

JACOB BLESSES EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH — GENESIS 48

JACOB CALLS FOR HIS SONS — v.1-4

- This is not merely a blessing. It is an adoption.
- Jacob may be losing his health, including eyesight, but he is not losing his memory.
- It is interesting that Jacob leaves out the clause from **Genesis 35:11**, “and kings shall come forth from you.” That aspect was for Judah (**Ge.49:10**).



JOSEPH AND HIS SONS, MANASSEH & EPHRAIM

JACOB ADOPTS JOSEPH'S SON AS HIS OWN — v.5-6

- Jacob gave the birthright to Joseph by elevating Ephraim and Manasseh to the rank of firstborn sons.
- Ephraim and Manasseh replace Reuben and Simeon as the first born pre-imminent heirs of Judah (**1Ch.5:1**). They become “replacements” for Reuben and Simeon who were disqualified because of their sin (**Ge.34:25; 35:22**).
- Because of the adoption, there are 13 sons of Jacob. Joseph is divided into two tribes.
- Jacob in effect was elevating Joseph to the level of himself.

JACOB CONCLUDES HIS TESTIMONY — v.7

- Jacob's elevation of the sons of Joseph was prompted by his recollection of Rachel, his favorite wife, who died in the land of Canaan (**Ge.35:16-20**).
- Jacob's reference to Rachel shows his act of adoption was to honor her.



JACOB REMEMBERS AND HONORS RACHEL

JACOB BLESSES MANASSEH AND EPHRAIM — v.8-12

- Jacob identified the beneficiaries as part of the legal ritual of adoption and or blessing.
- Ancient Near Eastern adoption ritual including placing the adopted child on the knees of the adopting parent to symbolize giving him birth in place of the birth mother.

JACOB PUTS THE FAVORED HAND ON THE SECOND-BORN — v.13-14

- The right hand has the idea of favored position. Typically the right hand would be placed on the older son, in this case Manasseh.
- But in the blessing Israel crossed his hands so that his right hand was on Ephraim's head.
- Jacob deliberately chose the second-born to receive a greater blessing than the first.

JACOB BLESSES MANASSEH & EPHRAIM — v.15-16

- Joseph was receiving the double inheritance rights of the first born (**Ge.49:22-26**). And Judah will receive the Messianic line (**Ge.49:8-12**).



JACOB ANSWERS JOSEPH'S OBJECTION ABOUT THE ORDER OF BLESSING — v.17-20

- When Joseph attempted to correct Jacob's mistake, he learned that Jacob knew exactly what he was doing.
- Jacob, not Joseph is the patriarch of the covenant family.

JACOB MAKES A PERSONAL BEQUEST TO JOSEPH — v.21-22