

# The Birthright Passed On

## Genesis Chapter 48

### Gen 48:1 **1) Israel Adopts Joseph's Sons** vs 1-7

Now it came about after these things that Joseph was told, "Behold, your father is sick." So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him.

- *Joseph had promised Jacob that upon Jacob's death, Joseph would bury him in the land of Canaan not in Egypt.*
- *"Now it came about after..." We do not know how long after. We know Jacob lives 17 years after the time of meeting Pharaoh. This could be 4 days after Joseph's promise or 4 years or 14.*
- *"Your Father is sick" some of us have gotten that call. Joseph does what is right. He drops everything and comes to his father.*
- *Hebrews 11:21 "By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, [leaning] upon the top of his staff." The writer memorializes Jacob with this scene. Not in Bethel where angels ascended and descended, not when he gets the birthright and the blessing, not when he is blessed with the speckled cattle, not when he wrestles with God, but this scene of blessing his sons.*

Gen 48:2 When it was told to Jacob, "Behold, your son Joseph has come to you," Israel collected his strength and sat up in the bed.

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

- *God Almighty - El Shaddai*
- *Jacob received this blessing in Luz. Way back in chapter 28:10-19 when Jacob was running from Esau to Laban house, in Bethel when God blessed him and Jacob said if you do this I'll make you my God and give you a 10<sup>th</sup>.*
- *A 2<sup>nd</sup> time God blessed him in chapter 35:6-13 God blessed him and changed his name to Israel.*
- *Although his journey was somewhat messed up and selfish, Jacob remembered the important things. He remembers the blessing God had blessed him with.*

Gen 48:4 and He said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and numerous, and I will make you a company of peoples, and will give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession.'

Gen 48:5 "Now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are.

- *Israel tells Joseph that his sons are his. This is Israel establishing the family. Joseph possibly believing that his children are not welcomed in the family of Israel because they were born when Joseph was separated from Jacob. Israel assures Joseph that they are family and included in the inheritance.*
- *Israel is saying this because of the importance of the blessing not because of being overjoyed in seeing the 2 boys. In vs 8, Jacob didn't realize they were with Joseph.*

Gen 48:6 "But your offspring that have been born after them shall be yours; they shall be called by the names of their brothers in their inheritance.

Gen 48:7 "Now as for me, when I came from Paddan, Rachel died, to my sorrow, in the land of Canaan on the journey, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

- *Jacob still carries a sorrow for Rachel. Oh how he loved her.*

### Gen 48:8 **2) Israel Blesses Joseph's Sons** vs 8-20

When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?"

Gen 48:9 Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." So he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them."

Gen 48:10 Now the eyes of Israel were {so} dim from age {that} he could not see. Then Joseph brought them close to him, and he kissed them and embraced them.

- *Jacob's eyes were failing and could not make out the two boys.*

Gen 48:11 Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face, and behold, God has let me see your children as well."

Gen 48:12 Then Joseph took them from his knees, and bowed with his face to the ground.

Gen 48:13 Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right, and brought them close to him.

- *Israel will bless Joseph's sons with the birthright and blessing (1 Chronicles 5:1 "Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he [was] the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.")*
- *Joseph trying to help his weak father, brings his sons around so it would be easier for Israel to bless the two, putting Ephraim (the younger) on Israel's left and Manasseh (the firstborn) on Israel's right. This way it would be easy for Israel to raise his hands to bless the firstborn.*
- *Joseph expected to happen what always happens. What traditionally happens? That is proper. He wasn't expecting anything different. He knew the system, the pattern, the model. That is how it will happen in his mind. God is faithful to make us think out of the box. Or better yet, He is faithful to prevent us from putting Him in a box.*
- *Change of order for blessing is not without precedent.*

<i>Father</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Born</i>	<i>Other Child</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = Received Blessing
<i>Abraham</i>	<i>Ishmael</i>	<i>Issac</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Issac</i>	<i>Esau</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Jacob</i>	<i>Ruben</i>	<i>Ephraim</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Gen 48:14 But Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, crossing his hands, although Manasseh was the firstborn.

- *Israel crossed his hands and gives blessing to the younger*
- *Israel has manipulated the gaining of the blessing being the younger and here the Hebrew speaks of God guiding his hands. (KJV) "guiding his hands wittingly" This is God blessing the younger.*

Gen 48:15 He blessed Joseph, and said, "1)The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, 2)The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,

- *Jehova Raah - The God who Shepherds*
- *His whole life long God was with him and now he looks back on his life and sees the Lord was with him in the good times and in the trials.*
- *My testimony as well as most everyone's will have a sense that God was watching over our lives even when we didn't acknowledge it or even believed in God. We usually don't see this guidance in our lives until after we surrender to Him and He shows us that He was there all the time.*
- *Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

Gen 48:16 3)The angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; And may my name live on in them, And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

- *The triune God illustrated here*
  - *God*                      *We walk before him*
  - *Holy Spirit*            *He guides shepherds us*
  - *Jesus*                    *He redeems us from all evil.*
- *First mention of a redeemer*

- Gen 48:17 When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on Ephraim's head, it displeased him; and he grasped his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.
- Gen 48:18 Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn. Place your right hand on his head."
- Gen 48:19 But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know; he also will become a people and he also will be great. However, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."
- *Joseph tries to correct Israel*
  - *"I know it" God's choice for a blessing is spiritual reasons not chronological.*
- Gen 48:20 He blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessing, saying, 'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh!' " Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.
- *Israel uses his name for the name of the nation*
  - *Israel (the nation) will bless using Ephraim & Manasseh's name.*
  - *Ephraim is before Manasseh. History will show that Ephraim will be greater than Manasseh.*
  - *Double portion blessing was the tradition. Both sons adopted and given an inheritance. .*
- Gen 48:21 **3) Israel Prophecies Over Joseph** vs 21-22  
Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you, and bring you back to the land of your fathers.
- Gen 48:22 "I give you one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."
- *We do not have a record of Jacob conquering the Amorites with a sword + bow*
  - *"portion" here is the word shechum*
  - *Joshua 24:32 "And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph."*

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