

# 18-19 Bible Study #6

10/16/18

# Genesis 48

Joseph's Brothers Bring Benjamin to Egypt

# Genesis 48

- **Genesis 48: 1-6**

- When **Joseph** heard that his father was ill, he took his two sons to his father's bedside
- **Luz** was **Bethel** where he heard the story of **Jacob's** ladder (**Gn 28:10-23\***)
- Look at the order in which he presents them to **Jacob**: **Manasseh**, the first born, and **Ephraim**, his younger brother
- What he did in this passage was adopt the two sons of **Joseph** and made them equal to his two eldest sons **Reuben** and **Simeon**

# Genesis 48 (Cont)

- These actions will end up affecting the rest of Salvation History
- First, **Jacob** was adopting his two grandsons and raising them to be equal with his own sons
- By adopting them, he was giving them the rights of his inheritance
- Since there are two of them, they will receive two portions of the inheritance (this means that **Joseph**, the 11<sup>th</sup> son, was being given a double-portion of the inheritance)

# Genesis 48 (Cont)

- This would imply that **Joseph** was being elevated to the status of the first born son (which he was via **Rachel**)
- But the true first-born son(s) of **Jacob** were **Reuben**, followed by **Simeon**, **Levi** and **Judah**
- So the first thing **Jacob** was doing here was to raise **Joseph**, once again, to a very special place of honor (remember the coat with sleeves to the palms)
- **Joseph's** two sons will now inherit a portion of their uncles' inheritance of the land from **Jacob**

# Genesis 48 (Cont)

- Now look at what **Jacob** does with the birth order of his two grandsons!
- Even though **Joseph** presented them in the correct order and tried to prevent his near-sighted father from blessing them out of order, **Jacob** purposely gave the first born blessing to **Ephraim**
- This was not an accident
- This should cause us to pause and wonder what is going on here
- The book of **Genesis** was carefully written (so again look for God in the details)

# Genesis 28 (Cont)

- **Genesis 48: 7-22**

- Here we find a reference back to the *Rachel* story in case you did not realize what *Jacob* was doing related to her
- The fact that we hear that his eyes were dim and he could not see should remind us of *Jacob's* father *Isaac* whose eyes were dim when he inadvertently blessed *Jacob* over *Esau* (who was the true eldest son) due to the deception of *Rebecca* and *Jacob*
- Look at the description of this blessing and how *Jacob* purposefully brought his right hand over his left to bless *Ephraim*
- When *Joseph* protested, *Jacob* said that he knew what he was doing because *Ephraim* will be greater than his brother *Manasseh*

# Genesis 48 (Cont)

- This meant that ***Ephraim*** would get the special rights of the firstborn and become the head of the tribe of ***Joseph***
- As we saw, ***Joseph*** was given a double portion and now his youngest son ***Ephraim*** inherited that double portion and his tribe quickly assumed the role of leadership when the country was divided into North and South at the death of ***Solomon***

# Genesis 48 (Cont)

- The leader in the south will be **Solomon's** son **Rehoboam**, who was the leader of the tribe of **Judah**
- The leader in the north will be **Jeroboam**, who as a member of the tribe of **Ephraim**, was elected to lead the 10 northern tribes
- There will be tensions between these two tribes for many years to come
- This all goes back to the fact the **Isaac** had two wives, resulting in two first-born sons

# Genesis 49

Jacob's Last Words to His Sons

# Genesis 49

- **Genesis 49:1-7**

- **Reuben** has a clear reference to being the first born but we are reminded of what he did with his father's concubine (**Gn 35:22**)
- Imagine what **Simeon** and **Levi** must have been thinking when they saw **Reuben** being passed over
- They are passed over because of their actions revenging their sister **Dinah** (**Gn 35:24**)
- Here we see the words, "I will divide them in **Jacob** and scatter them in **Israel**"
- This is a reference to the tribal allotment discussed in **Joshua 18:7-19:9**

# Genesis 49 (Cont)

- What will happen there is that **Levi** and **Simeon** will eventually disappear
  - **Simeon** will be given a tribal allotment but in the worst part of the land (the Negev desert south of the **Dead Sea**)
  - The tribe never becomes powerful and eventually was absorbed into the tribal land of **Judah** <sup>1</sup>
  - **David** will eventually conquer the **Philistines** and **Edom**
  - **Levi** will also be scattered but as the priestly clan, they will live in cities in each of the tribal allotments
  - Their allotments will be a blessing
  - Again, God as the author of history causes all this to work out

