

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Genesis 48

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Genesis 48.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

48 Now it came about after these things that Joseph was told,
“Behold, your father is sick.”

So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him.

2 When it was told to Jacob,
“Behold, your son Joseph has come to you,”
Israel collected his strength
and sat up in the bed.

3 Then Jacob said to Joseph,
“God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan
and blessed me,

4 and He said to me,

‘Behold, I will make you fruitful

and numerous,

and I will make you a company of peoples,

and will give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession.’

5 Now your two sons,
who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine;
Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine,
as Reuben and Simeon are.

6 But your offspring that have been born after them shall be yours;
they shall be called by the names of their brothers in their inheritance.

7 Now as for me,
when I came from Paddan,

Rachel died,

to my sorrow,

in the land of Canaan

on the journey,

when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath;

and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).”

8 When Israel saw Joseph’s sons, he said,

“Who are these?”

9 Joseph said to his father,

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"They are my sons,
whom God has given me here."

So he said,

"Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them."

10 Now the eyes of Israel were so dim from age *that* he could not see.

Then Joseph brought them close to him,
and he kissed them
and embraced them.

11 Israel said to Joseph,

"I never expected to see your face,
and behold, God has let me see your children as well."

12 Then Joseph took them from his knees,
and bowed with his face to the ground.

13 Joseph took them both,
Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left,
and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right,
and brought them close to him.

14 But Israel stretched out his right hand
and laid it on the head of Ephraim,
who was the younger,
and his left hand on Manasseh's head,
crossing his hands, although Manasseh was the firstborn.

15 He blessed Joseph, and said,
"The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,
16 The angel who has redeemed me from all evil,

Bless the lads;
And may my name live on in them,
And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;
And may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

17 When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on Ephraim's head,
it displeased him;
and he grasped his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

18 Joseph said to his father,
"Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn.
Place your right hand on his head."

19 But his father refused and said,
"I know, my son, I know;
he also will become a people
and he also will be great.
However, his younger brother shall be greater than he,
and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."

20 He blessed them that day, saying,

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“By you Israel will pronounce blessing, saying,
‘May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh!’”
Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.
21 Then Israel said to Joseph,

“Behold, I am about to die,
but God will be with you,
and bring you back to the land of your fathers.
22 I give you one portion more than your brothers,
which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow.”

1. What are the "these things" from verse one referring back to in the previous chapter?

2. Who was sick?

3. What were the names of the two sons of Joseph?

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4. What were the components of God's blessing to Jacob?
5. What is significant about this type of blessing language used by God?
6. Why do you think the author would emphasize Ephrath? What is significant about this place? (Hint: Read Micah 5:2 for help)
7. Why might the author have highlighted a different name of Jacob in verse 8?

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◆ Day 2

Read Genesis 48 again.

8. Why does Israel ask for Joseph's sons?
9. Why might the author of Genesis place this directly after recounting verses of what God said to Jacob in verses 3-4?
10. What is the emotional state of Israel at seeing Joseph and his sons?
11. Why does it matter that Jacob places the right hand and left hand on specific sons?

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12. What does Israel do with his hands that is significant?

13. Who does Israel bless first?

14. What is included in this blessing?

❖ Day 3

Read Genesis 48 again.

15. What is the significance to the angel referenced in verse 16? Who is this angel likely referring to?

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16. Why does Joseph get upset at his father?

17. Does Israel know that he has made this mistake? Is it intentional?

18. Why does Israel say he does this?

19. What is the promise Israel leaves with Joseph regarding God?

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20. What does Israel give to Joseph?

21. Summarize the passage in a sentence.

22. What is one way you can apply this passage to your life this week?

In preparation for Sunday, pray ...

1. Thanking God for his covenantal faithfulness across all generations.
2. Praising God for preserving his messiah through his covenantal line that you might receive salvation from your sin.
3. Confessing ways you doubt God's plan.