

# The Book of Genesis

## Chapter Forty Eight

### *Jacob's Blessing of Joseph's Sons*

#### Lesson Verse:

#### I. Lesson Introduction

- A. Joseph wants the Messianic Blessing on his sons. Figures (like all parents) that THEY deserve the best
- B. Jacob has a blessing for both, but not the messianic blessing

#### II. Study Lesson

##### A. **Jacob** \_\_\_\_\_ **Joseph** (48:1-7, 21-22)

1. The blessing of the sons of Jacob begins in ch. 48 and goes all the way through *Genesis 49*. Normally the blessing would start with the eldest. Instead of starting with the eldest, Reuben or the one that had the rites of first born, Jacob begins with Joseph's sons.
2. Parents Ought To Bless Their Children.
  - a. This passing on of blessings is something that is not done in our day as much as it was in days past. For the past few hundred years, and especially here in the Western world, we wait for the reading of the will to see what kind of 'blessing' we are going to get. Only materialistic. Even then the will is often contested by crafty lawyers and greedy kin. By the time the state makes a ruling, there is nothing of the original estate left. There is no length that some will go to just so they can remain in favour and receive a greater inheritance than their sibling.
  - b. The greatest blessing parents can give their children is not a blessing of wealth or land. The greatest blessing parents can give their children is knowing God as Lord and Saviour and passing this on to their children. The next blessing parents should give their children is godly discipline and instruction. If parents could only see that their obligations to their children are eternal more so than temporal both parties would be much more content.
    - 1) Children are a heritage and blessing from the Lord, *Psa 127:3-5 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 127:4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 127:5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.* The Holy Author instructs us in this passage that children are also a reward to the Lord. If a man has many and if he instructs them righteously, his children shall stand in places of authority and deal with the enemy. What are some of the blessings parents ought to pass on to their children?
  - c. The Blessings of \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1) Some folks are afraid to take their children to visit the sick, and depending on the illness that is wise. However, if the illness is not contagious parents should lead by example. Some parents seem to think that it is not good for children to see someone laying sick on their deathbed. These intelligent moms and dads have listened to child psychiatry more than they have listened to the words of God. Children ought to know that just as there is life, there is also death.
    - 2) Parents ought to instruct their off springs that at one time in days past, the one laying on the bed was full of youth and vigour just as they. Furthermore, parents ought to build a relationship with their children by reminding them as often as necessary that they also were once young and faced temptations and peer pressures as well. Parents ought to give examples of how they overcame the pressure and instruct their child that by God's power they can conquer.
    - 3) Taking time for children is a parental responsibility. Too many parents have so busy a schedule that they do not build relationships with their children. They do not teach them about life, death, and growing old. They do not lead by example and take the child to church. Instructing the child is the job of the parents, not the government.
    - 4) Joseph took his sons with him to visit Jacob.

- a) One of the most difficult areas to discipline a child in, regardless of the generation, is the fact that if they live long enough, they will get old. Children seem to think that old folks were always old folks. Some children seem to think that they will reach an age in life and not get any older. They have what is called the Peter Pan Syndrome: forever young.
  - b) Children cannot fathom that the one laying on the bed was at one time young and filled with life, hope, dreams, aspirations, and desires as they. As the child gazes on the one that is old and decrepit seldom does the child envision themselves in such a state of life. Such situations are dealt with in one of several manners such as: (1) It won't happen to me. (2) The rapture will come. (3) I will cross that bridge when I get to it. (4) I am too young to worry about it now. (5) Better they than me. (6) God give me the grace to deal with it.
  - c) The Bible does not say why Joseph took his two sons to visit their aged grandfather as he lay on his deathbed. If Joseph was concerned about it scarring the young lads, the Bible again remains silent. However, the Bible does say many things about youth respecting the aged and how it is an honour and blessing for parents to raise godly children. Observe the following instructions that the Bible gives to parents on how we should bless our children with Christian upbringing.
- d. The blessings of \_\_\_\_\_, *Lev. 19:32*.
- 1) When Jacob heard that his son Joseph was coming he mustered all his strength and sat upon his bed. Jacob had respect, dignity, and honour even in his final hours. He did not get those godly attributes on his deathbed. He worked at them over a period of 147 years.
  - 2) Moses gave a similar command to the children of Israel and how the nation was to instruct their children. This is a command that disciplined parents must teach undisciplined lazy children. Parents cannot teach this to their children unless the parents are first disciplined themselves.
  - 3) When parents tell their children to arise when the aged enters the room and give them the seat or chair, a two-fold application of instructions begins immediately in that the youth is taught respect to the aged one. When the aged one accepts the offered chair, the child receives words of thanks, respect, and right then, the child matures just a little as well. Likewise the aged should accept the offered chair or stool in respect and not demand it as a right.
- e. The blessings of \_\_\_\_\_ teaching young girls, *Titus 2:3-4*.
- 1) Aged Christian women, especially mothers, and by aged we do not mean old according to years but wise, do not develop into such overnight. They grow into godly souls by allowing the Holy Ghost to govern their reactions one situation at a time. We could also go a step farther and say that godly Christian souls are proactive more so than reactive.
  - 2) What is the difference between being proactive and reactive? Reactive means acting after the facts or the events. Often these reactions are anything less than Christian. The best illustration for being proactive is an example. A proactive Christian views temptation for what it is and avoids it like AIDS. *1 Th 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil*. If there were more aged saints teaching young boys and girls, there would be more godly young ladies and men.
  - 3) Paul told Titus that young women were to love their children. In the context this affection spoken of is more than motherly love. This is tough love in that it disciplines the young girl(s) in the ways of holiness. Tough love gives instructions and then checks back and verifies that the instructions are being carried out as previously directed. If not, there are consequences to pay.
- f. The blessings of teaching young ladies how to \_\_\_\_\_, *1 Pet. 3:5-6*.
- 1) Holy women ought to teach their daughters how to dress. Good godly holy women will never make Mr. Blackwell's Best Dressed List. Mr. Blackwell puts this list out every year because he is in the fashion business and his livelihood depends on selling clothes. Every Christian mother, and even the women not married should lead by example, ought to instruct their daughters in how to dress modestly so that their clothing does not become a stumbling block to a lecherous male eye.

