

## Genesis 47 and 48 Blessings

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III- From ABC 22nd May 2019

The high gold price continues to drive a resurgence in prospecting in Western Australia, and the discovery of a large, 1.4-kilogram nugget likely to fetch more than \$100,000 is helping spread another bout of gold fever. A prospector, who wants to remain anonymous, discovered the large gold nugget near the historic mining city of Kalgoorlie-Boulder several weeks ago.

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Fossicking for Favour, the truths and blessings of the Kingdom of God and the Covenant people, it is available for us, if we can place it in it's right context.

### The kindness of God vs the Goodness of God

Since Egypt is a picture of this present world system, it does not surprise us that shepherds were an abomination to the unsaved people. Our Lord is the Good Shepherd, and the world will have nothing to do with Him!

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 46–47.

Jacob also blessed Joseph in the name of the God who had “shepherded” him all his years, and he gave to Joseph a special parcel of land (v. 22, and see John 4:5). This was a token of the total inheritance they were yet to receive.

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 48.

In his blessing on **Joseph**, Jacob used a threefold invocation of **God** (v. 15): (a) the God who was in covenant with his **fathers Abraham and Isaac** (a fact that steadied Jacob's faith many times, 28:13; 31:5, 42; 32:9; 46:3), (b) the One **who had been his Shepherd** (cf. 49:24; Ex. 6:6; Ps. 23:1; Isa 59:20) all the way, and (c) **the Angel** (cf. comments on Gen. 16:7) who **delivered him from all harm**. The Hebrew word *gā'al*, translated “delivered,” expressed the protection and reclamation Jacob

experienced from trouble. With these remarkable descriptions of God, Jacob prayed for God's gracious blessing on the **boys**. Here one catches a glimpse of Jacob's faith.

Allen P. Ross, "Genesis," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 97.

Matthew 7:7-8 (NLT) "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

God frees the nation of Israel, the Egyptians become in bondage (God's perfect will vs his revealed will)

Verses 13ff describe the way Joseph managed the affairs of Egypt giving us an illustration of dedication: the people gave him their money, their lands, their possessions, and their own bodies (Rom. 12:1-2). We should give our all to Christ who has saved us and who cares for us daily.

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 46-47.

A glimpse of God's purpose in bringing Israel into Egypt helps us to focus on the primary message of these Genesis chapters. Joseph himself summed it up as he reassured his brothers: "God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then it was not you who sent me here, but God" (45:7-8). What is the message? God is a Person who is in control of circumstances, who works providentially to accomplish His good purposes.

Larry Richards and Lawrence O. Richards, *The Teacher's Commentary* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1987), 71.

A God who relates in the now and future hope. (overlooks past sin and future disobedience)

Joseph's two first born sons (20year olds) get the blessing of being considered direct heirs to the promised land and thus to the relationship

with God- What did they have to give up to have this blessing transferred to them, what did they need to accept?

Jacob spent the last 17 of his 147 years with Joseph in Egypt, so he had his favorite son the first 17 years of Joseph's life and then the last 17 years of his own life. Knowing that he was to die, the aged patriarch called Joseph to his bed (47:31) that he might bless his two sons. See Heb. 11:21. The two boys were at least in their early 20s (see 41:50 and 47:28). Jacob claimed the boys as his own, comparing them in status with his firstborn, Reuben and Simeon. (We will see in 49:5–7 that Simeon and Levi would disappear as separate tribes, so that Ephraim and Manasseh would take their places.) Knowing that Manasseh was the firstborn, Joseph put the boy at Jacob's right, with Ephraim on the left, but Jacob crossed his arms and gave the blessing of the firstborn to Ephraim. This displeased Joseph, but Jacob was guided by God, for God was going to give the greater blessing to Ephraim. This is another example of the divine principle of setting aside the first to establish the second (Heb. 10:9). We saw this before in Seth and Cain, Isaac and Ishmael, and Jacob and Esau. The fact that Jacob crossed his hands brings the cross into the picture. It is through the cross that God crucified the old nature and now sets aside the natural that He might establish the spiritual. When you are born again, God rearranges your spiritual "birth order."

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 48.

This he now carried forward to Joseph's sons. Years later **Ephraim** became a leading tribe in the Northern Kingdom, much superior to the tribe of **Manasseh**, as Jacob had predicted.

Allen P. Ross, "Genesis," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 97.

The description of Joseph's meeting with Jacob has the semblance of a formal audience

K. A. Mathews, *Genesis 11:27–50:26*, vol. 1B, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2005), 873.

Delitzsch remarked, "The interchange of the names [Jacob and Israel] is not everywhere so significant as here. Jacob lies down sick, Israel draws himself up."

K. A. Mathews, *Genesis 11:27–50:26*, vol. 1B, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2005), 873.

The Hebrew word for “portion” is *šekem*, a wordplay on the name of the town Shechem. Later Joseph was buried in Shechem (Josh. 24:32) as a sign that he possessed this bequeathed land. Jacob apparently had conquered this portion of land **from the Amorites** (hill-country Canaanites), though this is the only mention of such a conquest in the Bible, and had dug a well there (cf. Sychar, John 4:4–5).

Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 98.

But faith recognizes that God’s ways are not man’s ways. It took Jacob a lifetime of discipline to learn that fact. But he learned it, and now he blessed the younger over the elder. For four consecutive generations this re-versed pattern was followed: Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, Joseph over Reuben, and Ephraim over Manasseh.

Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 97.

Blessing shouldn’t become traps- How do we keep God front and centre?

Proverbs 16:18 (NLT) Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

Lucifer was ( and Is) an example of this maxim in effect, the many gifts he was given become his downfall.

III- Those who have won Lotto, but lose relationships.

"Broken marriages, a drug habit and chronic boredom: How the lottery CURSE left the dreams of its jackpot winners in tatters

- Euromillions winners Gareth and Catherine Bull, who scooped £40.6m in 2012, are the latest couple to fall foul of the lottery curse
- Pressure of winning a life-changing amount of money has seen winners falter

- Jane Park, Euromillions' youngest ever winner, once threatened to sue Camelot
- Meanwhile, Grimsby millionaire Roy Gibney grew bored and went back to work-" Daily Mail Headline UK
- <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-4443958/The-couples-split-winning-LOTTERY.html>

The greatest gift we can give.- That the Kingdom of God is worth more than anything else we can pass on!

Matthew 6:33 (NLT) Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Do we frame everything in light of the kingdom of God

The Lords prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (NLT) Pray like this:  
 Our Father in heaven,  
 may your name be kept holy.  
 10 May your Kingdom come soon.  
 May your will be done on earth,  
 as it is in heaven.  
 11 Give us today the food we need,  
 12 and forgive us our sins,  
 as we have forgiven those who sin against us.  
 13 And don't let us yield to temptation,  
 but rescue us from the evil one.

Suffering welcome by Paul in light of gospel

Acts 9:15-16 (NLT) But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. 16 And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

Acts 20:23-24 (NLT) except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. 24 But my life is worth nothing to me

unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God

Give thanks for the things that we have.

Make a list of ten things God has blessed you with, write them down and thank God for them, how we see this interaction leads to future expectation. I.e. how we think God has treated will effect how we think he is going to!

Hold things lightly- seek the Kingdom, Fossick for Favour.