

Blessings  
of the Breast and of the  
Womb

**Genesis 49:16 – 50:26**



~ Two funerals in the same day would be a dreadful end to the Genesis leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God if we didn't have the hope of the Lord Jesus Christ in our hearts and lives. That is how we will end this book as we lay both Joseph and Jacob to rest and then move on to the Gospel of Matthew. To those of you who made the entire first leg by reading all of the reports: congratulations – you should now be an expert at handling the first book of the Bible. If you're just joining us, I would suggest you go all the way back to the eight Guideline reports, and start there, and then read all of Genesis. You can catch up to us very easily if you apply yourself today.

We have seen the blessing of Jacob given to six of his sons so far - and we have six more to go - but we're not going to take too much time with them. The important one was Judah; because now we understand that the Lord Jesus will come into the world through the tribe of Judah. Initially, all we were told is that the Savior would come through the seed of the woman. We followed that all the way down to Jacob, but Jacob had twelve sons. It looked as if it may be Joseph through whom Christ would come – but we know it's Judah because we looked at all the prophecies and we saw that by grace it will be done unto him. King David will be in the tribe of Judah. By grace will the Messiah, the Deliverer and the Savior of the world, come....

***16 Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel.***

***17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.***

***18 I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD.***

***19 Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last.***

***20 Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties.***

***21 Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words.***

***22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:***

***23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him:***

***24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel)***

***25 Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb:***

~ We are going to see very clearly that Dan is going to need the salvation of the Lord just as much as anyone else! Dan is the tribe that will lead the rebellion of the nation Israel. If you have a good Bible with a map you'll notice the locations of these tribes. Joseph went down to Egypt – and he had some unbearably difficult years - but he always remained a witness for God. His sons, Ephraim and Manasseh will receive their inheritance in the land of Samaria. Ephraim and Manasseh will be very important tribes as they lead Israel into rank idolatry – and are part of the cause of the division of the northern Kingdom of Israel from the southern Kingdom of Judah after King Solomon's death. Remember, Jeroboam came from the tribe of Ephraim. These two tribes are where the two golden calves were placed to be worshiped. Now we see Jacob trying to tie Joseph and the two sons of his to the God of Israel. Jacob is trying to call them back to the God of his fathers. This is simply remarkable, friends....

***26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be***

***on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.***

~ Next, we have the uber-strange prophecy of Benjamin. The tribe of Benjamin will always be immediately identified with Judah. Benjamin is the only family that stays with the house of David after the kingdom is divided. Naturally, that will leave us with the ten northern tribes constituting the northern Kingdom of Israel. This remarkable prophecy has other implications that I could make about fifteen reports out of – so we'll save them for our consideration as we go along and out of Genesis....

***27 Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.***

***28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.***

***29 And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,***

~ Death is not the end of anything for anyone, friends. Jacob knew he was going to be with his people. Jacob wanted to be buried in this bought-and-paid-for tomb so that he would be in the land of Israel when he was resurrected from the dead. It seems unbelievable that he didn't want to be buried in Bethlehem near Rachel. It's part of the Promised Land. It was only about twenty miles further north. Let's not let this get out: I do not understand that - and it is a BIG question to me. It may have been because the burial cave was paid for. I don't know. It's certainly something I think I might like to ask old man Jacob someday....

***30 In the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a buryingplace.***

***31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah.***

***32 The purchase of the field and of the cave that is therein was from the children of Heth.***

***33 And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.***

~ I think that right up until the last possible moment Jacob kept his feet on the ground. We saw Jacob's story begin as the man of the flesh when he took hold of his brother, Esau's, heel at birth. Jacob means supplanter. That is certainly characteristic of Jacob because he seized everything he could grab. Jacob was always "reaching out," as it were. He always wanted to be first; and he started out crawling. By crawling I mean taking what he wanted by any available means or force. That's what children do. The young Jacob walked in his own strength and ability for a very long time - and he always depended on his own cleverness and cunningness. For many long, long decades, Jacob thought he didn't need God; but he got a real education down at uncle Laban's house, as we saw when we traveled through there. Self-sufficient, self-opinionated, self assertive, aggressive, contemptible and despicable was our evaluation of Jacob at that time. That's not good.

After that, Jacob arrived at Peniel; Jabbok, where God broke Jacob's leg. Friends, we were a little too nice back there - and let's just keep this real: God was prepared to KILL Jacob that night. Jacob got a limp and a staff after he lost the wrestling match, which I call a smack-down. I'd say Jacob always had three legs after that with his staff; it was required for him to walk. He wasn't ambulatory without the staff. Here, we see Jacob, who "leaned on his staff" most of his life, pull up his feet, the staff falls to the floor - and that's it; that life is gone from earth - lightning crashes on old mother earth as God calls home a true saint of His....

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**1 And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him.**

**2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father: and the physicians embalmed Israel.**

~ Chapter fifty brings us to the burial of Jacob. It also brings the death and burial of Joseph his son. Sin has come into the world and it has brought death; which is another one of God's promises. The soul that sins it shall surely die. This same-day double-funeral will be depressing. Joseph's will be here in Egypt and Jacob's is in Canaan. Doleful, yet, somehow a rather fitting end to such a remarkable, extraordinary book that is a nice place to visit, but in which I wouldn't want to live - Genesis. Frankly, I'm glad we're leaving Genesis on safari.