- g. The blessings of \_\_\_\_\_ teaching young boys, *1 Kings 12:6-7*.
- 1) Aged mature men of God have a greater responsibility than do the godly women. Contrary to what the politically correct world spouts out, God gave a greater responsibility to men than He did to women. This does not mean God holds women in a less than honourable position.
  - 2) The mature man of God ought to be teaching his young son, and be setting a godly example to others, to obtain and follow godly wisdom and advice. This kind of advice can be found in preachers, Sunday School teachers, and in the Bible. Fathers need to take time to instruct their children in seeking and following advice. Fathers ought to warn of the price one must pay for following the ways of the world.
  - 3) Joseph was wise beyond his years. He got this wisdom from God and through his conduct. Pharaoh saw this and that was why Joseph was elevated from prisoner to second in command on such short notice. Joseph was ready for the position of leader because of how he allowed God to conduct him through his many trials.
  - 4) There was another king that was the wisest man that ever lived other than the Lord. However, he was sidetracked and failed to instruct his children in the discipline and blessing of seeking and following godly wisdom and counsel. King Solomon did not pass on to his son Rehoboam this particular blessing. Rehoboam consulted the old and young men. The advice he followed was that of the young and it cost him.
- h. The blessing of teaching the \_\_\_\_\_ to the young, *Jer. 6:16*.
- 1) Probably the most common line of greeting is, "What's new?" This line was much in vogue 2,000 years ago in ancient Greece, *Acts 17:21* (*For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.*) as it is TODAY. "What's new with you?"
  - 2) The new way is not always the best way. Satan told Eve he would show her a new thing called wisdom. Selling something new is what advertising agents do best. They make you think you are missing out on something unless you have new Tide or the latest computer program. Bill Gates and his company will always be upgrading something. There is a buck to be made in the upgrade.
  - 3) God told Jeremiah to tell the people to seek the old ways and paths. Godly fathers need to instruct their sons and daughters to not forsake the old commandments of God. His ways are tried and true. It takes an obedient and disciplined parent to remain in the old paths and teach them to their children. This was one thing that God told Abraham that He knew he would do: instruct his children in the ways of the Lord, *Gen. 18*.
  - 4) It is a great blessing to pass on to your children the tradition of a simple worship service. Children need to be taught that God looks on our hearts when we worship and service Him. If we do not make this point known to our children they will try to please God through works.
- i. Parents should lead by example, *1 Cor. 15:33*.
- 1) Regardless of how much time we spend teaching our children the do's and don'ts it will all be for nothing if we do not put some restraints on them. Joseph led by example when he took his sons to visit their grandfather. James gave us the same instructions when he told us to be doers of the word and not hearers only.
  - 2) Joseph could have told his sons a thousand times to go and visit their grandfather Jacob. They probably were closer to their grandfather on their mother's side, Potipherah priest of On, than they were Jacob. They had been around him more. These lads are anywhere from 10-14 years old at the time of this visit. They had seven to nine years with Papa Potipherah before grandpa Jacob came to Egypt. Regardless of the number of times Joseph told them to go visit Jacob, it made a greater impression on them when Joseph led by example and took them with him.
  - 3) We will never win our lost family and friends to Lord, our children will never have an influenced on the lost by doing the following: (1) wearing what they wear, (2) going where they go, (3) doing what they do, (4) saying what they say. It takes godly parents passing on these godly instructions to the child when that child is young to make them different. If we wait until the child is 12-16, the job can still be done, but first the mould must be broken and a new one cast

