

Genesis 47.28 – 48.22

The End

LAST Day 2017, Passed 4 Seasons BJ: Freezing / Burning / Choking / Breathing  
LIFE is Series of SEASONS from SPRINGTIME to WINTER

SCHOOL Years > Friends share News > Accepted into UNI, Getting 1<sup>st</sup> JOBS

20's Friends share Graduate STUDIES, ENTER Professions, MARRIAGE News

30's > Friends having KIDS, Getting Promotions, Moving to New Places

40's & 50's > Friends KIDS going UNI, Getting MARRIED

50's & Beyond > GRANDKIDS, Retirement, Friends share Terminal Diseases...

Letter We got Few Days ago...

Dear Mark & Dayna,

I shared this with the church family this weekend and wanted to let you know. We so appreciate you and know you'll partner in prayer with us...

COUPLE known for 30 years > PASTOR of Very Good Church in Hawaii

Solid Bible Teaching, Effective Outreach COMMUNITY and World MISSIONS

It's been confirmed this week that I have pancreatic cancer. We were not expecting this, but we know the Lord is not surprised by any of this, and we trust in His will...I'll begin chemotherapy this Wednesday, and we're hopeful I'll be able to continue my ministry...Here's the deal. This church is about Jesus. It's certainly not about me. It's my prayer that you have been listening to the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. If so, you'll continue to hear from Him through whoever teaches His Word, and you'll be faithful in serving and worship...We love you all so much. We ask you to pray for us.

DYING can FOCUS the Mind on what is MOST IMPORTANT

4000 yrs ago DYING Man named JACOB thought about GOD

## 1. Hope in the God of Promises

### a. Gifts without the Giver

For MOST of LIFE Jacob NOT Think Much about GOD > Not Good Example  
 REASON Why 2<sup>nd</sup> Son of ISAAC given Name JACOB = THIEF, CHEATER  
 ELDER Brother was ESAU > Jacob STOLE his BIRTHRIGHT & BLESSING

Jacob and Mother REBEKAH schemed to Steal Blessing from BLIND ISAAC

Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.” But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “*Because the LORD your God granted me success.*” Genesis 27.19,20

FIRST Time in BIBLE Jacob mentions NAME of GOD! > He was LYING!

Taking NAME of God in VAIN – Dressed like Brother! Deceiving his Father!

Does NOT say the Lord MY God --- but YOUR God --- Still Stranger!

God was FAITHFUL to Promise to ABE & MERCIFUL to Grandson JACOB

vs. 3,4 And Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.’”

Like OLD People Do – Jacob begins to REMINISCE over his LONG LIFE

Recalls LEAVING and RETURNING to Land of CANAAN – 2 Key EVENTS

DECADES Past Since Meeting w/ GOD at LUZ – a.k.a. Bethel “House of God”

After this Vision – God gave 12 Sons, 1 Daughter, 52 GRANDCHILDREN

God BLESSED Jacob and made him VERY FRUITFUL

ACT of Sheer GRACE, Not based on SINCERITY of Jacob’s Life or Prayers

As Young Man leaving Home to Make Life for himself > God MET him

Jacob... dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring...in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. ...

Amazing PRIVILEGE – MEETS with Living God – NOT CONSUMED by Fire!  
Instead of Being DESTROYED as SINNER > God DELIGHTS in him as a SON

When Jacob REALIZES he is in HOUSE of God > Sees what he CAN GET!

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you." Genesis 28.10-22

Not HUMBLE but HAUGHTY --- Not a PRAYER it was a BARGAIN

BARGAIN that BENEFITS Jacob --- Give Me, Give Me, Give Me ---- Get 10%

God was THRILLED – Wow! – He could get 10% --- IF he gave Jacob ALL!

How many JACOB's are there in THIS CHURCH? Am I just Like JACOB?

Happy to GET Blessings of God --- and If God gives All --- you give 10% Tip

This is why JACOB Needed to have ANOTHER Meeting with God

God will ATTACK Jacob in the Night and try to BREAK his REBELLION

That is when we HEAR the FIRST Real Prayer of Jacob...

He (*God*) touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "*I will not let you go unless you bless me.*" And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Genesis 32.25-28

God needed to BREAK Jacob before he could BLESS him as ISRAEL

God RESISTS the PROUD but gives GRACE to the HUMBLE

## b. Focus of Finality

WISH I could say AFTER WRESTLING Match w/ God – Jacob was PERFECT  
In our Studies – Ch 37 Onwards – Mostly Still CALLED JACOB – Old Self  
PATRIARCH Creates Dysfunctional Family, Plays Favorites, Shrivels Pity Party

MERCY of God --- Many Chances for Jacob to Live like ISRAEL

17 More years of SANCTIFICATION Opportunities in EGYPT

v. 28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.

17 yrs of YOUTH Joseph was CARED FOR by his Father JACOB

Now for FINAL 17 yrs ELDERLY JACOB is Cared For by his SON Joseph

DYING Joseph is DEPENDENT upon the FAVOR of his SON Joseph

Asks for his HESED – Kindness & Faithfulness

vs. 29-30 And when the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, “If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me...

