

Genesis: God and Man

## Gathered to His People

Genesis 48-49

**As we've been looking closely at the story of this family**

**Let's not forget about God in all of this**

**This is Genesis: GOD and Man**

- Walking daily in the cool of the day in the garden
- Calling out to Adam and Eve
- Making them a covering through sacrifice
- Promising the Messiah would come, even though it would cost him
- Being with Adam and Eve even outside the garden
- Cain & Abel, sacrifice...Cain sacrifices his brother...God is more than merciful with him
- Patient as some men call on him and others grow desperately wicked
- Enoch walked and was no more
- Nephilim (spiritual wickedness to high heaven)
- Noah saved, instructed, given ample time to prepare, carried through
- Raven, doves, rainbow
- Abram & Sarai...calling, learning to trust, failures...two sons
- Christophanies, Melchizedek
- Lot, sparing, rescuing...all God would have had for him...but was intended to stay in ur Lot's wife, daughters...God still uses them to this day, makes nations
- Isaac, comforting him, Rebecca, speaking to her in her pregnancy
- Then all that we remember of Jacob, Esau, Laban, Leah, Rachel and now Joseph and his brothers.

**Generation after generation, no matter the spiritual state, God is involved. God is affected.**

**God is not content to stay out of the affairs of men and women.**

**[Luk 12:6-7 NKJV] 6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.**

**[Jer 29:10-14 NKJV] 10 For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find [Me],**

**when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.**

**Let's not forget God in all of this.** There's a reason for communion...  
"do this in remembrance of me"

I think that extends to all aspects of life...

I won't say "Christian" life because it's truly not life apart from the Giver of Life

Remember Him worship. As you study. As we spend time together. As you suffer. When you rejoice. Remember Him. All He is. All he's done. Remember what he told us about what's coming.

**Previously:**

- Joseph's dreams, coat of favor
- Brother's hatred. Plot to kill, throw in pit, sold into slavery
- Potipher, prison, dreams, forgotten, remembered, exalted
- 7 years of plenty, 7 years of famine
- Joseph second only to Pharaoh
- Brothers' journey - not only back and forth to Egypt...but from evil and hard hearts to repentance and change
- Jacob, Benjamin and all the rest reunited
- Invited to live in the best of the land, the land of Ramses, Goshen
- Pharaoh provides for them all to come, 70+
- An incubator for the large family to become a nation

Where are you this morning?

What are you going through?

Do you know that God is with you?

Even if it doesn't seem like, or feel like it? He is right there.

The only variable is...are you and I depending on him, remembering him, trusting him at this moment? Because He is the constant.

Today, The Last Days and Words of Jacob...Israel

## **48:1-7**

### **Joseph told “indeed your father is sick”**

Family telling him? Was the very best doctor of Egypt sent to Jacob?

Think of all the sickness that they wouldn't have an explanation for. Cancers. Blood problems. Organ problems. The list goes on.

### **Joseph goes to visit Israel. He sits up on the bed.**

Jacob was impressed by his son but also didn't want his son to see him lying there I think like any parent wouldn't want their kids to see them like that. Be strong for them.

### **Jacob telling Joseph what God has promised him**

**“Appeared to him”**

**A very real thing to him. Actually seeing a vision, hearing God's voice. A real encounter.**

As a believer, I find those who go the farthest, get through the most, stand up the boldest, are those who have had that appearance in their lives...or are at least not afraid to admit that.

I find the people that falter and fail to a point where they don't continue...maybe haven't had that vision, have been afraid to come to grips with it.

*My conversion*

**Let God appear to you. Especially in those times of hurt and great need.**

**[Psa 27:8-10 NKJV] 8 [When You said], "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." 9 Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. 10 When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.**

**[Isa 55:6 NKJV] 6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.**

**[Jas 4:7-10 NKJV] 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [you] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [you] double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and [your] joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**

### **Israel claiming Ephraim and Manassah as his own**

I think in some sense as he had thought he had lost Joseph all of these years, to now have Joseph back and have grandsons by Joseph is overwhelming for him (we'll see more of this in a few verses v11)

## **Commentary talks about them replacing Reuben & Simeon as the firstborn as their lives had disqualified them for the blessing**

*“Jacob’s adoption of Manasseh and Ephraim explains why there are 12 tribes often listed in different combinations. Because of this adoption, there were actually 13 sons of Israel. The 12 were born, but Joseph was divided into two tribes. Therefore as the tribes are listed through the Old Testament, they can be arranged different ways and still remain 12 tribes. There are more than 20 different ways of listing the tribes in the Old Testament.”*

