
Genesis 49:16-50:26

REVIEW:

We pick up tonight in what is without a doubt the HIGHEST POINT in Jacob's life as he gathers his sons to himself and he prophesies concerning them and their descendants.

NOTE WELL:

The HIGHEST point of FAITH in this man is at the very end of his life.

1. God's longsuffering and faithfulness of God.

He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it.

2. He FINISHED well (That's what I want to do)

{16} Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel. {17} Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.



Dan would come to inhabit the Northern most part of Israel near the area at the base of Mount Hermon.

It is a valley between the Golan Heights and mountains of Lebanon.

About 4-5 miles from base of Hermon.

There you can see the ruins of the city of Dan - see the city gate dating back to Abraham.

It was not so in the beginning.

In Joshua 19 we are told that their inheritance in the land that was in the SOUTH of Israel.

They were DISCONTENTED with what portion the Lord had given to them.

We read in Judges that they decided to move to the NORTH.

It was in that discontented move that they became a part of Israel's stumbling!!

DAN SHALL BE A SERPENT BY THE WAY

THE PICTURE IS THAT OF a serpent on a path causing horse and rider to fall.

The tribe of Dan introduced idolatry to the children of Israel.

After the death of king Solomon - when there was a division of the kingdom, Jeroboam set up one of the golden calves in Dan and the other in Bethel.

{18} I HAVE WAITED FOR THY SALVATION, O LORD.

This is a total break from the prophecies concerning his sons. As if he is catching his breath and suddenly looks up to heaven.

Perhaps it is born out of seeing the northern tribes fall into idolatry that would lead to their demise.

REMEMBER:

GENESIS = the Book of BEGINNINGS -

This the FIRST use of the word SALVATION.

KEY INSIGHT:

The word salvation in Hebrew, as used here, is “Yeshua.”

Literally, Jacob said, “*I have waited for Yeshua or Jesus.*”

{19} Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last.

The sons of Gad were among the most outstanding of the mighty men of David

[1 Chr. 12:14](#) These were of the sons of Gad, captains of the host: one of the least was over an hundred, and the greatest over a thousand.

[1 Chr. 12:18](#) And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains;

(20) Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties.

ASHER - Leah named this son HAPPY

Jacob stresses here the earthly prosperity of this son.

As we look onto the future of this tribe we find that their prosperity made them lazy...especially in battle.

[Judg. 5:17-18](#) Gilead abode beyond Jordan: and why did Dan remain in ships? Asher continued on the sea shore, and abode in his breaches. Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeopardated their lives unto the death in the high places of the field.

{21} Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words.

NAPHTALI - His portion in the promised land was in the North of Israel

GOODLY WORDS

[Col. 4:6](#) Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt

[Eph. 4:29](#) Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

[Prov. 15:1](#) A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

[Prov. 15:26](#) the words of the pure are pleasant words.

[Prov. 16:24](#) Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

NOTE WELL:

The fewer words we speak the more goodly they will be -

[Prov. 10:19](#) In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

This might also refer to the ministry of Jesus

Interesting to note that MOST of the ministry of Jesus was in the land of Naphtali

[Matt. 4: 13-16](#) And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet saying, The land of Zebulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death is sprung up.

{22} Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

HOW did Joseph manage to bear fruit throughout the adversity of his life?

It was all about his RELATIONSHIP with the Lord.

He was like a vine planted by a well.

PSALM 1 - like a tree planted by the rivers of water

ILLUSTRATION:

Palms in desert. One was a third taller. Missionary asked an Arab - "Is it because that one is oldest? He answered - NO - it's roots hit a spring.

Arab Proverb - Palm love to have their heads in the fire and their feet in the springs.

Joseph's head was in the fire but his feet were in the spring.

KEY OBSERVATION:

FRUITFUL is the word that describes Joseph.

KEY APPLICATION:

FRUITFUL is what the Christian is supposed to be -

[John 15:16](#) Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

It is NOT our service that is the measure of our Christianity - but the FRUIT - because FRUIT is ONLY and ALWAYS the by product RELATIONSHIP with Jesus.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

{23} The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: {24} But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)

The picture is of an archer in battle!

An archer in battle can feel his arms fatigue and quiver.

BUT Joseph's arms never fatigued because the hands of Joseph were in the hands of God.

