 - c. Read Psm 89:27 – He made Israel 1stborn
 - d. This explains what God means of Christ in Col 1:15 (Read Col 1:15)
 - i. He's 1stborn in order of preeminence not b/c He was born at all.
4. Blessing that matters isn't a physical blessing.
 - a. It's not your birth order that determines the importance of your life.

- b. It's not your economic stature that determines the value of your life.
- c. It's that God's blessings of heaven and a relationship with Him are offered to you!
 - i. That's what gives you value! (Read Eph 1:3)
 - ii. You're created in His image to bring Him glory! That's a valuable position!

5. When God blesses you spiritually, no man can steal that away. (Read Matt 6:19-20)

6. Notice that's there's no record of Manasseh being upset that he received the lower blessing.

- a. When Jacob received his father Isaac's blessing above Esau, Esau was mad!
 - i. Esau went to live heathen life. (Read Heb 12:16-17)
 - b. *Manasseh recognized that a spiritual blessing from God, although lower than another man's blessing, was better than any physical blessing of land or riches.* (Repeat)

-new- Read Chap 48:21-22

- 1. City of Jacob's well mentioned in John 4:6?
- 2. This would be Sychar, outside of Shechem

What is a true blessing? #4 – It should be given with honesty for self & honor for God (Chap 49:1-27)

Read Chap 49:1-2

1. These are prophecies as much as blessings.
 - a. This is 1st conscious prophecy of a man.
 - b. All based on who these men are and will be.
2. “Hear Jacob and hear Israel”
 - a. Jacob recognizes the scoundrel that he was just as much as the blessed man that he now is.
 - b. *He moves forward for God in spite of who he was and in light of who He is...in Christ.*
 - i. Read I Pet 5:6 – Humble yourself under...
 - ii. In Acts 3:6 a lame man was laid by temple
 1. Read Act 3:6 – “Silver/Gold have I none, but what I do have...in the name of Jesus get up and walk.”
 - iii. We’re a fountain to others.
 1. Read Jer 2:13
 2. Read John 7:37-38

-And now the individual blessings to the 12 sons-

Chap 49:3-27

Read Chap 49:3-4 – Reuben's blessing

1. As 1stborn should have received all blessing
2. For his instability (sleeping w/ his father's concubines), he'll never have the blessing, priesthood or ruling authority.
3. God here decentralizes the power of the nation.

Read Chap 49:5-7 – Simeon & Levi's blessing

1. These two and their tribes would be scattered.
2. Read Jos 19:9

Read Chap 49:8-12 – Judah's blessing

1. Vs 8-9 – Judah would rule as a tribe
2. Vs 10
 - a. A king from Judah will rule.
 - i. In days of Babylonian Captivity, this rule would be taken away.
 - ii. Read Eze 21:27
 1. Restore again by the Messiah
 2. “Whose right it is” – “Shiloh”
 - b. Considered by Jews that Israel will have right to rule themselves until Messiah comes.
 - i. Cap Punishment removed by Rome (7 AD)
 - ii. Priests mourn for broken prophecy
 - iii. But Jesus had just been born in Bethlehem

3. Vs 11-12 – Prophecy of the coming Messiah thru the line of Judah.

Read Chap 49:13 – Zebulun's blessing

1. Little stands out; they send 50,000 to help David

Read Chap 49:14-15 – Issachar’s blessing

1. Was strong, populous but lazy.
2. Was pressed into slavery many times

Read Chap 49:16-18 – Dan’s blessing

1. Dan means judge and Samson the judge came from the tribe of Dan.
2. Dan introduced idol worship to all Israel
 - a. Two golden calves at Bethel and Dan
 - b. 12,000 from 12 tribes (but not Dan) are protected during 7 yr Trib
3. God has a great plan of redemption
 - a. Tribe of Dan is 1st listed in the roll-call of Israel established during the Millennium
 - b. Vs 18 – “I have waited for thy salvation...”

Read Chap 49:19-20 – Gad & Asher’s blessings

1. There ya go

Read Chap 49:21 – Naphtali's blessing

1. Someone special spend much time teaching in Capernaum.
 - a. Turn to Matt 4:12-16
 - b. Naphtali was given goodly words!!

Read Chap 49:22-26

1. Vs-22-24 – Although many tried to afflicted Joseph wrongly, he stayed strong thru God's strength.
2. Vs 25-26 – Joseph and his sons will excel above his brothers, receiving the double-portion.

Read Chap 49:27

1. Benjamin was particularly fierce.
2. Examples
 - a. Ehud the judge (Jud 3)
 - b. King Saul (I Sam 9, 14)
 - c. In general (Jud 19-20)

Conclusion –

So look, Israel has been blessed

Today we've seen what a True Blessing is

- 1. It can only be given b/c God first gave to us**
 - a. If you're a Christian, you have a hope and a future to pass on to the next generation
- 2. It may only be recognized in the latter days**
 - a. Blessings are much easier to recognize when the hope of it ever happening is first striped away
- 3. It will be spiritual & not an earthly reward**
 - a. A spiritual blessing from God, although lower than another man's blessing, is better than any physical blessing of fame or riches
- 4. It should be given with honesty for self & honor for God**
 - a. Moves forward for God in spite of who you are and in light of who Jesus is.

Read Gal 3:14 - The Christian has been blessed w/ the blessing given by Abraham (Laura Story-Blessings)