3. Jacob Accepts His Grandsons into His Lineage – even though born of Egypt

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| The original 12 sons of Jacob were:  | Joseph gave his inheritance unto his two sons   | By the time the book of the <i>Revelation</i> is composed the tribes have changed (Rev 7). John the revelator named the 12 tribes of Israel as follows...   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reuben</li> <li>2. Simeon</li> <li>3. Levi</li> <li>4. Judah</li> <li>5. Zebulun</li> <li>6. Issachar</li> <li>7. Dan</li> <li>8. Gad</li> <li>9. Asher</li> <li>10. Naphtali</li> <li>11. Joseph</li> <li>12. Benjamin</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reuben</li> <li>2. Simeon</li> <li>3. Judah</li> <li>4. Zebulun</li> <li>5. Issachar</li> <li>6. Dan</li> <li>7. Gad</li> <li>8. Asher</li> <li>9. Naphtali</li> <li>10. Ephraim</li> <li>11. Manasseh</li> <li>12. Benjamin</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Judah</li> <li>2. Reuben</li> <li>3. Gad</li> <li>4. Asher</li> <li>5. Nephthalim</li> <li>6. Manasses</li> <li>7. Simeon</li> <li>8. Levi</li> <li>9. Issachar</li> <li>10. Zabulon</li> <li>11. Joseph</li> <li>12. Benjamin</li> </ol> |
| Each of these sons was to inherit a portion of the Promised Land.  | By adding these two lads, the total would be 13 or 14 tribes depending on whether one counted Joseph or not. God counted him.   | No Dan<br>No Ephraim (Manasses is back)   |

- a. It is easy to see by comparing these lists that some of the names have obviously changed.
  - 1) Dan and Ephraim are missing from the account in the *Revelation*. There is no biblical reason out rightly given.
  - 2) By studying the Bible it is easy to determine what happens to these two tribes. Ephraim is swallowed up by the other tribes, and Dan goes into apostasy and never returned.
- b. The downward steps of Dan can be found in *Judges* ch. 17 and 18.
- c. Ephraim became prideful and seems to disappear as a tribe proper.
  - 1) Ephraim had words with Gideon, *Judges 7:24-25, 8:1-3*, and threatened to make war. Gideon sought to pacify them and was successful in avoiding war.
  - 2) However, in just a few years the tribe of Ephraim had words with Jephthah, *Judge. 12:1-6*. Jephthah was not as gentle as Gideon and thoroughly whipped them in battle.
  - 3) The tribe of Ephraim did not readily submit to the throne of King David, *2 Sam. 2:8-9*.
  - 4) Later this tribe was jealous of the tribe of Judah.
  - 5) Then it became the head tribe of the Northern nation of Israel, and completely against God
  - 6) It was given (addicted) to idolatry (*Hos 4:17*)

**B. Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh (48:8-20)**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ received the birthright.
  - a. Here again God does not honour the firstborn, Manasseh, with the greater blessing. Instead it goes to Ephraim. Joseph guided the lads within reach of their grandfather. He placed Manasseh so that Jacob’s right hand would be upon his head. Jacob could not see and did not know which son was where.
2. Jacob crossed his hands when he blessed the children – overruling Joseph’s wisdom and understanding of the birthright!
  - a. As Jacob reached out to bless his grandsons, he crossed his hands. The Spirit of the Lord leads him to give Ephraim the greater blessing. Even though he received the greater blessing his tribe is not named in the final head count. Where much is given much is required. That was true for Ephraim. It is true for us. God’s son hung on a cross. It was His blessing to those that aspired to become His children. It is a great honour to follow the Lord.

- b. There is a great blessing in store for parents that bless their children with godly counsel, instructions, and living. It is an honourable heritage to pass on to our children the Lord as Master. As parents we all need to realize the responsibility that comes with bearing children. If we viewed it from the eyes of God more, we would consider it twice before we decided to become parents.
- c. The Angel that protected Jacob would now protect both the lads
  - 1) This is the Angel that spoke from the burning bush
  - 2) And the same Angel that leads the children of Israel by a cloud by day, and by a fire by night
  - 3) This Angel is Jesus pre-incarnate
3. Principle: Don't argue with your parents – they usually know what they are doing. God works through authority

### **III. Conclusion and Study Questions**