

Blessings and Passings

Genesis 48-50

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I. Near his end, Jacob recounted God's promises to him and his family. (v. 48:1-4)

And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will be among your descendants. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you." (Genesis 35:11-12)

II. Israel adopted Joseph's first two sons as his own, thus giving the double portion normally reserved for the firstborn son. (v. 48:5-6)

III. Israel remembered the passing of Joseph's mother and rejoiced at seeing their grandsons. (v. 48:7-10)

IV. Israel pronounced God's blessing upon Joseph and his sons. (v. 48:12-16)

V. Israel prophetically blessed Ephraim (though the younger) as becoming the greater. (v. 48:17-20)

VI. Israel prophesied that God would return his descendants to the Promised Land and gave a special portion to Joseph. (v. 48:21-22)

VII. Israel also prophesied over his remaining sons. (v. 49:1-29)

Then he rejected the tents of Joseph,
he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim;
but he chose the tribe of Judah... (Psalm 78:67-68a)

He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (Daniel 7:14)

VIII. Israel charged his family to bury him in the land of God's promise to them. (v. 49:29-33)

- IX. Joseph promptly complied with his father's charge and brought him to be laid to rest with his forefathers. (v. 50:1-14)**
- X. Joseph's brothers began to imagine and fear his reprisal after their father's passing. (v. 50:15-18)**
- XI. Joseph again reiterated the divine perspective on all that had happened and assured his brothers of his forgiveness. (v. 50:19-21)**

And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan *and* purpose. (Romans 8:28 – Amp.)

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (Romans 12:19) quoting Deuteronomy 32:35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven. (Matthew 18:21-22)

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

"At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." (Matthew 18:23-35)

XII. Joseph also charged his family to return his remains to the Promised Land. (v. 50:22-26)

By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones. (Hebrews 11:22)

Shepherds of their father's sheep
Dearly loved by their fathers
Hated by their brothers
Sent by their fathers to their brothers
Harm plotted against them by others
Robes taken from them
Taken to Egypt
Sold for the price of a slave
Tempted
Falsely accused
Bound in chains
Placed with two other prisoners
One was saved and the other lost
Exalted after suffering
Both 30 at the beginning of recognition
Both wept
Forgave those who had wronged them
Saved their nation
What men did to harm them, God used for good

After many trials and even evils, God had worked all things for good.