

## JOSEPH

#18, genealogy, birthright and blessings – Gen 48:1-22 and 49:22-26

Ecc1 3:1-2, There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven –

2 A time to give birth and a time to die;

For seventeen years Joseph enjoyed the fellowship of his father. As the years passed he watched as the once strong man became frail and he knew in his heart that Jacob's end was near.

### Genesis chapter 48

1 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.

I've been dreading this summons. I know he is continually getting weaker. I wonder if he called every one or just me? Seventeen years is such a short time.

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.

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

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.'

[1.] v:1-2, your father is sick, Why can we assume that, at that time, Jacob wanted to talk with just Joseph?

[2.] v:3, appeared to me at Luz, What's another name for this place?

[3.] v:4, this land to your descendants, Since this did not refer to Egypt, what disappointments might Joseph have had?

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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. 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.

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)."

8 When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?" 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." 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. 11 Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face, and behold, God has let me see your children as well." 12 Then Joseph took them from his knees, and bowed with his face to the ground.

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.

[4.] v:5-7, your two sons, Regarding genealogy and family inheritance, what were the consequences of what Jacob stated?

[5.] v:5-7 again, born after them, If Joseph had more sons, to whom did they belong?

[6.] question [5.], called by the names of their brothers, How did this fact assure Joseph's future sons an inheritance with the sons of Israel?

[7.] v:8-12, Who are these? From these verses, determine the reason for Jacob's question.

[8.] v:13, Joseph took them both, From the way Joseph positioned the boys:

Who would be at Jacob's right hand? \_\_\_\_\_

Who would be at Jacob's left hand?  
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**Birthright**, the term applied to the particular advantages, privileges, and responsibilities of the *firstborn* among the Israelites. . . . The rights and privileges of the firstborn were: 1. The *firstborn* received a double portion of the estate, the other sons single and equal portions. . . . 2. The *firstborn* was the head of the whole family.

Unger's Bible Dictionary

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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.

15 He blessed Joseph, and said,  
" The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,  
The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,  
16 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."

[9.] v:14, the head of Ephraim, Why would Joseph expect Jacob's right hand to be on Manasseh?

[10.] v:14 again, firstborn, From I Chronicles 5:1-2, to whom was Reuben's birthright given?

[11.] v:15-16, Bless the lads, Who was being blessed through Joseph?

[12.] v:16, may my name live on in them, What name was to live on in the two boys?

[13.] v:16 again, multitude, Identify this group.

Oh no, he doesn't see them! He can't distinguish between Manasseh and Ephraim! I've got to act fast before he speaks the wrong thing and this whole business is really messed up.

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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. 18 Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn. Place your right hand on his head."

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."

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his descendants shall become a multitude of nations, Ephraim did indeed become the dominant tribe of the 10 Northern tribes, eventually being used as the national designate for the 10 tribes in the prophets (Is 7:2, 5, 9, 17; Hos 9:3-16).

MacArthur Study Bible

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.

21 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.

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."

[14.] v:17-18, grasped his father's hand, Describe the correction that Joseph tried to make.

[15.] v:19, Which of Joseph's two sons would be the greater?

[16.] v:19 again, multitude of nations, What will become another name for the 10 Northern tribes?

[17.] v:20-21, bring you back, What did Jacob tell Joseph about his future

[18.] v:22, one portion more, Where did Joseph's an extra portion come from?

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Jacob then called the remainder of his sons and told them what would befall them in the days to come. When it was Joseph's turn he blessed him. The blessing seems to be in three parts. One, v:22, Joseph's life that is a benefit to others, two, v:23-24, a life of being attacked without returning in kind and three, v:25-26, the recipient of God's blessing.

### Genesis chapter 49

22, " Joseph is a fruitful bough,  
A fruitful bough by a spring;  
Its branches run over a wall.

23 "The archers bitterly attacked him,  
And shot at him and harassed him;  
24 But his bow remained firm,  
And his arms were agile,

From the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob  
(From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),  
25 From the God of your father who helps you,  
And by the Almighty who blesses you  
With blessings of heaven above,  
Blessings of the deep that lies beneath,  
Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.  
26 "The blessings of your father  
Have surpassed the blessings of my ancestors  
Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills;  
May they be on the head of Joseph,  
And on the crown of the head of the one  
distinguished among his brothers.

[19.] v:22, a fruitful bough, What happens to a bough that is in the proximity of a spring?

[20.] v:23-24a, his arms were agile, From the following, choose the statement that best describes this phrase.

- a) Joseph buckled when attacked.
- b) Joseph did not retaliate.
- c) Joseph was aggressive.

[21.] v:24b-26, From the God, Jot down the different locations that God's blessings came from.