



Lesson 36

Jacob's Death and Burial

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TEXT: Gen. 47:27-50:14• Setting: circa 1730 B.C. in Egypt.• Main Characters: God, Jacob, Joseph, and their sons• Plot: Jacob gives his final blessings and | <p>dying wishes to his sons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key word(s): " _____ " (throughout)• Climax: <i>Genesis 49:1 And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.</i> |
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Jacob Blesses Manasseh and Ephraim

- 1) (47:27-31) Seventeen years after his family had moved down to Egypt, Jacob knew that his life was drawing to a close. He summoned Joseph to his bedside.
 - a) Jacob asked Joseph to swear that when Jacob died, he would not be buried in Egypt, but would be buried in the cave that _____ purchased.
 - b) (48:1-22) Later, when Jacob was closer to death, he summoned Joseph and his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
 - i) (47:5) Jacob claimed Manasseh and Ephraim as his own sons, that is, as having an inheritance the same as Joseph's brothers. Later, when the nation of Israel would conquer Canaan, Manasseh and Ephraim would have their own _____ territories.
 - ii) (47:17-19) Joseph attempted to arrange his sons so the elder (Manasseh) would receive the right-handed blessing (a place of honor), but Jacob protested saying, "truly his younger brother shall be greater than he."

Jacob Blesses His Sons

- 2) (49:1-27) Then Jacob called for the rest of his sons to gather for their last blessing from their father.
 - a) (v 3) **Reuben**, though he was the firstborn, was rebuked for his terrible sin (cf. Gen 35:22 and 1 Chr. 5:1) and lost his _____.
 - b) (vv 5-8) **Simon** and **Levi** were addressed together because of their joining together to murder the men of _____ (Gen 34:25, 26). They will be "scattered in Israel" - fulfilled in Levi's tribe being given cities throughout Israel and Simeon's tribe being given a small territory within Judah's.
 - c) (vv 8-12) **Judah** was set apart as the royal tribe of Israel, from whom "*the sceptre shall not depart, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*" Shiloh, an unusual word that means "the sent," is a Messianic title. _____ is the fulfillment of this prophecy.
 - d) (v 13) **Zebulon** was promised prosperity.
 - e) (v 14) **Issachar** (and his tribe) was described as a hard-working people.
 - f) (vv 16-18) **Dan** means "judge," and from his tribe came the most famous judge of all Israel: Samson. Matthew Henry points out "_____, who was of that tribe, and judged Israel, that is, delivered them out of the hands of the Philistines, not as the other judges, by fighting them in the field, but by the vexations and annoyances he gave them underhand: when he pulled the

house down under the Philistines that were upon the roof of it, he made the horse throw his rider.”¹

- g) (v 19) **Gad**, whose name means “troop,” would become a tribe of mighty warriors. (cf 1 Chr. 12:8)
- h) (v 20) **Asher** was spoken of as prosperous and wealthy.
- i) (v 21) **Naphtali** was referred to as a hind let loose – perhaps a reference to loving _____.
- j) (vv 22-26) Jacob reiterated in public his own private sentiment for **Joseph**: unfairly persecuted by men, but uncommonly _____ by God.
- k) (v 27) **Benjamin**, the youngest, was described as a wolf that succeeds in his hunt. Surely Jacob “was guided in what he said by a spirit of prophecy, and not by natural affection”² for out of Benjamin came mighty conquerors and defenders such as Ehud, Saul, Mordecai, and the great Apostle _____.

Jacob is Buried

- 3) (49:28-50:14) Jacob died surrounded by his family. He lived to the age of _____.
- a) He was embalmed according to the customs of the Egyptians, who mourned for him _____ days.
- b) Afterward, Joseph and his brothers were escorted by a large Egyptian contingent into the land of Canaan where they buried Jacob in the cave of Machpelah.
- c) Jacob was buried with _____, the less-favored wife, and so in death she received the honor that was not afforded her in life.

Application

- 4) Jacob’s request to be buried in Canaan was not a purely sentimental notion but an act of _____ – he knew that the land was promised to the nation of Israel.

Hebrews 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.*

- 5) The blessing of the younger over the elder is an object lesson of _____ and a recurring theme in the Old Testament. Matthew Henry notes, “Abel above Cain, Shem above Japheth, Abraham above Nahor and Haran, Isaac above Ishmael, Jacob above Esau; Judah and Joseph were preferred before Reuben, Moses before Aaron, David and Solomon before their elder brethren.”³

1 Corinthians 1:28 *...and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

Answer Key: Key word(s): “bless” • 1) a) Abraham; b) i) tribal • 2) a) birthright; b) Shechem; c) Jesus; f) Samson; i) liberty; j) blessed; k) Paul • 3) 147; a) seventy; c) Leah • 4) faith • 5) grace

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Henry, Matthew. [Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume](#). Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.