FOCUS of Bible is LIFE – Life with GOD, ETERNAL and ABUNDANT

Surprisingly FEW Death Bed SCENES – Many Bible Heroes Not Recorded

Just COUPLE Verses DEATHS of Abraham & Isaac > Jacob 4 Chs / 73 Vss

3 Different DEATH-BED Scenes these Chapters > Joseph, Jo’s Sons, 12 Sons

JACOB like Thief on Cross Next to Jesus – Know at Very End he Got it RIGHT!

v. 31 Then Israel bowed himself upon the head of his bed.

ISRAEL is TRUE PRINCE with God – Too Old to KNEEL, Bows in his BED  
 WORSHIPPED on STAFF – Too OLD and FEEBLE to Bow to the GROUND

1000 yrs later we Read the SAME of OLD KING DAVID

The king's servants came to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make the name of Solomon more famous than yours, and make his throne greater than your throne.' *And the king bowed himself on the bed.* 1 Kings 1.47

ONE POINT of FAITH in JACOB Commended by WRITER to HEBREWS

By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in  
 worship over the head of his staff. Hebrews 11.21

Do NOT need to be 147 yrs old KNOW you are MORTAL – The End for ALL  
 No matter your AGE – 365 days Closer to LAST DAY – than when 2017 Began

ALL of us Need to NUMBER our Days and APPLY our Hearts to WISDOM

We're ALL Standing between God – Men / Eternity – Time

This is what Jacob wanted to pass on to his children... We try to leave our  
 children well-situated in life...good educations...friends and contacts...good  
 bank accounts...But these can perish overnight. It is the knowledge of God  
 which alone remains. James Boice

### c. Life in the Land

Joseph meets DYING Father and SWEARS Promise FILIAL LOYALTY Ch 47

Then BUSY Joseph needs to Get On w/ FEEDING HUNGRY WORLD

Some of US – Same Struggle – CALLING of Ministry, w/ PARENTS in NEED

vs. 21,22 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers. Moreover, I have given to you rather than to your brothers one mountain slope that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow."

Why did Joseph NEED a Small Ridge in Far-Away Canaan?

Was it like the UGLY SWEATER you get from GRANDMA for Christmas?

Didn't Joseph have all the LAND he needed in EGYPT?

That's the Point – EGYPT is NOT the Promise Land – Temporary SOJOURN

JACOB Not Only giving LAND > Giving HOPE that ISRAEL will RETURN

BURIAL Cave – MACHPELAH – Only PIECE of PROMISED LAND So Far...

v. 30 Do not bury me in Egypt, but let me lie with my fathers.

v. 16 bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”

Hebrew word TRANSLATED either Land or Earth > PROMISE of Land

MOST Tangible way CONNECT to God of Promises > PROMISED LAND

Moses wrote this for HEBREWS Marching to gain the PROMISED LAND

JACOB prays to Bless Joseph's Sons in the LAND OF PROMISE

Half Egyptian Boys – OTHER Grandpa is PAGAN PRIEST of Egypt

WORSHIPPERS of True God of ISRAEL by SAVING FAITH

Place of God's Name is going to be THEIR TRUE HOMELAND too

You don't need any spiritual interest to desire to inherit the earth. You can inherit the earth while living in Egypt as easily as in Canaan. Inheriting the land, however, involves meekly receiving the portion that the Lord has marked out for you, whether it is large or small, easy or challenging. Iain Duguid

New Covenant – Meet God in PERSON, NOT Place > JESUS IS our Temple

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”  
John 14.6

The meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.

Psalm 37.11

## 2. Humble before the God of Providence

### a. Purpose is Surprising

DECADES Earlier Jacob's Father lay in DEATHBED, BLIND

He Summoned his STRENGTH to BLESS his Favorite Son ESAU

Jacob DECEIVED his BLIND FATHER & came to STEAL Brother's Blessing

NOW Joseph's Older will Serve the YOUNGER w/ No Treachery or Deceit

ESAU was EXCLUDED – But BOTH Joseph's SONS will be BLESSED

v. 4 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.'

SINGLE Line of Abrahamic Blessing > NOW Branching into Tree of Blessing

vs. 8-12 When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?" Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." And he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them." Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. And Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also." Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.

JACOB was Going BLIND, But he could SEE CLEARLY What he was DOING  
ASKING Names = BAPTISMAL Vows, WEDDING "who gives this woman?"

FORMAL CEREMONY of INVESTITURE – Passing on INHERITANCE

2 Oldest Sons of JOSEPH would be SONS of ISRAEL – 2 of the 12 TRIBES

Out of Jacob's 52 Grandkids – 2 Young Men would be LEADERS of TRIBES

Jacob has recited God's past blessing on him to validate his present blessing on Joseph...The adoption ritual includes placing them upon his knees, symbolizing his giving them birth in place of Asenath (*their Egyptian mother*)...the grandfather has adopted his grandsons and made them his heirs. Bruce Waltke

Reuben and Simeon BY-PASSED to give DOUBLE PORTION to JOSEPH  
SIMEON is VIOLENT / REUBEN is PERVERTED

The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's couch, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel, so that he could not be enrolled as the oldest son 1 Chronicles 5.1

Purpose of God is often Surprising

Why did God save Me? Never thought I would know/serve Living God!

