

Passing The Torch

Genesis 48:1-22

Introduction

I Jacob Reviewed God's Blessing

- A. Jacob was **ill**
- B. Jacob was visited by Joseph and his sons - Gen 41:50-52
- C. Jacob recounted his **relationship** with God
 - 1. God appeared and blessed him at Luz - Gen. 28:10-22
 - 2. God promised to make him **fruitful** - Gen 28:14-15
 - 3. God promised him the land of Canaan - Gen 28:13

II Jacob Adopted Joseph's Sons

- A. He **reckoned** Joseph's sons as his own - 1 Chron 5:1-2
- B. He acknowledged future sons would be Joseph's
- C. He **grieved** the death of his wife, Rachel - Gen 35:16-20

III Jacob Passed The Torch

- A. He questioned the **identity** of his guests - Gen 27:1
- B. He desired to **bless** Joseph's sons - Mk 10:13-16
- C. He intentionally **reversed** the blessing
- D. He blessed Joseph:
 - 1. By reviewing God's **identity**
 - a. He was the God of Abraham and Isaac - Gal 5:25
 - b. He was Jacob's life-long **Shepherd** - Ps 23; Jn 10:11
 - c. He sent the delivering Angel - Ps 34:7
 - 2. By **blessing** Joseph's sons
 - a. They would be called by the name of:
 - 1. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - Eph 1:5; Jn 1:12
 - b. They would **increase** greatly - Gen 1:28; Mt 28:18-20
- E. He was interrupted by Joseph
 - 1. Jacob's "**mistake**" displeased Joseph
 - 2. Jacob acknowledged Joseph's concern - Rom 9:10-16
 - 3. Jacob affirmed the blessing of Manasseh - Gen 17:20
 - a. He would become a **people**
 - b. He would become great - Gen 17:20
 - 4. Jacob affirmed the blessing of Ephraim - Is 7:8,17;11:13

- a. He would be **greater** than Manasseh
 - b. His descendents would become a group of **nations**
5. Jacob finished blessing Joseph's sons - Heb 11:21

IV Jacob Acted In Faith

- A. He informed Joseph of his impending death
- B. He assured Joseph of God's **presence** - Gen 28:15; 31:3, 5
- C. He assured Joseph of God's **promise** - 2 Tim 4:18
 - 1. God would take him back to the land of Canaan
- D. He **appointed** Joseph over his brothers
- E. He gave Joseph the area of Shechem - Josh 24:32

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Who "passed on the torch" of faith to you? How did they pass it on? What impact has that hand off had in your life?
2. According to John 15:8 and 16, God's plan is that you bear much fruit. Define fruit [Hint: Read Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Tim 2:1-2]. How fruitful are you (1-10)? What changes would you need to make to raise that number?
3. Like Jacob, we are called to pass on a blessing. Take a few minutes to write down specific things you will do this week to bless those around you through 1) Encouraging words 2) Spiritual words and 3) Torch-passing words.
4. Out of all the events in Jacob's 147 years, why do you think this one act of blessing Joseph's sons is singled out in Hebrews 11:21 as an example of outstanding faith? If you had been listed in Hebrews 11's "Hall of Faith", what event in your life would stand out as evidence of great faith?
5. Take a few moments to thank God for being your Shepherd, for protecting you, and for fulfilling His promises. And ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and opportunity to "Pass the Torch."

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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