

When Genesis 47 ends, Jacob and his family are reunited with Joseph, dwelling in the land of Goshen. Old and advanced in years, Jacob is approaching death. In chapter 48, before his passing, Jacob seeks to bless the sons of Joseph, calling them his own and ultimately establishing them as the predecessors of what will become the tribes of Israel.

Genesis 48:1-22

Jacob's Blessing of Faith

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

It's been said that beginning the race is much more difficult than finishing. When it comes to the race of life, the principle stands true as well. Finishing strong, leaving a good legacy, is no easy task. How we leave this world will be much more readily remembered by those around us than how we began.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHO do you know that you would say finished the race of life well?

WHAT was it about how they lived, specifically, that makes you think they lived well?

HOW would you hope to be remembered when you finish this "race"?

WHEN it comes to the final words shared with a friend or loved one, **DO** you have any that marked you in a particular way you remember?

IF you could script your final words to your spouse, kids, family member or beloved friend, what might you say?

Genesis 48:1-20 Read Genesis 48:1-20

Jacob's Blessing of Faith

OBSERVATION

What is true of Jacob as the passage opens (vs. 1-2)?

In vs. 3-4, what event does Jacob recall as he speaks to Joseph?

In vs. 5-6, what does Jacob say he will do with the two sons Joseph fathered in Egypt, and what about the children he fathered after them?

In vs. 9, what does Joseph seek to do with Ephraim and Manasseh?

What do you notice from the text regarding how Jacob chooses to bless the boys in vs. 14?

How does Joseph respond to this interaction in vs. 17-21?

What observations are you able to make as you consider the blessing given by Jacob in vs. 15-16?

INTERPRETATION

What Jacob refers to God in vs. 3, what does the specific name he uses mean?

In vs. 3, what event does Jacob remember when he recounts God appearing to him at Luz? See Genesis 28:18-22 and 35:11-12.

What is the connection between Jacob's experiences years ago with God (28:18-22, 35:11-12), the name of God used in vs. 3, and the promise remembered in vs. 4?

When Jacob chooses to bless Joseph, how does he refer to the Lord in vs. 15? How is this a fitting description of the Lord's work in Jacob's life up to this point?

Who is the "angel" Jacob refers to in vs. 16? See 32:24 for insight.

Why is Joseph displeased with the way Jacob blesses his sons? How is this fitting with the pattern seen in Jacob's life? Recall Genesis 25:22-28.

Why, according to Hebrews 11:21, did Jacob's blessing upon Manasseh and Ephraim require faith?

APPLICATION

Where has God demonstrated His faithfulness to you in the past?

How would you describe God's work of faith in your life right now, in the present?

Where would you say you're hopeful in God's faithfulness, looking to the future??