Who Imagined we'd be in Beijing – With WIDE Door of Gospel Opportunity

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55.6-9

b. Pain and Suffering Recalls LEAVING & RETURNING Land of CANAAN  
LEFT Home with Nothing – Only the PROMISE of God's BLESSING

RETURNED 20 yrs Later – 4 Wives, 12 Sons, 1 Daughter – RACHEL DIED

Perhaps looking at Joseph's FACE Reminded Jacob of his BELOVED Mother

v. 7 As for me, when I came from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).”

2 Events – Leaving and Returning – PROMISE and PAIN – HOPE and HURT

Believed in PROMISE even in midst of PAIN

Rachel DIED giving BIRTH to 2<sup>nd</sup> Son – “Ben Oni” – Son of my AFFLICTION

Even tho LIFE of Son took LIFE of his FAVORITE, BELOVED WIFE



Jacob gives him a Name of HOPE “Benjamin” – Son of my RIGHT HAND  
Somehow God would TRANSFORM this PAIN into his GOOD PROMISE

Jacob had TESTIMONY > More than BIOGRAPHY –

JACOB is TRANSPARENT to Exalt the MERCY and GLORY of God

Tells Family PROGRESS Made in Walk – Don’t GO BACK to Old SINS

JOSEPH showed FAITH in Promise of God in the Naming of his TWO SONS

Gives SONS HEBREW Names – Gonna Worship DAD’S God, Not Mom’s

WIFE from Egyptian Priestly Family – No Compromise, Not BOTH Religions

HEBREWS Names Points to TRUE GOD of COVENANT

BOTH Names PRAISE God for his PRESERVATION and his BLESSING

BLESSING of God was KEEPING him FROM BITTERNESS

When we REMEMBER our FAILURES, Faith says Remember your Forgiveness

PAIN part of Christian PILGRIMAGE > God’s Promises True & Trustworthy

EMMANUEL does Not Mean ESCAPE from TROUBLE > God WITH US!

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that kingdom greatness means being content with poverty, servanthood, and cross-bearing...the long, hard slog of discipleship involves God retraining our appetites away from the superficial things of this world toward the lasting treasures found only in him. Iain Duguid

c. Praise the Shepherd

Often Old People Reflect on their Life > 2 Directions > Boasting, Bitterness

As Jacob LOOKS BACK on his 147 yrs – He gives THANKS and PRAISE

Now DEFINED all of his LIFE According to his RELATIONSHIP with GOD

vs. 15,16 And 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 long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil

1000 yrs before David wrote Psalm 23 – Jacob knows God is His Shepherd  
 Seeing Joseph’s FACE REMINDS Jacob of his Beloved Wife Rachel, Jo’s Mom  
 EMBRACING Joseph’s Sons makes Jacob REALIZE they are Rachel’s SONS  
 WIFE who DIED in Child BIRTH LIVES ON thru SONS of HER FIRSTBORN

“Did God ever do a better thing for Jacob than when he took Joseph away and sent him to Egypt to preserve the whole family alive? It was the severest trial of the poor old man’s career, and yet the brightest blessing after all...Inside that hard-shelled nut there is the sweetest kernel that you have tasted. Rest assured of that.”  
 Charles Spurgeon

Don’t have to WAIT until your DEATHBED to PASS On Greatest BLESSING  
 MORE Reason for CONFIDENCE than JACOB – Promise BEEN FULFILLED  
 Salvation he saw FAR in DISTANCE we have EMBRACED & EXPERIENCED

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith Hebrews 10.22,23

Genesis 47.<sup>28</sup>And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years. <sup>29</sup>And when the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, “If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt, <sup>30</sup>but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place.” He answered, “I will do as you have said.” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “Swear to me”; and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself upon the head of his bed.

48:<sup>1</sup>After this, Joseph was told, “Behold, your father is ill.” So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. <sup>2</sup>And it was told to Jacob, “Your son Joseph has come to you.” Then Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed. <sup>3</sup>And Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, <sup>4</sup>and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.’ <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance. <sup>7</sup>As for me, when I came from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).” <sup>8</sup>When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, “Who are these?” <sup>9</sup>Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons, whom God has given me here.” And he said, “Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them.” <sup>10</sup>Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. <sup>11</sup>And Israel said to Joseph, “I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also.” <sup>12</sup>Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. <sup>13</sup>And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. <sup>14</sup>And Israel stretched

out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). <sup>15</sup>And 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 long to this day, <sup>16</sup>the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.” <sup>17</sup>When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. <sup>18</sup>And Joseph said to his father, “Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.” <sup>19</sup>But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.” <sup>20</sup>So he blessed them that day, saying, “By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, ‘God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.’” Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh. <sup>21</sup>Then Israel said to Joseph, “Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, I have given to you rather than to your brothers one mountain slope that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow.”