There’s a lot to talk about for the tribes, which we won’t cover here

DGC As a number, 12 is often associated with government or administration in God’s eyes. There are 12 tribes, 12 apostles, 12 princes of Ishmael, 12 pillars on Moses’ altar, 12 stones on the high priest’s breastplate, 12 cakes of showbread, 12 silver platters, silver bowls, and gold pans for the service of the tabernacle, 12 spies to search out the land, 12 memorial stones, 12 governors under Solomon, 12 stones in Elijah’s altar, 12 in each group of musicians and singers for Israel’s worship, 12 hours in a day, 12 months in a year, 12 Ephesian men filled with the Holy Spirit, 12,000 from 12 tribes sealed and preserved through the tribulation, heaven has 12 gates of 12 pearls, and 12 angels at the gates, the New Jerusalem has 12 foundations, each with the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb, it’s length, breadth, and height are all 12,000 furlongs, and the tree of life in heaven has 12 fruits. The number 12 is special to God.

Twelve can be found in 187 places in God's word. Revelation alone has 22 occurrences of the number. The meaning of 12, which is considered a perfect number, is that it symbolizes God's power and authority, as well as serving as a perfect governmental foundation. It can also symbolize completeness or the nation of Israel as a whole.

## **:8-22**

**Jacob couldn’t see, asked who they were...** I wonder if he remembers his dad and all when he was being blessed.

**Beside his knees...** these kids were still small. The famine wasn’t completely over, but even if it was, the oldest the oldest could be is 13 (a year to get married and pregnant). I think they’re a bit younger here, personally.

## **Israel blesses Joseph through his boys**

**“The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil,”**

**Jacob doing his thing, having a plan here, blessing the younger over the older  
Joseph not being happy about it, tries to switch his hands**

**Tied to Jacob being the younger and receiving the blessing, but also in the kid's names**

Manasseh means forgetfulness

Ephraim means fruitfulness

**Behold I am dying, but God will be with you**

**And bring you back to the land of your fathers**

This would take 400 years, Joseph's bones do get brought back

David Guzik Commentary: Apparently, while still in Canaan, Jacob battled for control of a portion of land from the Amorites, and he deeded the land to Joseph and his descendants. The descendants of Joseph would take this land some 400 years later.

**Joseph as a picture of Jesus**

1. Was a shepherd.
2. Loved by his father.
3. Sent unto his brethren.
4. Hated by his brothers.
5. Prophesied his coming glory.
6. Rejected by his brothers.
7. Endured unjust punishment from his brothers.
8. Sentenced to the pit.
9. Delivered to the pit, though a leader knew he should go free.
10. Sold for pieces of silver.
11. Handed over to the Gentiles.
12. Regarded as dead, but raised out of the pit.
13. Went to Egypt.
14. Made a servant.
15. Tempted severely, but did not sin.
16. Falsely accused.
17. Made no defense.
18. Cast into prison, and numbered with sinners and criminals.
19. Endured unjust punishment from Gentiles.
20. Associated with two other criminals; one is pardoned and one is not.

A. Some associate the butler, with his wine, and the baker with the elements of communion. Along the same lines, some associate the three-day period before their case is resolved with the three days before the resurrection of Jesus.

21. Showed compassion.
22. Brought a message of deliverance in prison.
23. Wanted to be remembered.
24. Shown to have divine wisdom.
25. Recognized as having the Spirit of God.
26. Betrayed by friends.
27. Glorified after his humility.
28. Honored among Gentiles while still despised or forgotten by his brethren.
29. Given a Gentile bride.
30. Was 30 years old when he began his life's work.
31. Blessed the world with bread.
32. Became the only source of bread for the world.
33. The world was instructed to go to him and do whatever he said to do.
34. Was given the name "God Speaks and He Lives."
35. brethren were driven out of their own land.
36. In his second appearing, he did not first go to his brothers; they came to him.
37. He knew his brethren even while unknown and unrecognized by them.
38. He blessed his brethren without their knowledge.
39. He wanted *all* of his brethren to come to him.
40. There was a significant time gap between his initial relationship with his brothers and his second relationship to his brothers.
41. He his brothers a way of deliverance through substitution.
42. His "second coming" to his brothers had two appearances. He made himself known to his brethren at his second appearing to them.
43. He was revealed as a man of compassion.
44. His brothers repented of rejecting him, with great wonder and tears.
45. He allowed no fellowship (as in eating together) until his brothers repented and he revealed himself.
46. His brethren went forth to proclaim his glory.
47. He made provision for his brethren.
48. He prepared a place for his brethren, and he received them into it.
49. He brought Jew and Gentile together in the land.

## 49:1-28

**Jacob brings his sons together and wants to bless them and tell them important things**

DGC This is the first conscious prophecy spoken by man in the Bible.

