**GENESIS: Exploring The Foundations Of Our Faith: Genesis 48-49**

**8/4/24**

**“The Last Words Of Jacob [Jacob’s Last Will And Testament]…**

**1) …Recount Where And When God Spoke To You.**

*Some time later Joseph was told, “Your father is ill.” So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim along with him.****2****When* ***Jacob*** *was told, “Your son Joseph has come to you,”* ***Israel****rallied his strength and sat up on the* ***bed****.* Genesis 48:1-2

***3****Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almightyappeared to me at* ***Luz****in the land of Canaan, and there he* ***blessed me******4****and said to me, ‘I am going to make you fruitful and increase your* ***numbers****. I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give this* ***land****as an everlasting possession to your* ***descendants*** *after you.’* Genesis 48:3-4

**2) …Bestow Blessing To Your Family.**

***5****“Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh* ***will be mine****, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine.* Genesis 48:5

***6****Any children born to you after them will be yours; in the territory they inherit they will be reckoned under the names of their brothers.****7****As I was returning from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan while we were still on the way, a little distance from Ephrath. So* ***I buried her there*** *beside the road to Ephrath” (that is, Bethlehem).* Genesis 48:6-7

***8****When Israel saw the sons of Joseph, he asked, “Who are these?”* ***9****“They are the sons God has given me here,” Joseph said to his father. Then Israel said, “Bring them to me* ***so I may bless them****.”* Genesis 48:8-9

***12****Then Joseph removed them from* ***Israel’s knees****and bowed down with his face to the ground.****13****And Joseph took both of them, Ephraim on his right toward Israel’s left hand and Manasseh on his left toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them close to him.****14****But Israel reached out his right* ***hand and put it on Ephraim’s*** *head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his* ***left hand on Manasseh’s*** *head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn.* Genesis 48:12-14

***17****When Joseph saw his father placing his right hand on Ephraim’s head he was displeased; so he took hold of his father’s hand to move it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head.****18****Joseph said to him, “****No, my father, this one is the firstborn****; put your right hand on his head.”* ***19****But his father refused and said, “****I know, my son****, I know. He too will become a people, and he too will become great. Nevertheless, his younger brother will be greater than he, and his descendants will become a group of nations.”* Genesis 48:17-19

***20****He blessed them that day and said, “In yourname will Israel pronounce this blessing: ‘May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.’”* ***So he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.*** Genesis 48:20

**3) …Family Meeting To Reveal The Future On Jacob’s Deathbed.**

*Then Jacob called for his sons and said: “Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come.* ***2****“Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob; listen to your father Israel.* Genesis 49:1

***3****“****Reuben****, you are my firstborn…*

***5****“****Simeon and Levi****are brothers—*

***8****“****Judah****, your brothers will praise you…****10****The* ***scepter*** *will not depart from Judah,*

***13****“****Zebulun****will live by the seashore*

***14****“****Issachar****is a rawboneddonkey*

***16****“****Dan****will provide justice for his people*

***19****“****Gad****will be attacked*

***20****“****Asher’s****food will be rich;*

***21****“****Naphtali****is a doe*

***22****“****Joseph****is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall.*

***27****“****Benjamin****is a ravenous wolf;*

***29****Then he gave them these instructions: “I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite…* ***33****When Jacob had finished giving instructions to his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed,* ***breathed his last*** *and was gathered to his people.* Genesis 49:29-33