

Genesis 48

Blessings on Joseph

Twelve declarations ...

I. Reflections of Patriarch

- A. My God
- B. His Promise
- C. For Generations
- D. My Shepherd

II. Bestowing a Blessing

- A. The Mystery of "Blessings"
 - 1. Sacred
 - 2. Prophetic
 - 3. Binding
- B. Joseph's Offspring
 - 1. Manasseh
 - 2. Ephraim
- C. God Be With You

A Multitude of Nations

- A. Foretold
- B. Fulfilled

... for God's holy nation?

Children, Listen ...

1. When Jacob tells his life story to Joseph who is most important in it?
2. What do you think Jacob means when he says "the Lord has been my shepherd?"
3. Can you think of a Psalm in which the Lord is seen as a Shepherd? Which one? That might be a good one to read before you go to bed tonight.
4. Jesus calls Himself the "Good Shepherd." How do you think Jesus feels about his people, the "sheep" of His flock?
5. Why is it important for parents and grandparents to tell their children and grandchildren about the way God has worked in their lives?

A Living Testimony

Jacob is near death and ready to make final declarations concerning his sons, the heads of the tribes of Israel. But before doing so he gives a striking testimonial to the presence of God in his life. You might say that his life story, according to the patriarch himself, begins and ends with God. His awareness of the fact was not always prominent but here, at the end of his life, he reflects back and testifies to the fact that God was with him all along. From his birth, through years of chicanery, trials (often self-inflicted), temptations, sorrows and joys, the God of Abraham and Isaac has been faithful to him. He may have overlooked it in the past, but now that he is ready to be "gathered with his fathers" he appreciates more than ever the nearness and goodness of the Lord. Is that your testimony? Do you see that from the moment you were conceived to this very day that your God is faithful? If you belong to Him that should be your great comfort. Can you say with Jacob, "He is my God, His promises are true, and He has been, is and will be my Shepherd all the days of my journey?" In Christ that is indeed your testimony – don't wait till your dying day to tell it! Your legacy when you are gone may declare the faithfulness of your God, but now, when you have the time for a living testimony to His goodness to you, don't be shy in telling it, it may just have an impact on generations to come.