



WEEK 8

TRIUMPH IN GOD'S BLESSING

Genesis 48 - 49

The day described for us in Mark 10 likely unfolded as so many other days. Jesus was teaching the multitudes who came to listen to His wisdom which was unparalleled to anything they had heard elsewhere. The crowds gathered around Him and, as was His custom, He taught them. The lesson of the day was not recorded for us; however, Jesus did something highly unusual which impacted both the parents and the children in the audience. Mark 10:13 states that people brought their children to Jesus so He might touch them. This was a strange request because children were considered too insignificant to bother someone like Jesus. However, when Jesus saw His disciples' response, He was greatly displeased. He said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it. And He took them up into His arms, laid His hands on them and blessed them." (Mark 10:14-16) Can you imagine for a moment what it looked like for the One who created that child to then speak blessing over that same child? Now that is a one-of-a-kind baby dedication service!

Jesus was a man full of compassion, so He must have known the parents present desired for their precious children to be held by the Messiah. Jesus graciously and lovingly took their children into His arms and blessed them. I (Brenda) can only imagine what Jesus said that day since it was not recorded in the Bible. I wonder, did He tell what future events were to come for the children, including both the joys and trials they would endure? Did He speak words of encouragement to the hearts of the children's parents, so they could cling to His words in the days ahead? Did He divinely warn the children or their parents of things they should avoid as well as what to embrace? Whatever was actually spoken by Jesus that day, it must have been profound.

In Genesis 48 and 49, we will get a glimpse into a different but similarly profound moment in Old Testament Biblical history. Jacob, nearing his death, will bless some of his sons and two of his chosen grandchildren. Jacob's words will be prophetic, holding deep significance for not only the future of his sons but also for the nation of Israel. He will give warnings, corrections, commendations, and blessings. Some of the sons will receive very little, or no blessing at all, while Joseph will receive a double blessing. Jacob's favoritism was still evident even after 147 years.



I am so grateful that Jesus doesn't have favorites. Unlike earthly fathers, our heavenly Father convicts, forgives, and blesses His children with perfect, unconditional love. He does not hold a grudge nor unforgiveness toward His children. He desires to give them hope and a future, as well as to bless and make them a blessing. There is triumph in God's blessing. His children have an eternal inheritance that never corrupts nor fades away. Take a few moments to thank God for this truth before you begin your study in Genesis today.



RECEIVING God's Word

Open in Prayer

Read: Genesis 48 and 49



EXPERIENCING God's Word

Experience 1: Genesis 48

1. Read Genesis 48:1-4. Jacob is coming to the end of his life and is sick. He has three very important points he desires to make with Joseph before he dies. The first has to do with God's promise to him and the future of Israel. Joseph brings his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to Jacob. Jacob repeats a promise to Joseph which he received from the Lord years previously, as recorded in Genesis 28:10-22. List the promises that Jacob recalls from God below.



- Jacob, by adopting Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, as his own (are mine), and thus elevating them to a position equal with his other sons, insured that Joseph's descendants would receive a double inheritance. Apparently at this time Jacob transferred the rights of the firstborn from Reuben to Joseph, the firstborn of his beloved Rachel (cf. vv. 15-16; 1 Chron. 5:1). (*KJV Ryrie Study Bible*, pg. 81-82)



4. In Genesis 48:8-9 Jacob asks Joseph to bring his two sons to him, so they may be given a blessing. What stands out to you in the way Joseph describes his two sons?

5. Read Genesis 48:10-12. Describe how Jacob (Israel) receives his two grandchildren, and how he says God has blessed him.

6. In Genesis 48:13-14 Jacob (Israel) knowingly places his hands on each boy's head. What does he do and what consequences would result for the boys?

7. Read Genesis 48:15-16. Jacob's blessing could be broken into three parts. In these verses there is prayer, adoption and blessing of great posterity. Write the verses that correspond with the headings below:

Prayer —

Adoption —

Blessing of great posterity —



- a. Do you see any connections between this blessing and what occurs when a person makes a confession of faith in Christ? Explain.
 - b. In verses 15-16 Jacob describes God in three ways. How does Jacob describe Him and what does this say about his faith?
8. In Genesis 48:17-18 Joseph becomes upset with his father. Why?
9. Read Genesis 48:19-20. Here we see Jacob is adamant about the reversal of the blessing. Fill in the verse below with Jacob's response to Joseph:
- Verse 19a (NKJV) "But his father refused and said, "I _____,
my son, I _____."



a. In verse 19 the word “know” in Hebrew is Yada’ (H3045) which means *to perceive or to know with intimate knowledge*. How does this explanation impact your understanding of what Jacob is saying to Joseph prophetically?

b. Read Numbers 1:32-35. How do you see Jacob’s prophecy fulfilled over 400 years later?

