

GENESIS – LESSON TWENTY

I. JACOB'S AND JOSEPH'S LAST DAYS IN EGYPT (Chapters 48-50)

- A. Jacob adopts and blesses Joseph's sons (48:1-22)
 - 1. Joseph brings his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim to Jacob upon hearing of Jacob's sickness.
 - 2. Jacob reminds Joseph of the appearances and promises from God Almighty.
 - 3. Jacob adopts Joseph's two sons as his own.
 - 4. Jacob blesses Ephraim over the firstborn Manasseh.
 - 5. Jacob offers prophetic vision concerning blessing for Joseph's descendants- a portion given unto Joseph above his brethren.
- B. Jacob prophesies the future, and pronounces blessings upon his twelve sons- the tribes of Israel (49:1-33)
 - 1. *Reuben*, the firstborn will not have the pre-eminence of the firstborn because of his sin with Jacob's concubine (v. 1-4, cf. 35:22)
 - 2. *Simeon* and *Levi* will be scattered in Judah because together they manifested fierce anger and violent acts toward Shechem (v.5-7,cf. 34:25-30).
 - 3. *Judah* as a regal and fierce lion will rule his people and prosper until the one bringing peace comes and gathers the people (v. 8-12).
 - 4. *Zebulun* shall be connected by her border with the sea and ships (v.13).
 - 5. *Issachar* as a strong ass will be given to task work in an abundant land (v. 14-15)
 - 6. *Dan* shall judge his people as one of the tribes and be formidable to the enemies as a serpent on the roadway biting at the heels of the horse (v. 16-17)
 - 7. A pause in the thoughts of conflict to speak of the salvation of Jehovah for which Jacob waits (v. 18).
 - 8. *Gad* shall be pressed with a crowd and in turn press upon the enemy's heel. (v.19).
 - 9. *Asher* will enjoy the abundance from the land and royal delicacies (v.20).
 - 10. *Naphtali* will be swift as a hind let loose and author beautiful sayings (v.21,cf. Judges 4:6,5:1).
 - 11. *Joseph* having endured persecutions from his enemies will prevail and be blessed by God abundantly above his brothers (v.22-26).
 - 12. *Benjamin* will be as ravenous wolves devouring their prey (v.27).
- C. Jacob gives last instructions to sons and dies (49:28-33)
 - 1. Jacob charges sons to bury him in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah (near Hebron) which Abraham purchased from the children of Heth for a burying place.

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2. Jacob gathers his feet in his bed and gives up the ghost – He dies.
- D. The seventy days of weeping and embalming observed in honoring Jacob (50:1-3)
 1. Forty days are used to embalm the body.
 2. The total of seventy days are used to mourn the death of a dignitary.
- E. Jacob's body is accompanied by a great company to the cave of the field of Machpelah for burial (50:4-14)
 1. Joseph travels in the funeral procession with the servants of Pharaoh and the elders of the land of Egypt.
 2. Joseph's brethren travel in the funeral procession.
 3. Chariots and Horsemen accompany the funeral procession.
 4. Seven days of mourning observed at the threshing floor of Atad on the east side of the Jordan River.
 5. Jacob's sons carry his body over into Canaan for burial
 6. Joseph, brethren and company return to Egypt.
- F. Joseph's brethren fear that he will requite them for the evil they did unto him (50:15-21)
 1. Jacob had told the brethren to ask Joseph for forgiveness.
 2. Jacob's brethren ask for Joseph's forgiveness
 3. A weeping Joseph forgives stating, "am I in the place of God?".
 4. Joseph reminds them that God meant their evil for good in order to preserve life.
 5. Joseph eases their fear with a further promise of care and comforts them with kind words.
- G. Joseph dies in Egypt (50:22-26)
 1. Joseph lives to the age of 110 years, and sees the children of his grandchildren born.
 2. Joseph reminds his brethren that God will visit them and bring them out of the land of Egypt.
 3. Joseph makes brethren swear that they will take his bones when they leave Egypt.
 4. Joseph is embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

QUESTIONS:

1. What history lesson does Jacob give, and why would this be important to Joseph?
2. If the land of Canaan is an "everlasting possession" (Gen. 49:4), does this mean God demands that Israel have the same land today? Explain your answer:

3. Joseph's two sons would be as what to Jacob?
4. Why did Joseph present Manasseh to Jacob with his left hand?
5. What did Jacob do when he "*moved his hands wittingly*"?
6. Who did Jacob say redeemed him from all evil?
7. How is Jacob's promise to Joseph of receiving "*one portion above his brethren*" going to be fulfilled?
8. When did Jacob take this portion out of the hand of the Amorite with Jacob's sword?
9. Why did Reuben not receive the pre-eminence as the first-born?
10. Why are Simeon and Levi talked about together?
11. How were they divided and scattered in Israel?
12. What is the significance of the scepter not departing from Judah till "Shiloh" comes?
13. What is the significance of an ass belonging to Judah being tied to a choice vine?
14. How is Dan going to be as *an adder in the path*?
15. What is significant about Gen. 49:18?

16. What play on words is taking place in Jacob's prophecy regarding Gad?
17. How will Asher be blessed?
18. Give an example of "goodly words" coming from the tribe of Naphtali.
19. In Jacob's blessing of Joseph, who is the *shepherd* and *stone* of Israel?
20. How would the tribe of Benjamin manifest itself as a "*wolf that raveneth*"?
21. What did Jacob charge his sons to do to his body at death?
When he "charged" them, did he make the sons "swear"?
22. What is involved in "embalming" a body?
How long did the process take in embalming Jacob's body?
23. Is there any significance in Egypt for mourning for the dead for 70 days?
24. Describe "the great company" that comprised the funeral procession honoring Jacob's wishes?
25. Why did they go from Egypt to the burying place "*from beyond the Jordan*"?
26. Why did Joseph's brothers still fear Joseph?
27. What New Testament passage does Joseph's response to the brothers' request for forgiveness illustrate?
28. What would Joseph say to one who believed in mere "fate" as the cause for what happens in life?
29. Joseph lived to be how old?
30. How would Joseph be an encouragement to Israel even after his death?