

JOSEPH- PROFILE OF COURAGE

Part 8: Courage for Jacob's Final Days (Chs. 48-49)

INTRO: From the pit of despair in Canaan to the pinnacle of success in Egypt, Joseph's life has been nothing short of incredible. Few lives have seen so many ups and downs, such heartaches and happy endings as his (make for a great movie). The focus of today's Scripture is Joseph's father, Jacob, now 147 years old (47:28). God has used Joseph to restore the family. They not only survived a famine, but have literally become a growing and thriving nation (v.27). Scripture now begins to focus prophetically on the nation Israel's future. The covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is beginning to unfold. Jacob knows that Egypt is not the land God promised but Canaan is (vv.29-31). Joseph gives his word and Jacob gives his son the lasting memory of a father who worshiped.

TIMELINE...

SERIES QUESTION: "How would your outlook on life change if you had the courage to really believe God was with you in every situation?"

I. JACOB REMEMBERS GOD'S PROMISE (48:1-4)

- A. Jacob prepares for his death (47:29-31)
- B. Jacob reminds himself of God's faithfulness, as covenant is restated. Jacob takes initiative. Covenant history (Abraham – 12:1-3; 15:5; 17:4-8; 18:18; 22:17-18; (Isaac – 17:19-20; 26:3-4); (Jacob – 28:14; 32:12; 35:11-12; 46:3; 48:1-4). Time and again God had promised. Fulfillment of people and land, though still years away was coming.

II. JACOB ADOPTS JOSEPH'S SONS (48:5-22)

- A. Jacob blesses Joseph's sons (vv. 5-16)
- B. Joseph objects but is overruled (vv.17-22)-Jacob's focus is not on himself but God (vv. 3, 11, 15, 20-21).

III. JACOB PROPHECIES OVER HIS SONS (49:1-28)

These verses are filled with a mixture of blessings, cursing, judgments, and promises (Heb. 11:21). **12 TRIBES MAP...**

- A. The SIX sons of Leah (vv.3-15)
 - 1. Reuben (vv.3-4) –
 - 2. Simeon (vv.5-7) –

3. Levi (vv. 5-7) –

4. Judah (vv. 8-12) –

5. Zebulun (v.13) –

6. Issachar (vv.14-15) –

B. The TWO sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid (vv.16-18, 21)

1. Dan (vv.16-18) –

2. Naphtali (v.21) –

C. The TWO sons of Zilpah; Leah's handmaid (vv. 19-20)

1. Gad (v.19)

2. Asher (v.20) –

A. The TWO sons of Rachel (vv.22-28)

1. Joseph (vv.22-26) –

2. Benjamin (vv.27-28) –

Note: Ultimately only Judah and Benjamin survived. 10 tribes of NK were exiled by Assyrians in 722 BC.

IV. JACOB'S DEATH AND BURIAL (49:29-33)

LIFE LESSONS

- 1. *An old dog can learn new tricks – Jacob did.* He finished strong.
- 2. *Let your last words be lingering words of God's faithfulness* (vv.3,11,15,20,21). God is sovereign and He is good. How do you think they remembered Jacob?
- 3. *God can and does overrule the activities of people to accomplish His purposes.*

CONC: SERIES QUESTION: "How would your outlook on life change if you had the courage to really believe God was with you in every situation?"