# Genesis 49 (Cont)

- **Genesis 49:8-39**

- Here the fulfilment of the statement that your father's sons shall bow down before you was fulfilled as Judah was put in control
- ***Judah*** will become the powerful and royal tribe
- ***Judah*** himself will be in charge when his father dies
- There is also the promise that the tribe of Judah will be the special ruling tribe forever
- We will see this referenced again in **Numbers 27:14**
- The lion of ***Judah*** will also be referenced in **Numbers 24:9**

# Genesis 49 (Cont)

- All of these predictions will be fulfilled when we get to ***David*** and ultimately, **Jesus**, the king of the tribe of ***Judah***
- These passages are very relevant throughout all of “Salvation History”
- This will be extremely important when God gives ***David*** His dynastic promise in **2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7** which depends upon this blessing of ***Jacob*** to ***Judah***

# Genesis 49 (Cont)

- The other blessings are not that important but ***Joseph*** gets a nice blessing as well
- In the end, God is the author of history and will determine what is right
- ***Jacob*** had two wives with ***Rachel*** being buried between **Bethel** and **Bethlehem**, while ***Leah*** was buried in the tomb of the Patriarchs with her rightful husband **Jacob**

# Genesis 50

# Genesis 50

- **Genesis 50**

- Look back at the **prophecy** that God promised to **Abraham** in **Genesis 15** where He indicated that his **children would be slaves in a foreign land but that He would bring them out in the fourth generation to this land (Genesis 15:13-16)**
- Then in **Genesis 46** God told Jacob not to be afraid to go down to Egypt with his entire family (**Genesis 46:3-4**)
- There are also **two predictions** that help explain this 400 year waiting period

# Genesis 50 (Cont)

- **First**, the promise that Israel will leave Egypt with “great possessions”
  - In order for them to leave Egypt, they had to be there in the first place
  - This promise will be fulfilled in Exodus 12:35-36 when they left Egypt after the 10<sup>th</sup> plague
- **Second**, God had them wait before giving them the Promised Land because of the “iniquity of the *Amorites* is not yet complete”
  - The Amorites were a sinful people who worshiped other gods
  - God promised to remove them from the land after a certain period of time that included the 400 years Israel was in Egypt
  - The Amorites were destroyed as predicted (Numbers 21:31-32; Joshua 10:12)

# Genesis 50 (Cont)

- **Joseph** also required his brothers to promise to take his body with them when they returned to the Promised Land
- **Joseph** encouraged his brothers to remain in **Egypt** because he believed that what God had predicted would come true
- Father said that **Joseph's** faith rested on reason

# Genesis 50 (Cont)

- Father also wanted to emphasize that when some propose evil, God allows it because He intends good to come from it
- God's will always comes true because He is the author of history
- This should give us comfort, especially in light of the death and resurrection of **Jesus**

# Overview of the 14 Historical Books

- **Genesis**

- Prehistory

- Creation
- Adam & Eve and the fall
- Flood
- Tower of Babel

- Patriarchs

- Abraham

- Covenant
- 3 Promises
- Descendants -12 sons of Jacob (Israel)
- Move to Egypt

- We will now turn to the **Book of Exodus**

# Exodus 1

# Overview of the 14 Historical Books (Cont)

- **Exodus**

- Moses vs. Pharaoh
- Passover
- The Law on Mt Sinai
- The golden calf incident
- Wandering in the desert

- *Leviticus*

- *Rules governing worship*

# Introduction to Exodus

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Biblical Period begins in the 19<sup>th</sup> century B.C. with Jacob and his family living in the land of Egypt as Pharaoh's guests
- It ends four hundred years later with their dependents, the people of Israel, liberated from slavery and setting out from Mount Sinai for the Promised Land

# Introduction to Exodus (Cont)

- The key events of this time period, found in the Book of Exodus are:
  - The exodus from Egypt
  - The giving of the Law
  - The Sinai covenant
  - The building of the tabernacle