

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning**, that **we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Gen. 47-49

Review

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. THE PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

C. The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—36:43

D. The Provider: Joseph, 37:1—47:26

1. Joseph's Background, 30:24-25
2. Joseph's Boyhood, 37:1-11
3. Joseph's Betrayal, 37:12-36
4. Joseph's Brother, 38:1-30
5. Joseph's Bondage, 39:1—40:23
6. Joseph's Blessing, 41:1-44
7. Joseph's Bride, 41:45-52
8. Joseph's Brethren, 41:53—47:10
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 - b. The Majesty Phase, 45:1-24
 - c. The Ministry Phase, 45:25—47:10
 - (1) Proposition, 45:25—46:7
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 - (3) Preparation, 46:31-34
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a. Joseph's Grace, 47:11-12

(1)The Position He Gave His Brethren, 47:11a

(2)The Possession He Gave His Brethren, 47:11b

(3)The Portion He Gave His Brethren, 47:12

b. Joseph's Government, 47:13-22

(1)Purses, 47:13-14

(2)Possessions, 47:15-17

(3)Property, 47:18-20

(4)Persons, 47:21-22

c. Joseph's Goodness, 47:23-26

(1)The Principle Explained, 47:23-25

(a)Worded Very Simply, 47:23-24

(b)Welcomed Very Sincerely, 47:25

(2)The Principle Established, 47:26

Tonight, we finish Gen. 47, which is the beginning of the conclusion of *The Patriarchal History* regarding Jacob and Joseph. We then begin chapter 48 with the last days of Jacob.

E. The Conclusion, 47:27—50:26

1. The Death of Jacob, 47:27—50:21

a. Jacob's Foreknowledge, 47:27—49:27

(1) The Chosen Favorite, 47:27—48:22

(a) Jacob's Burial, 47:27-31

Gen. 47:27 And **Israel** dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly.

28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years.

29 And the time drew nigh that **Israel** must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt:

30 But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their buryingplace. And he said, I will do as thou hast said.

31 And he said, Swear unto me. And he sware unto him. And **Israel** bowed himself upon the bed's head.

- ❖ Typical oriental chronology: Jacob's death and his age are given and THEN details are given that took place before his death.
- ❖ During the last seventeen years, (v. 27), "...in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly."

Ex. 12:37 And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, **about six hundred thousand on foot *that were* men, beside children.**

❖ Jacob, at 147 years old (v. 28), like Abraham with Eliezer in finding a bride for Isaac, has Joseph swear to bury him at Machpelah.

Gen. 24:1 And Abraham was old, *and* well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, **Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:**

3 **And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth,** that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

Gen. 49:29 And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that *is* in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

30 In the cave that *is* in the field of Machpelah, which *is* before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a buryingplace.

31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah.

❖ Joseph swears to follow his father's desire (v. 31.)

❖ Note the use of the two names – Jacob (the fleshly) and Israel (the spiritual.)

(b) Jacob's Bedside, 48:1-6

Gen. 48:1 And it came to pass after these things, that *one* told Joseph, Behold, thy father *is* sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

2 And *one* told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and **Israel** strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed.

3 And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me,

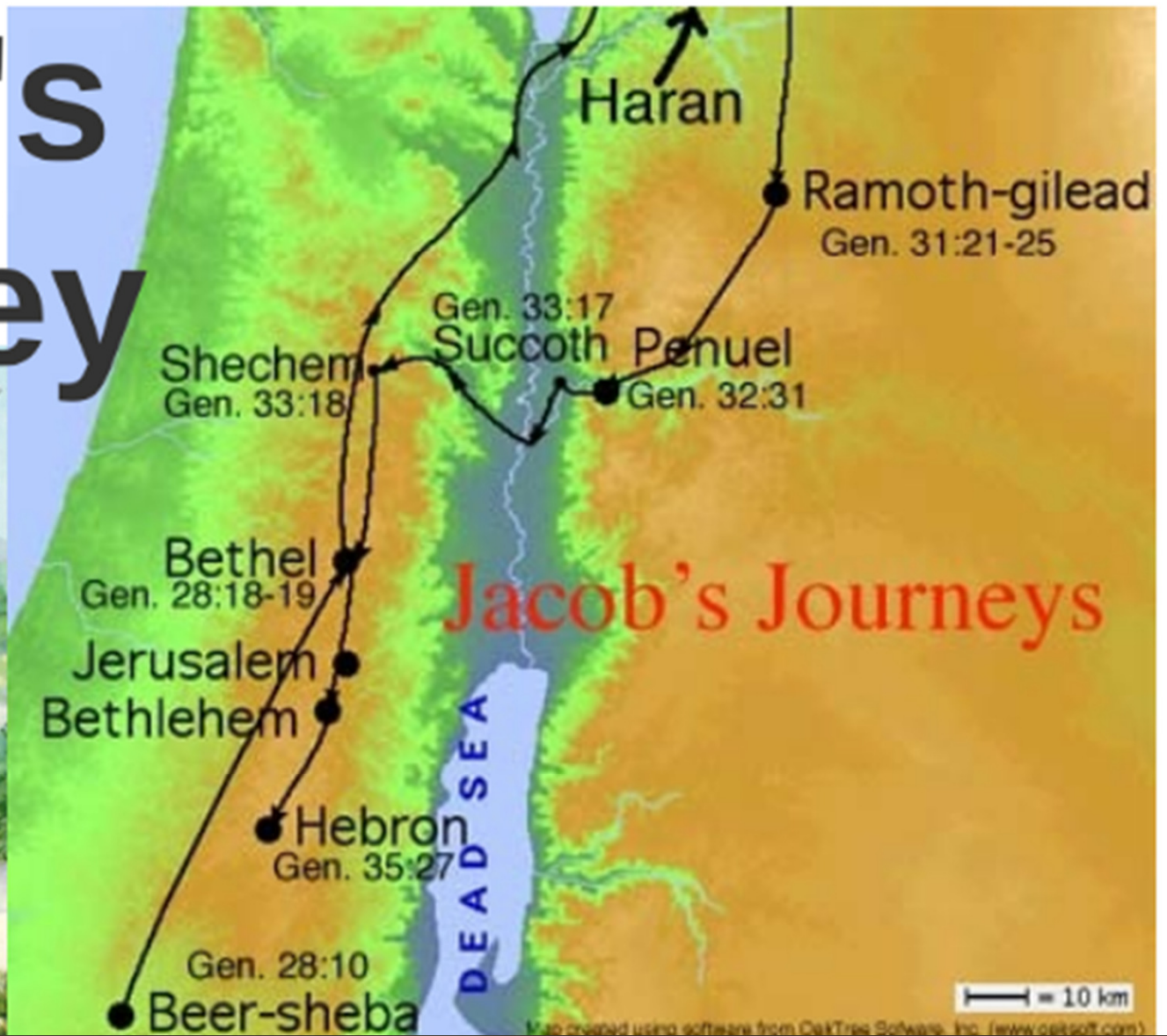
4 And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee *for* an everlasting possession.