**Interesting about the “last days”** it’s certainly about their lives

**God isn’t done with Israel. There’s still another “week of years” to be fulfilled for them  
In the actual last days**

**The church doesn’t replace Israel...we’re grafted in.**

**Laying it all out there...nothing hidden**

When we come before the judgment seat of Christ all will be laid bare. Thankfully we have Jesus and our judgment will be that of reward because of the judgment laid on Jesus

Reuben - laying with his father’s concubine, Bilhah (dan, naphthali)

DGC -No prophet, no judge, or no king came from the tribe of Reuben.

Reuben is an example of how the first can be last

Simeon and Levi - wiping everyone out in retaliation for what happened to their sister, Dinah

**[Eph 4:26-27 NKJV] 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.**

DGC. The tribe of Simeon became small during the wilderness wanderings. They started out from Egypt being the third largest tribe (Numbers 1:23), but some 35 years later, at the second wilderness census of Israel, 63% of the tribe perished and they became the smallest tribe (Numbers 26:14).

Levites inherit portions of each tribe’s land. A blessing.

**V10 messianic prophecy**

[Gen 49:10-11 NKJV] 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him [shall be] the obedience of the people. 11 Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

Also a great wine-growing country...interesting Jesus turns water to wine, his blood is likened to wine, we are to be washed in it

**Jacob skips around to Leah’s sons**

Zebulun, port area

Issachar - targeted by foreigners for capture

i. "The meaning seems to be that Issachar was strong, but docile and lazy. **He would enjoy the good land assigned him but would not strive for it.** Therefore, eventually he would be pressed into servitude and the mere bearing of burdens for his masters." (Leupold)

^ sounds like us in America these days. Unwilling to strive for the blessings of the land, but instead want to take it without work because we're spoiled and unwilling to work

**Dan** - Samson, one of the judges

DGC Some think the serpent by the way refers to the idea that the Antichrist would come from the tribe of Dan (based on Daniel 11:37 and Jeremiah 8:16).

ii. Dan is left out of the listing of tribes regarding the 144,000 in Revelation 7:5-8. But Dan is the first tribe listed in Ezekiel's millennial roll call of the tribes (Ezekiel 48). This is a remarkable sign of God's redemption.

**Gad** - troops for David and also crushed themselves

**Asher** - Moses repeats the prophecy to them, apparently their yield becomes quite luxurious

**Naphtali** - land near the Sea of Galilee...where Jesus did his ministry...his Words

**Joseph** - fruitful despite all that was thrown at him (again, our modern culture blames others when they don't do well...instead of realizing that they too, can be fruitful, despite hardship and oppression)

**Benjamin** - Ehud, Saul and Paul

**They each have their own specific word, but each of them is a larger part of the blessing of God to Abraham. And it all hasn't been fulfilled in finality yet. There again is still a plan for God's people, the Israelites.**

**We would do well to bless them.**

**[Gen 12:3 KJV] 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**



## **:29-33**

### **A familiar burial plot**

I know it's just bodies, but there's something special to that desire. A family resting place.  
Desire for my family, my kids

**And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.**

**to command, charge, give orders, lay charge, give charge to, order, lay charge upon**  
That in this prophecy, he was commanding his sons. Live by God's word.

**I like the picture of a father, commanding his children in the ways of God.**

**[Psa 127:4-5 NKJV] 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So [are] the children of one's youth. 5 Happy [is] the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.**

**As parents we are to guide and command our children in the ways of God, even to our dying breath**

**[Deu 6:1-9 NKJV] 1 "Now this [is] the commandment, [and these are] the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe [them] in the land which you are crossing over to possess, 2 "that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. 3 "Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe [it], that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you--'a land flowing with milk and honey.' 4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD [is] one! 5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**

**Is it any wonder then we are losing our land? We have neglected to command our children in the ways of God as a nation.**

**But there's still time.**

**This is the end of Jacob's life on earth. A long, hard, life, admitted to himself. Yet he knew what was most important. God's Word. The one thing he wanted his kids to have, even in the end, is the Word of God, personally to each one of them. Even if it was a hard word.**

**To know you're about to die...must be quite the thing.**

Memorial "celebration of life" service...hearing some of the last words of this woman of God, a pastor's wife

**Jacob and all knew that he was going home, to be with family, to be in heaven**

Technically at this time, Abraham's bosom...another topic for another day, but in reality, the end was heaven.

**[2Co 5:8 NKJV] 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**

**God had spent all these years with this family, and yet it wasn't over yet.**

**God had focused so much of our attention on Joseph these years and chapters, but he wasn't done with Israel yet.**

**He's not done with you yet.**

**Do you feel "undone?" Good, you're not done yet!**

**God isn't done with you. It's not over for you.**

**God has a good word of prophecy for you.**

**KJV**

**[Jer 29:11 KJV] 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.**

**An expected end.**

**That like Israel would come out of Egypt one day to inherit the land promised to them.**

**God's promises to you and me and our children are "yes and amen."**

**As God was with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...and Joseph...so he will be with you.**

**Do you have confidence in an expected end?**