



GENESIS

Jacob Blesses Manasseh and Ephraim **Genesis 48**

1. Jacob's aim in blessing Manasseh and Ephraim was to rid them of the temptation to stay in Egypt and all the prominence it offers. What are the affairs of this life that entangle you? What are the desires that are preventing you from responding in obedience to God's leading in your life? What are the possessions you would struggle to give up if the Lord asked you to?
2 Timothy 2:4; Exodus 20:1-3
2. When Jacob crosses his hands, it is in obedience to God's Spirit guiding him, reminding us that the way of the world and the way of the Lord are opposite. In this case, showing humility and exalting the unlikely. John Piper defines humility as the opposite of a sense of entitlement. Do you walk through life mainly feeling that everyone owes you something? Is humility at the core of your faith? Where is pride getting in the way of your obedience? Where is pride getting in the way of your relationships?
Proverbs 22:4; 1 Peter 5:6; Mark 10:42-45
3. Jacob's testimony begins and ends with God and how faithful God was to him. Reminding us that God contains all we need. He walks with us, He shepherds us, and He redeems us. Is Christ your satisfaction? Where do you look outside of Christ for security? Where do you seek satisfaction? Is Christ your salvation? Does He go before you? Is His Word your source for all truth?
Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 139:5-7; Psalm 23:1; Psalm 119:129-136
4. Jacob's story should be such an encouragement to us as we see God sanctify him over a lifetime and teach him to trust completely. Where is God teaching you to put your trust in his promises?

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⁴⁸One day not long after this, word came to Joseph, "Your father is failing rapidly." So Joseph went to visit his father, and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. ² When Joseph arrived, Jacob was told, "Your son Joseph has come to see you." So Jacob gathered his strength and sat up in his bed. ³ Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me. ⁴ He said to me, 'I will make you fruitful, and I will multiply your descendants. I will make you a multitude of nations. And I will give this land of Canaan to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.' ⁵ "Now I am claiming as my own sons these two boys of yours, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born here in the land of Egypt before I arrived. They will be my sons, just as Reuben and Simeon are. ⁶ But any children born to you in the future will be your own, and they will inherit land within the territories of their brothers Ephraim and Manasseh. ⁷ "Long ago, as I was returning from Paddan-aram, Rachel died in the land of Canaan. We were still on the way, some distance from Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). So with great sorrow I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath." ⁸ Then Jacob looked over at the two boys. "Are these your sons?" he asked. ⁹ "Yes," Joseph told him, "these are the sons God has given me here in Egypt." And Jacob said, "Bring them closer to me, so I can bless them." ¹⁰ Jacob was half blind because of his age and could hardly see. So Joseph brought the boys close to him, and Jacob kissed and embraced them. ¹¹ Then Jacob said to Joseph, "I never thought I would see your face again, but now God has let me see your children, too!" ¹² Joseph moved the boys, who were at their grandfather's knees, and he bowed with his face to the ground. ¹³ Then he positioned the boys in front of Jacob. With his right hand he directed Ephraim toward Jacob's left hand, and with his left hand he put Manasseh at Jacob's right hand. ¹⁴ But Jacob crossed his arms as he reached out to lay his hands on the boys' heads. He put his right hand on the head of Ephraim, though he was the younger boy, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, though he was the firstborn. ¹⁵ Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May the God before whom my grandfather Abraham and my father, Isaac, walked- the God who has been my shepherd all my life, to this very day, ¹⁶ the Angel who has redeemed me from all harm- may he bless these boys. May they preserve my name and the names of Abraham and Isaac. And may their descendants multiply greatly throughout the earth." ¹⁷ But Joseph was upset when he saw that his father placed his right hand on Ephraim's head. So Joseph lifted it to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. ¹⁸ "No, my father," he said. "This one is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head." ¹⁹ But his father refused. "I know, my son; I know," he replied. "Manasseh will also become a great people, but his younger brother will become even greater. And his descendants will become a multitude of nations." ²⁰ So Jacob blessed the boys that day with this blessing: "The people of Israel will use your names when they give a blessing. They will say, 'May God make you as prosperous as Ephraim and Manasseh.'" In this way, Jacob put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh. ²¹ Then Jacob said to Joseph, "Look, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will take you back to Canaan, the land of your ancestors. ²² And beyond what I have given your brothers; I am giving you an extra portion of the land that I took from the Amorites with my sword and bow."