5 And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, *are* mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

6 And thy issue, which thou begettest after them, shall be thine, *and* shall be called after the name of their brethren in their inheritance.

- ❖ When Jacob knew that Joseph and his boys were arriving, (48:2,)“...Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed.”
- ❖ The timing was of utmost importance for it concerned the structure and composition of the tribes for the future.
- ❖ Jacob reminisces about the past and his encounters with God Almighty – El Shaddai (48:3-4.)

Jacob's Journey



Gen. 35:6 So **Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Bethel**, he and all the people that *were* with him.

❖ Moving from the past to the present, 48:5:

Gen. 48:5 **And now** thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, *are* mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

❖ Jacob officially adopted Ephraim and Manasseh as his own sons, giving Joseph two tribes within the 12 tribes of Israel, on equal standing with the other sons = a true double portion or blessing of the firstborn. (See Gen. 34:25, 35:22)

1 Chron. 5:1 Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he *was* the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, **his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel**: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.

2 For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him *came* the chief ruler; but **the birthright was Joseph's**:)

Josh. 14:4 For **the children of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim**: therefore they gave no part unto the Levites in the land, save cities to dwell *in*, with their suburbs for their cattle and for their substance.

(c) Jacob's Bereavement, 48:7

Gen. 48:7 And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan in the way, when yet *there was* but a little way to come unto Ephrath: and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath; the same *is* Bethlehem.

- ❖ Jacob's true love, Rachel, is evidently on his mind, after many years.
- ❖ Rachel, as Joseph's mother, was honored by Jacob with the blessing on the grandsons.

(d) Jacob's Blindness, 48:8-12

Gen. 48:8 And **Israel** beheld Joseph's sons, and said, Who *are* these?

9 And Joseph said unto his father, They *are* my sons, whom God hath given me in this *place*. And he said, Bring them, I pray thee, unto me, and I will bless them.

10 Now the eyes of **Israel** were dim for age, *so that* he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them.

11 And **Israel** said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed.

12 And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.

❖ Ephraim and Manasseh are now in their 20's.

Heb. 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff.

(e) Jacob's Blessing, 48:13-16

Gen. 48:13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward **Israel's** left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward **Israel's** right hand, and brought *them* near unto him.

14 And **Israel** stretched out his right hand, and laid *it* upon Ephraim's head, who *was* the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh *was* the firstborn.

15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, **God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk**, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day,
16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and **the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac**; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.



❖ Jacob blesses Joseph and his sons, 48:15-16, with the covenant promises to Abraham and Isaac, from a spiritual perspective (use of Israel) and not a natural one (Jacob.)

(f) Jacob's Behavior, 48:17-20

Gen. 48:17 And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head.

18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this *is* the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head.

19 And his father refused, and said, **I know it, my son, I know it**: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.

20 And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall **Israel** bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and **he set Ephraim before Manasseh**.

- ❖ Jacob purposely placed the greater blessing of the firstborn on the younger brother.

(g) Jacob's Belief, 48:21-22

Gen. 48:21 And **Israel** said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: **but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers.**

22 Moreover **I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren**, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.

- ❖ The land that Jacob won in battle will contain an extra portion for Joseph through the tribes of his two sons.

Summary

- ❖ Jacob planned his burial details and chose Joseph to handle them.
- ❖ Jacob officially adopted Ephraim and Manasseh as his own sons, giving Joseph two tribes within the 12 tribes of Israel, on equal standing with the other sons = a true double portion or blessing of the firstborn. (Josh. 14:4)
- ❖ Jacob lived for seventeen years in Egypt but did not allow Egypt to change his lifestyle.

- ❖ Ephraim and Manasseh were born in Egypt, but Joseph led them to live like God's chosen people, and Jacob recognized their identification with the Israelites.
- ❖ When children are brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, they live to honor God.

Eph. 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but **bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**

Conclusion

1 Jn. 3:1 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:** therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, **they are the sons of God.**

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that **we are the children of God:**

17 And **if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;** if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.