The Egyptians were experts at this particular preparation of a deceased body. Mysteriously, we're not quite as advanced today as they were at embalming in ancient Egypt; and, friends, that has always brought even more questions to my mind. They called in the physicians, and I think they may have known a whole lot of things we don't know today. We're not dealing with a primitive cave-man society like the vision in our head tells us it should be, I'm sure. I'm seeing Jacob lay for forty days as a mummy on a table in a dark, cool room in Egypt; I'm sure Jacob is up there in Hebron today. Remember, the Old Testament saints hope is an earthly hope. That's why Jacob insisted on being buried up there in that particular location. Someday, Jacob and Joseph are to be raised from the dead and, when they are, they'll be right there in the Promised Land.

Remember, Joseph and Jacob had no promise of being called up to meet the Lord in the air. That is the promise for the church – not the nation Israel. The church, when called into the air, will go to the New Jerusalem. It's located somewhere out there in His galaxy. The hope of the Old Testament saint and the New Testament saint are two very different hopes, I hope you understand that. They are both glorious promises – I suppose I would just as soon have one as the other - but I like to think we have a superior hope to blast off into space one day like the rocket trip we take in Hebrews to go meet and be with Christ forever – in the air....

***3 And forty days were fulfilled for him; for so are fulfilled the days of those which are embalmed: and the Egyptians mourned for him threescore and ten days.***

***4 And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spake unto the house of Pharaoh, saying, If now I have found grace in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying,***

***5 My father made me swear, saying, Lo, I die: in my grave which I have digged for me in the land of Canaan, there shalt thou bury me. Now therefore let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come again.***

***6 And Pharaoh said, Go up, and bury thy father, according as he made thee swear.***

***7 And Joseph went up to bury his father: and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,***

***8 And all the house of Joseph, and his brethren, and his father's house: only their little ones, and their flocks, and their herds, they left in the land of Goshen.***

***9 And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen: and it was a very great company.***

~ Jacob died a very well-respected man of God. This is likely the longest funeral procession the world has ever seen. It seems obvious Pharaoh required the little ones and the flocks to stay to ensure Joseph came back. We're still dealing with this rotten ruler and Joseph would have had every reason to grab some goods and take out on the lam. Well, Pharaoh knew that Pharaoh needed Joseph....

***10 And they came to the threshingfloor of Atad, which is beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made mourning for his father seven days.***

***11 And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning in the floor of Atad, they said, This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians: wherefore the name of it was called Abelmizraim, which is beyond Jordan.***

***12 And his sons did unto him according as he commanded them:***

***13 For his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of a buryingplace of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre.***

***14 And Joseph returned into Egypt, he, and his brethren, and all that went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father.***

***15 And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.***

***16 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,***

***17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee; forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.***

~ The eleven brothers took great pains to conceal from Jacob their father what they had done to their brother Joseph. I think they sent the messenger with a total lie and I'm sure Joseph knew it and expected it. They say their father wanted him to forgive them - but Jacob didn't mention any of that – and he was on his deathbed. See, friends, Joseph isn't dumb. If the prophecy of the dream he dreamt so long ago when he

was seventeen years old about his brothers falling down and worshipping him wasn't true when they were first reunited – it's sure true right now....

***18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.***

***19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? And Joseph gave all the glory to God, as always....***

***20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.***

***21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.***

~ What we have seen in Genesis is an absolute far out purpose for our lives today; one of which we really still don't know much about and literally have no awareness of how spiritual growth and development take place or why. I have to tell you: that's very comforting to me. That means your life and my life right now has a purpose for God. I wish we would all confess that we just can't see past the end of our noses when trouble comes to us. I always find myself asking why God would permit anything bad to happen to me. Frighteningly, I'm not sure why He ever permits anything GOOD to happen to me. Well, I know now there's a good purpose in His view. God does not allow Satan to attack our lives unless there is a good purpose. Joseph told his brothers to "fear not....and he comforted them....and he spoke kindly to them." That's how Jesus talks to His children; and that's how true children of God should speak to each other, too, by the way....

***22 And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived an hundred and ten years.***

***23 And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation: the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were brought up upon Joseph's knees.***



**24 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.**

**25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.**

**26 So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.**

~ Genesis began with God creating the Heavens and the earth and our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with Joseph in a coffin in Egypt. What happened? - Sin entered the human family is what happened; but the real question lingers as to why Joseph wasn't taken up at this time to be buried in the land? Well, Joseph will make it out of Egypt soon enough; but they would never have allowed him to be taken away at that time. He was a national hero and there would have been a monument and all that. I'm sure Joseph was humbled. Joseph said to his people, "...when you leave here don't leave my bones lying in Egypt." The next Pharaoh we will see really doesn't care – and away Joseph's body will go. With that, away we go out of Genesis. Our next report will begin our examination of the Gospel of Matthew ~