This [prophecy] was fulfilled in Israel’s history. Both tribes were blessed, but Ephraim was greater as a tribe, even to the point where the name Ephraim was used to refer to the whole northern nation of Israel (see examples in Isaiah 7:8, 7:17, and 11:13). (David Guzik, BlueLetterBible.com)

10. Read Genesis 48:21-22. Jacob leaves Joseph with some final words of reassurance. What are they? From all you have learned from Jacob’s life thus far, describe how these words speak about his deepening faith and trust over the years.



Experience 2: Genesis 49

Read Genesis 49:1-2. On Jacob's death bed he calls his sons together to talk with them regarding their future. He speaks both as a prophet and a father. This is the first time in Scripture we read of a testimony and revelation as someone is nearing the end of life. The prophecies and blessings we will be examining in this chapter are not only personal to Jacob's sons, but also extend to the future generations of Israel as well.

Below we have listed each son/tribe. Jacob's words to his sons reveal the future, warn about the consequences of sin, encourage Godly living, and predict the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. Read the verses that go with each son and fill in the headings, if they apply. If they do not apply, leave the heading blank. We will then have you look up the verses that testify to the prophetic fulfillment of Jacob's words.

1. Reuben:

Read Genesis 49:3-4

Reveal future:

Warn of consequences of sin:

Encourage Godly living:

Predict the coming Messiah:

What is Reuben compared to? What does this comparison mean?

Prophetic Fulfillment:

1 Chronicles 5:1-2

Matthew 19:30



2. **Simeon and Levi:**

Read Genesis 49:5-7

Reveal future:

Warn of consequences of sin:

Encourage Godly living:

Predict the coming Messiah:

What are Simeon and Levi compared to? What does this comparison mean?

Prophetic Fulfillment:

Joshua 19:1,9

Compare Numbers 1:23 with Numbers 26:14

3. **Judah:**

Read Genesis 49:8-12

Please note Shiloh (H7886) means “Tranquil from H7951 – to be tranquil, to be secure. As well as, he who it is or that which belongs to him. So it means: He who brings tranquility.” Shiloh is seen as a title of the Messiah.

Reveal future:



Warn of consequences of sin:

Encourage Godly living:

Predict the coming Messiah:

What is Judah compared to? What does this comparison mean?

Prophetic Fulfillment:

Deuteronomy 33:7

Numbers 24:17

Psalm 78:67-70

Revelation 5:5

From David until Herod, a prince of Judah was head over Israel (even Daniel in captivity). The promise was that Israel would keep this scepter until Shiloh comes. Even under their foreign masters during this period, Israel had a limited right to self-rule until 7AD. At that time, under Herod and under the Romans, their right to capital punishment – a small but remaining element of their self-governance – was taken away. At the time the rabbis considered it a disaster of unfulfilled Scripture. Seemingly, the last vestige of the scepter had passed from Judah, and they did not see the Messiah. Reportedly, rabbis walked the streets of Jerusalem and said, 'Woe unto us, for the scepter has been taken away from Judah, and Shiloh has not come.' Yet God's word had not been broken. Certainly, Jesus was alive then. Perhaps this was the very year He was 12 years old and discussed God's Word in the temple with the scholars of His day. Perhaps He impressed them with His understanding of this very issue." (David Guzik, BlueLetterBible.com)



4. **Zebulun**

Read Genesis 49:13

Reveal future:

Warn of consequences of sin:

Encourage Godly living:

Predict the coming Messiah:

What is Zebulun compared to and what does this comparison mean?

Prophetic Fulfillment:

There is no Scriptural reference to show this fulfillment. Alfred Edersheim, a well respected Biblical scholar, postulated this was fulfilled in 30 A.D. There are several guesses as to the “when” of this prophetic fulfillment.

5. **Issachar**

Read Genesis 49:14-15

Reveal future:

Warn of consequences of sin:

Encourage Godly living:

Predict the coming Messiah:

What is Issachar compared to? What does this comparison mean?



6. **Dan:**

Read Genesis 49:16-18

Reveal future:

Warn of consequences of sin:

Encourage Godly living:

Predict the coming Messiah:

What is Dan compared to? What does this comparison mean?

