

By Faith – Jacob

Sermon 37 in the Hebrews Series

We need to remember how important Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would be to these Hebrew Christians – who were no longer part of Judaism – but still understood the promises made to the patriarchs, and would be encouraged to remember that the patriarchs were saved “By Faith”.

Hebrews 11:21 – “By faith, Jacob when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshipped, leaning on the top of his staff.”

I. Jacob Was a Man of Faith – Heb. 11:21

Matthew Henry, “Though the grace of faith is of universal use throughout our whole lives, yet it is especially so when we come to die. Faith has its great work to do at the last, to help believers finish well, to die to the Lord, so as to honor Him, by patience, hope, and joy, so as to leave a witness behind them of the truth of God’s Word and the excellency of His ways, for the conviction and establishment of all that attend them in their dying moments.”

Two sons of Joseph – Manasseh (the older) and Ephraim (the younger)

Two applications

1. The true line of spiritual inheritance is not the line of the flesh, but the line of faith.
Rom 2:28-29 -- For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.
2. Only those who lay hold of the promised blessings in faith, are the true descendants of Abraham.
Gal 3:29 -- And if ye be Christ’s, then ye are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

II. Jacob Blesses Joseph’s Two Sons – Gen. 48:1-20

A. The Double Blessing for Joseph Gen. 48:1-7

B. The Blessing purposely reversed. 8-22
Jacob’s faith can be seen in v. 3-4; 15-17; 21-22

It would be 400 years until God would raise up Moses to be the deliverer. But even that had been foretold to Abraham. **Gen. 15:13-14**

- C. There were two different blessings for the patriarchal family.
The Double Blessing (material goods) -- common for Israelites.
The Blessing of being in the line of Christ – a specific blessing.

III. Jacob Blesses his Twelve Sons Genesis 49

A. Reuben v. 3-4 (Gen. 35:22)

B. Simeon & Levi v. 5-7 (all of Genesis 34)

Jacob feared the entirety of his family would be in danger from Canaanites seeking revenge.

There are at least four terrible aspects to their crime.

1. They took upon themselves an authority they did not have.
2. They did what they did was all out of proportion to the crime.
3. What they did, they did with cold, cruel, premeditation.
4. What they did, they did with glee and delight.

Prov 16:32 -- He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that takes a city.

C. Judah – Gen. 38