



# The Beginning

## Lesson 20: Jacob's Death

(Genesis 48:1-50:26)

Jacob lived in Egypt for 17 years. When he became sick and was close to death, Joseph came to him with his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. When Jacob heard that Joseph was coming to him, he sat up on his bed and told Joseph the promise God had made to him. God promised to make Jacob fruitful and multiply so that he would have lots of children and grandchildren and there would be a great nation come from him. Then, God promised that He would give the land of Canaan to his descendants.

Now, Jacob said that Joseph's two sons would be like his own sons to him. So, just like Reuben and Simeon, Manasseh and Ephraim would be called sons of Jacob and be given an inheritance like the others. So, Joseph would receive a double portion of the inheritance (the birthright) from Jacob through his two sons.

When Jacob saw Manasseh and Ephraim, he wanted them to come to him so he could bless them. He kissed and hugged them and said that although he did not think he would ever get to see Joseph again, God had given him the chance to even see Joseph's sons. Jacob reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim's head and his left hand on Manasseh's head. When Joseph saw that his father had put his right hand on his younger son, he tried to correct Jacob. But, Jacob said that although Manasseh (the older son) would become great, his younger brother (Ephraim) would become even greater. Then, Jacob told Joseph that God would be with him and bring him back to the Canaan land and gave him an extra portion in the land of Canaan through his sons.

Then, Jacob called all his sons together and told them what would happen to them. So, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin (the 12 sons of Jacob) all received the words from their father, some good and some bad. It is especially important to know that Judah

would be praised by his brothers. Later, Judah would be the tribe that kings would come from (beginning with King David). Then, Jacob said that there would be another who would reign (called “Shiloh”) through Judah and He would be obeyed by all nations. This was a prophecy about Jesus Christ.

After this, Jacob told his children to take him back to the Canaan land when he died and bury him in the Cave of Machpelah. This is where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, and Leah were buried. When Jacob had finished saying these things, he died. He was 147 years old. Joseph was very sad and cried; and people mourned for him for 70 days. Then, Joseph got permission from Pharaoh to take Jacob’s body and bury him where Jacob had said. So, Jacob’s family traveled to Canaan to bury Jacob and then returned to Egypt.

When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father had died, they thought Joseph would hate them and punish them for what they had done to him earlier in his life when they put him in the pit and sold him. So, they were very afraid and sent messengers to Joseph, asking him to forgive them. Joseph wept when he heard these things and went to his brothers. They fell down before him and said they were his servants. Then, Joseph comforted and spoke kindly with his brothers. He told them that although they meant to hurt him, God meant to save the family of Jacob. He did this by bringing Joseph to Egypt and helping him become in charge of the food in Egypt. Now, Jacob’s family had plenty to eat and could survive the famine!

Later, Joseph died also. He was 110 years old and lived to see his great grandchildren. When Joseph was dying, he told his family that God would bring the Israelites out of Egypt. And, he made them promise that they would carry his bones out of Egypt and take them to Canaan. So, Joseph had full trust in God that He would keep His promise to bring them out of Egypt.

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# Study Questions:

1) How did Jacob bless Joseph?

2) Which of Joseph's sons would be greater than the other?

3) What did Jacob do to each of his sons?

4) How many sons did Jacob have? Who were they?

5) What did Jacob tell Judah? Who would come through Judah?

6) What did Jacob tell his sons to do with his body?

7) Why were Joseph's brothers afraid after Jacob died? What did Joseph tell them?

8) What did Joseph say God would do for the Israelites? What did Joseph make them promise?

## Memory Verse:

“Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.” (Genesis 50:19-20).

**Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:**