Prophetic Fulfillment:

Judges 18:27-31

7. **Gad:**

Read Genesis 49:19

Reveal future:

Warn of consequences of sin:

Encourage Godly living:

Predict the coming Messiah:

Prophetic Fulfillment:

Deuteronomy 33:20-21



8. **Asher:**

Read Genesis 49:20

Reveal future:

Warn of consequences of sin:

Encourage Godly living:

Predict the coming Messiah:

Prophetic Fulfillment:

Deuteronomy 33:24-25

9. **Naphtali**

Read Genesis 49:21

Reveal future:

Warn of consequences of sin:

Encourage Godly living:

Predict the coming Messiah:

What is Naphtali compared to? What does this comparison mean?

Prophetic Fulfillment:

Deuteronomy 33:23



10. **Joseph:**

Read Genesis 49:22-26

Reveal future:

Warn of consequences of sin:

Encourage Godly living:

Predict the coming Messiah:

What is Joseph compared to? What does this comparison mean?

Prophetic Fulfillment:

Deuteronomy 33:13-17

11. **Benjamin:**

Read Genesis 49:27

Reveal future:

Warn of consequences of sin:

Encourage Godly living:

Predict the coming Messiah:

What is Benjamin compared to? What does this comparison mean?

Prophetic Fulfillment:

Judges 19-21



12. Read Genesis 49:28-33. Describe Jacob's death and burial wishes.
13. Read Hebrews 11:21. Here Jacob's faith is remembered by his words of blessing recorded in Genesis 49. Why is this significant and what does this say about faith that endures?
14. From today's verses, what Biblical truths do you see between sin, God's blessing toward us, and our heart toward obedience?
15. How is God's grace seen in the blessings given to Jacob's sons?



TIME STAMP

Before the digital age, when important paper documents were received, a clerk would use an ink stamp to mark the time and date on them to stand as an official record of an event. It has been said that life events can also be like “time stamps” upon our hearts. Incidents that happen in life, both good and bad, leave an indelible stamp upon us and are not easily forgotten.

Joseph has many “time stamp” moments in his life. As you look back on this week’s lesson, what events would you say are “time stamp” moments for Joseph?



ACTING on God’s Word

As a parent, I (Stacy) love blessing my kids. No matter their ages, I long to make their lives easier, help them be prosperous, and give them unexpected blessings along the way. But my desire to bless them is tempered by my desire for them to become mature, responsible adults, as I never want them to feel entitled or to lack personal responsibility. It is sometimes a difficult balance to achieve as a parent, because I love them so much. I want to give them all they need, yet also equip them to handle the things of life. Even when my children don’t obey me or walk in obedience, my heart still wants to bless them because of my deep love for them.

1. In Matthew 7:11 Jesus said, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him?” We serve a God who loves us more than we can comprehend. He, too, longs to bless His children. But let’s look at the word *blessed*. The very words, *to bless*, (H1288) means to cause to prosper; the result of divine favor; but it also means to make to kneel.



When we think of God's blessing, I think we often get confused at what His blessing is and what it should look like. Our minds so often long for the tangible things of life before the spiritual. Can you relate?

- a. How would you define a blessing?
 - b. How would you define God's blessing?
 - c. What does it mean to you to live a "blessed" life?
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2. In today's verses, Jacob, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, spoke blessings on his sons. Those blessings probably didn't make a lot of sense to his sons in the moment and may have even seemed troubling. Yet the blessings, as well as the prophecies, all had spiritual implications. The things Jacob spoke were not about possessions gained or status reached; they were about how Jacob's sons cooperated with God's eternal plan of salvation and how it would affect them.
 - a. Do you believe your blessings from God are contingent on your level of obedience to Him? Read James 1:25, Luke 11:28 and Matthew 6:26-34 to help you answer this question.



- b. Read Ephesians 1:3 and Ephesians 2:8-9. What are the blessings God wants to give us? Have you done anything to deserve or increase God's blessings in your life? Explain.

3. In today's verses we saw Jacob bless Ephraim and Manasseh. Jacob prayed over them, and spoke of adoption and prosperity. Romans 8:14-17 speaks to these same points. It says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." Below are listed blessings from God taken from these verses. Explain how these are blessings for the believer. How are they blessings in your life?
 - a. Freedom

 - b. Intimacy

 - c. Inheritance

 - d. Assurance

 - e. Purpose

 - f. Suffering



4. Psalm 1:1-3 speaks of God's blessing to the believer.
 - a. How is the one blessed defined in this verse?
 - b. What is the object of their heart and what does their prosperity look like?
5. Make a list below of all the blessings that God has given you. Are there things in your life that at first didn't seem like a blessing, but you have come to see it that way? Explain. Take a moment to thank Him for the way He has blessed your life.



D DELIGHTING in God's Word

From today's verses, how has the Lord prompted you to pray?



Write a verse from the chapter that God has spoken to your heart.

Close in Prayer