

48:1-7

2 And Jacob was told, “Look, your son Joseph is coming to you”; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed. Remember from the last chapter that he is 147 years old.

4 and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, this happened on his way out of Haran, some 48 years previous. **and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting** an apparent extension of reality to the horizon of time. We would not say that there is no end to the **possession.**’ Why? The easiest answer is that the old heavens will be passed away (Revelation 20:11-12; 21:1). **5** And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, *are mine*; as Reuben and Simeon or like his first two sons—which affects inheritance. They furthermore count for their own tribes. They were both missing and complicit during the sale of Joseph. Then, **Reuben** slept with one of his stepmothers (49:4; 1 Chronicles 5:1). **they shall be mine.** **6** Your ²offspring ³whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance. **7** But as for me, when I came from Padan, ^hRachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when *there was* but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, probably added by Moses Bethlehem).” Micah 5:2 uses both terms in its prophecy of the birth of Jesus.

⁸ Then Israel saw Joseph’s sons, and said, “Who *are* these?” How could he have blessed them and not know **who** they are? 48:10 gives us the answer and this reminds us of 27:1.

⁹ Joseph said to his father, “They *are* my sons, whom God has given me in this *place*.”

And he said, “Please bring them to me, and ⁱI will bless them.” ¹⁰ Now ^jthe eyes of Israel were dim with age, *so that* he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he ^kkissed them and embraced them. ¹¹ And Israel said to Joseph, ^l“I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!”

¹² So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth. ¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand as he is facing Jacob, Joseph is taking his 2nd born toward Israel’s left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel’s right hand, These are not toddlers so Joseph must have been a stout fellow. **and brought them near him.** Joseph is seeking to guide his firstborn to the **right hand** of his father, the position of highest blessing. ¹⁴ Then Israel stretched out his right hand and ^mlaid it on Ephraim’s head, to relive what he himself experienced as the 2nd born of Isaac. Romans 5:20 is a Bible-wide revelation of what soteriology was being taught here. **who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh’s head, ⁿguiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the**

² children

³ Who are born to you

^h Gen. 35:9, 16, 19, 20

ⁱ Gen. 27:4; 47:15

^j Gen. 27:1; 1 Sam. 3:2

^k Gen. 27:27; 45:15; 50:1

^l Gen. 45:26

^m Matt. 19:15; Mark 10:16

ⁿ Gen. 48:19

^ofirstborn. Hebrews 11:21 remove all doubt that Jacob knew what he was doing here. ¹⁵ And ^phe blessed Joseph, and said:

“God, ^qbefore whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,

The God who has fed me all my life long to this day,

¹⁶ The Angel ^rwho has redeemed me from all evil,

Bless the lads;

Let ^smy name be named upon them,

And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;

And let them ^tgrow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”

¹⁷ Now when Joseph saw that his father ^ulaid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father’s hand to remove it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head. ¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, “Not so, my father, for this *one is the firstborn*; put your right hand on his head.”

¹⁹ But his father refused and said, ^v“I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly ^whis younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.” Jacob is then intending on replaying what happened to him as the 2nd born being blessed over his older brother Esau (in Genesis 25).

²⁰ So he blessed them that day, saying, ^x“By you Israel will bless, saying, ‘May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!’ ” And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

²¹ Then Israel said to Joseph, “Behold, I am dying, but ^yGod will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers. ²² Moreover ^zI have given to you one ⁴portion above your brothers, which I took from the hand ^aof the Amorite with my sword and my bow.”

^o Gen. 41:51, 52; Josh. 17:1

^p Gen. 47:7, 10; 49:24; [Heb. 11:21]

^q Gen. 17:1; 24:40; 2 Kin. 20:3

^r Gen. 22:11, 15–18; 28:13–15; 31:11; [Ps. 34:22; 121:7]

^s Amos 9:12; Acts 15:17

^t Num. 26:34, 37

^u Gen. 48:14

^v Gen. 48:14

^w Num. 1:33, 35; Deut. 33:17

^x Ruth 4:11, 12

^y Gen. 28:15; 46:4; 50:24

^z Gen. 14:7; Josh. 24:32; John 4:5

⁴ Lit. *shoulder*

^a Gen. 34:28