

Genesis 48-50

An Overview of Chapter 48

Joseph is told that his father is sick so he takes his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to visit him. Jacob/Israel tells Joseph that his two sons will be blessed by him as if they were his own sons. When Jacob/Israel laid hands on the boys to bless them he treated Ephraim as the first-born instead of Manasseh. This angers Joseph, but Jacob/Israel tells him that it was intentional because the younger son will be greater than the older. Jacob/Israel's blessing gives two portions of the land to Joseph that will be given to his two sons.

An Overview of Chapter 49

Before Jacob/Israel dies he calls all of his sons in to tell them what God has in store for them and their descendants:

Reuben - will not be the leader of all the tribes because he slept with Israel's life Bilhah.

Simeon & Levi - because they murdered the people whose prince raped Dinah they will be scattered in the land.

Judah - praised by his brothers, the scepter and the rulers staff will not leave Judah (again).

Zebulun - live by the sea.

Issachar - will become a slave.

Dan - a judge of his people and a serpent or snake in the way tripping those on the path.

Gad - raided, but will raid in return.

Asher - he will eat fancy food.

Naphtali - he surely will speak pretty.

Joseph - fruitful, firm when attacked and harassed, blessed, distinguished among his brothers.

Benjamin - destroys those against him and collects their riches.

After this Jacob/Israel makes his sons promise to bury him in the same cave as his father and grandfather, then he dies.

An Overview of Chapter 50

Following Jacob/Israel dies Joseph has him embalmed, and even the Egyptians mourned his death, after all his son had saved their lives. Joseph gets permission from Pharaoh to take his father's body back to Canaan to bury him with his family. The group that travels with Joseph is huge and includes Pharaoh's servants, elders from Egypt, all Joseph and his brother's adult family, and chariots and horsemen. When they get to Canaan they mourn for seven more days.

After returning to Egypt Joseph's brothers get a little freaked out because they don't have daddy to protect them from their powerful brother. They decide to beg Joseph's forgiveness. Joseph does not hold his brother's sin against them and promises to provide for them and their families.

Joseph makes his family promise to bring his body out of Egypt, then dies at the age of 110.

Reflection

Who would you like to see again before you die? What would you say to your family if you were about to die? How do you mourn the loss of a loved one? Who has done the most harm to you in your life? Are you willing to forgive them? How has God used the evil or bad circumstances in your life for good?

For Further Study

12 Tribes of Israel: Exodus 1:1-4, Numbers 1, Deuteronomy 33, Joshua 13-22, Ezekiel 48, Luke 22:28-30, James 1:1, Revelation 7.

Mourning: Genesis 27:41, Exodus 33:4, Psalm 30:11-12, 2Corinthians 7:6-7, Revelation 21:3-4.

CONGRATULATIONS - YOU JUST COMPLETED THE BOOK OF GENESIS!!!