

With
My Sword and with My
Bow

Genesis Chapter Forty-Eight



~ Although I write out each report from our Spiritual Safari for our minds, the messages come from my heart. Some people, and perhaps rightly so, question that part of my anatomy. Well, I do, too, more often than not. So, shall we ask the Holy Spirit to teach us and lead us into all truth and wisdom now? Behold, we have seen that Jacob has arrived at Goshen in Egypt. Jacob and the eleven sons have been introduced to Pharaoh by Joseph. They were given a land by Pharaoh, and they got settled in. In this report we are going to see that which is also recorded in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews: "...by faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff." We can finally see the spiritual side of Jacob; because he has come a long ways in his spiritual life.

Spiritual growth happens exceedingly slow in our lives. We have seen the Spirit of God reveal that truth to us several times so far in our Spiritual Safari. It's the same for us today in our growth of the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. So many people are looking for some sensational experience of enlightenment - or they think they are endowed with all knowledge from On-High the moment they are saved. Tragically, most of them rush off and start to teach a Sunday school class. Sometimes, I just have to bow my head and pray for them as I watch them become wounded by their own words. Sometimes they die altogether, I think.

Even so, one of the wonders of the Bible, friends, is the growth that can happen in spite of ourselves through the patience of God that cultivates said growth; irrespective of our brute rebellious rejection towards Him – and towards growing spiritually - all while professing a faith in God! It's messed up; but it's the state of the average Christian in our modern

churches today. We are a stubborn and stiff-necked people – as we shall see! People just aren't interested in Bible study, my beloved – but Bible study just happens to be the only way we can show ourselves approved. This is another time when we should all drop on the floor with our face to the ground and praise God for His mercy as we come short of being worthy yet again! God is so patient here and we need to also thank Him for that....

1 And it came to pass after these things, that one told Joseph, Behold, thy father is sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

2 And one told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed.

3 And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me,

~ You can imagine the sheer happiness and joy Jacob has before him as he looks upon his long-lost son with his grandchildren beside him? Jacob never dreamed of seeing Joseph again. Moreover, Jacob finds Joseph in this important position in Egypt, and he is very proud of his son. Here, we finally see the faith of Jacob after all of these decades. He tells Joseph that God had appeared to him at Bethel when he ran away and when he came home. Jacob reflects over his life and sums it up in verse three. He is on his death bed here – but he sits up on the edge of the bed....

4 And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession.

~ God makes three promises here that we need to note again and again: (1) God promises Jacob he will be fruitful and (2) God promises Jacob the land! Understanding the promise of the land is very important to prophecy. The promises to the Old Testament saints involved the land – not Heaven. The hope of Abraham and all of his descendants was to be resurrected to a restored Zion. They had no promise and no teaching of Heaven as we know

it; but there is a third very important thing here and that is that God has made good on His promises.

The only reason you're even reading this report is because the Lord has been faithful to the promises He made to Jacob here at the time in which we are studying! Two thirds of this promise has been delivered. All that's left is for them to get back in the land. Sure, Israel has a little slice of the land today – but it's nothing in the world but a bone of contention; and they live in constant fear of great harm every day. They still only occupy less than ten percent of the land given to them by God. When this third promise is fulfilled and they receive the land directly from the hand of God, every man will dwell in peace and safety under his own vine and fig tree. That's just not happening today. If that took place it would be the millennium; because that's exactly what it will be when they get the land according to Scripture. It's not today....

5 And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

~ What will take place in the future from the time in which we are studying is that these two sons of Joseph's will become one tribe in the nation Israel. However, that does NOT make thirteen tribes of Israel! Read carefully: if you start with twelve son's, and then these two grandsons comprise one tribe, that does not make thirteen. The tribe of Levi was not counted as a tribe - and there is no tribe of Joseph – that equals twelve. Remember, the families of Levi will be scattered as priests throughout the tribes and across the land. Some people, for some strange and mysterious reason, seem to take issue that the Word of God did it this way. Well, if you're one of them, don't bother writing to me because I'm just going by what we have here. In other words, that's the way God made it....

6 And thy issue, which thou begetteth after them, shall be thine, and shall be called after the name of their brethren in their inheritance.

7 And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan in the way, when yet there was but a little way to come unto Ephrath: and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath; the same is Bethlehem.

8 And Israel beheld Joseph's sons, and said, Who are these?

9 And Joseph said unto his father, They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place. And he said, Bring them, I pray thee, unto me, and I will bless them.

10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them.

11 And Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed.

12 And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.

13 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 unto him.

14 And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn.

~ Notice Jacob is always thinking of Rachel. I believe he thought about her every day after she died. Bethlehem, for Jacob, meant the place where Rachel died - and the place where Benjamin was born. Bethlehem would seem to be a mixed blessing for Jacob. Later, Joshua will come out of the tribe of Ephraim. Ephraim produces many great men in Scripture. They are the tribe of priority without question. Old man Jacob can't see too well now - but he can see what Joseph is trying to do. Joseph was pushing for the older one to receive the blessing. So, Jacob just crosses his hands and the

right hand went onto the younger. Why all this deviance from the custom of the day which stated the older was to have the birthright? - Jacob is simply passing along the same blessing he was given. We're going to find that same historical record running all the way through Scripture. Remember, Saul was chosen by the people – not by God – and they got what they wanted, as we almost always do! However, David was God's choice, and he was the youngest son of Jesse.

Why does God do it that way? - Well, it is to illustrate a tremendous spiritual truth: God does not accept the order of natural birth within the human family. There must be a new birth as we are born again! God pays no attention to the things we pay attention to on a human and natural plane. Neither the oldest nor the male are God's choice! God says specifically He chooses no man due to natural ability. This is a truth we really need to understand today! I am not saying the Lord can't or won't use your talent – but – you better make sure it's dedicated to glorifying Him – and not glorifying YOU – because if talent were the requirement for revival, then I wouldn't be writing this report, I promise you that – because we wouldn't need a report! We have Christian talent streaming live every moment of the day but people aren't turning to God. Why? - Because that talent is not the requirement for revival. A complete, correct, systematic study of the Bible is the requirement for revival! If the talent is not yielded to Him it will not be used of Him! ~

15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day,

16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

17 And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head.

18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head.

19 And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.

20 And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

21 And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers.

22 Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.

~ Don't miss the view from the spiritual heights in this chapter as we close out this report - because it will be very brief. Jacob can't get any higher than this; even though he's dying fast! We're quickly closing in now on the end of Genesis and in the next to the last chapter we, unfortunately, continue to linger with Jacob on his death bed. I feel as though Jacob's account should have ended here. His other twelve sons will be called in and Jacob has a blessing for every one of them.

There will also be another spiritual ending to a life as we soon gather the twelve tribes again around another dying man – Moses! Moses will also bless the twelve tribes. God has promised specific blessings and specific inheritances to the different tribes of the nation Israel – and the detail is simply amazing and mind boggling – at least, to me it is! We're getting loaded up with prophecy really fast in our Spiritual Safari. Most of what we are seeing now has been fulfilled; but we're coming to some unfulfilled prophecy soon. Accepting or rejecting that is what will separate the believers from the make-believers in our Spiritual Safari. We'll take a look at some of those things in our next report ~

