

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

Studies in Genesis

The End of the Beginning

Lesson 18

Genesis 48-50

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

December 30, 2017

The End of the Beginning

- ▶ The story must be revealed
- ▶ The story must be believed
- ▶ The story of the Person and Work of the Son of God
- ▶ The story of the life of a believer – living by faith
- ▶ Genesis – “In the beginning”

Genesis 1-11

- ▶ God is the Almighty Sovereign
- ▶ God is the Creator
- ▶ Unique place of man
- ▶ Creation is very good
- ▶ Sin entered through one man (Romans 6:12)
- ▶ Wrath of God revealed
- ▶ The grace of God introduced

Genesis 12-50

- ▶ The Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
 - Blessing – eternal life (Psalm 133:3)
 - Blessing to a great nation – a land for the Patriarch’s offspring
 - Blessing to all nations/families
 - The Seed of Abraham
- ▶ The story of the Patriarchs – from Abraham to Jacob
 - The Covenant seemingly on hold (Genesis 15:13)
 - The hiddenness of God
 - The blessing through suffering and adversity
 - How to live and die with faith in the Promise
 - Jacob and his sons give the most detailed stories of this reality
- ▶ When all is done, the dominant reality is “the Promise”

Death of the Last Patriarch – Jacob

- ▶ Joseph and his sons at the deathbed of Jacob (48:1-22)
- ▶ Israel's sons at the deathbed of Jacob (49:1-33)
- ▶ The death of Jacob (50:1-21)
- ▶ The death of Joseph (50:22-26)

Israel's Deathbed, Scene 1 (48:1-7)

- ▶ Jacob's final illness – Joseph & sons come to his bedside
- ▶ Jacob remembers
 - The blessing of God at Luz – the gate of heaven, the house of God
 - Luz #1 (Genesis 28:10-22)
 - Promise to Abraham and Isaac given to Jacob
 - Promise not to leave him until God had fulfilled this promise
 - Luz #2 (Genesis 32:24-32)
 - God Almighty
 - Name changed to Israel (“He contends with God”) – prevailed by faith, not might
 - A nation, a company, a land
 - Jacob's recall
 - God Almighty appeared
 - I will make you fruitful – a company of people
 - I will give you “this land” for an everlasting possession
 - Jacob's response
 - Elevation of Joseph's sons to equality with their uncles
 - Recalling Rachel– buried at Bethlehem

Israel's Deathbed, Scene 1 (48:8-22)

- ▶ Joseph presents his sons to Jacob
- ▶ Jacob blesses Joseph as Israel
 - God before Whom Abraham and Isaac walked
 - My Shepherd all my life
 - Redeemer from all evil – the hope of the Seed Promise
 - Bless the lads
 - My name – Israel
 - Names of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac – live by faith
 - A great multitude in the midst of the earth
- ▶ Joseph objects, but Israel refuses
- ▶ “May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh”
- ▶ To Joseph: God will bring you back to the land of your fathers
- ▶ A double portion from the land of the Amorites

Israel's Deathbed, Scene 2 (49:1-28)

Leah's first 4 sons (#1-4) - Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah

Leah's last 2 sons (#10, 9)- Zebulun, Issachar

Bilhah's son (#5) - Dan

Jacob's hope

Zilpah's 2 sons (#7, 8)- Gad, Asher

Bilhah's son (#6) Naphtali

Rachel's 2 sons (#11, 12)- Joseph, Benjamin

Israel's Deathbed, Scene 2 (49:1-32)

- ▶ Reuben
 - Great expectations disappointed by sin
 - Loss of preeminence (birthright)
- ▶ Simeon and Levi
 - Great violence and fierce anger
 - Dispersion in Israel
- ▶ Judah
 - A source of praise in the family
 - Victory and honor
 - The scepter
 - Shiloh – uncertain meaning (Ezekiel 21:27)
 - The Seed of the woman
 - The people will obey Him
 - The donkey's colt – may predict his first coming
 - Washes His garments in wine – may predict his redemptive work

Israel's Deathbed, Scene 2 (49:1-32)

- ▶ Zebulun, Issachar, Dan
- ▶ Gad, Asher, Naphtali
- ▶ Joseph
 - Fruitful and victorious in battle
 - Uniquely enabled by the Mighty One of Jacob
 - The Shepherd, the Stone of Israel
 - The God of your fathers
 - Blessed eternally above the fathers
 - Preeminent above his brothers
- ▶ Benjamin – a ravenous wolf

Israel's Deathbed, Scene 2 (49:18)

- ▶ “For Your salvation I wait, O LORD.”
 - These blessing teach them about themselves and their God
 - Blessing based upon the Promise and not their worthiness
 - The 12 tribes of Israel now established for the great nation
- ▶ Jacob's charge to his sons re: burial (49:29-32)
 - Burial in the cave of Machpelah – a common hope with the fathers
 - Burial with Leah demonstrated the end of trust in his own ability to prevail

Death of Jacob (49:33-50:21)

- ▶ Mourning in Egypt (50:1-3)
- ▶ Burial in Canaan (50:4-13)
- ▶ Joseph's preeminence (50:14-21)
 - Brothers feared Joseph because of their mistreatment of him
 - First mention of request for forgiveness
 - Joseph's faith in the ways of God
 - No anger or desire for revenge against the agents of God's will
 - A desire to comfort his brothers

The Epilogue – The Death of Joseph (50:22-26)

- ▶ Joseph lived 93 of his 110 years in Egypt
- ▶ Joseph's faith (Hebrews 11:22)
 - The Promise with an oath to Abraham – the land
 - Take my bones to Canaan when God brings you back
- ▶ The end – Joseph's bones in a coffin in Egypt

The End of the Beginning

- ▶ Not a fairy tale ending, but only the end of the beginning
- ▶ The Person and Promise of God determine the end
- ▶ The duty to believe remains the same
 - Reality v. perception — Divine wisdom v. human wisdom
 - Only properly realized by faith
- ▶ The advantage of the year 2017 – a complete revelation