{25} Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: {26} The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

EVEN BY THE GOD OF THY FATHER

Jacob owned God as HIS God

WHO SHALL HELP THEE

= MY God will help YOU!!

PARENTS - KEY APPLICATION:

What a blessing it is when YOU have such a REAL and LIVING relationship with God that YOU can ASSURE your children that God will do the same for them.

THE BLESSINGS OF THY FATHER...THEY SHALL BE ON THE HEAD OF JOSEPH, AND ON THE CROWN OF THE HEAD OF HIM THAT WAS SEPARATE FROM HIS BRETHREN.

This legacy was far more valuable than ALL of the riches of Egypt because these were riches that are of ETERNAL value

{27} Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.

BENJAMIN - The SMALLEST of the tribes was always ready to stand up for the honour of God.

{28} All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.

THIS IS IT

Inspired by the Holy Spirit Jacob's words combined an insight into the nature of his sons and power of God that would overshadow them

{29} And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, {30} In the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a buryingplace. {31} There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah. {32} The purchase of the field and of the cave that is therein was from the children of Heth. {33} And when Jacob had made an

end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

The scene that we have witnessed is PRECIOUS in the sight of the Lord

[Ps. 116:15](#) *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.*

CHAPTER 50

{1} And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him.

Here is human side of PSALM 116:15

God smiles, we weep

We weep - not FOR the loved one who has departed.

We weep FOR ourselves because WE will no longer see the eyes that once looked at us with love...the smiles that once brightened our lives.

We don't sorrow as those who have no hope!

{2} And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father: and the physicians embalmed Israel. {3} And forty days were fulfilled for him; for so are fulfilled the days of those which are embalmed: and the Egyptians mourned for him threescore and ten days.

Here is the measure of respect for Joseph

72 days was the number of days of mourning for a king

{4} And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spake unto the house of Pharaoh, saying, If now I have found grace in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, {5} My father made me swear, saying, Lo, I die: in my grave which I have digged for me in the land of Canaan, there shalt thou bury me. Now therefore let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come again. {6} And Pharaoh said, Go up, and bury thy father, according as he made thee swear. {7} And Joseph went up to bury his father: and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, {8} And all the house of Joseph, and his brethren, and his father's house: only their little ones, and their flocks, and their herds, they left in the land of Goshen. {9} And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen: and it was a very great company. {10} And they came to the threshingfloor of Atad, which is beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made a mourning for his father seven days. 11 And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning in the floor of Atad, they said, This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians: wherefore the name of it was called Abelmizraim, which is beyond Jordan.

Only God knows what is the source of tears

Some tears are real, some are fake - Some whom you might think are insensitive may have tears inside

[1 Sam. 16:7](#) *for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*

{15} And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.

KEY INSIGHT:

The human heart is so SLOW to recognize grace

[Gen. 45:5](#) *Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.*

KEY APPLICATION:

One of the saddest things for Christians is to believe in the saving work of the cross and then deny the reality of that saving grace in our daily circumstances and failures!!

{16} And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, {17} So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

He was GRIEVED that they thought of him as vengeful and unforgiving!

I wonder if the Lord is moved to the same response when we approach our heavenly Father as though He will somehow now NOT deal with us according to grace.

[1 John 4:18](#) *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

{19} And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? {20} But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

YOU THOUGHT...GOD MEANT

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

Here is a CORNERSTONE for our faith

No matter what the world means to do to us, we KNOW that God means good

[Jer. 29:11](#) *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you a future and hope*

It DOESN'T matter what EVENTS come into our lives

God means it for good

[Rom. 8:38-39](#) *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

QUOTE:

In speaking of this truth DONALD GREY BARNHOUSE said that it is: *"One of the strongest rocks in the foundation of our faith and one of the softest pillows on which faith may lay her head"*

TO SAVE MUCH PEOPLE ALIVE

CRUCIAL OBSERVATION:

We also see that NOTHING can obstruct the accomplishing of God's purposes.

Satan's greatest attacks against the purposes of God have resulted in the greatest victories in the Kingdom.

- The Cross
- The early Church

{21} Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

Joseph again gives to us a great TYPE of Christ -

I WILL NOURISH YOU AND YOUR LITTLE ONES

[Eph. 5:29](#) For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

HE COMFORTED THEM AND SPAKE KINDLY TO THEM -

His Word and His promises to us.

{24} And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. {25} And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.

Here we see HOPE looking FORWARD

26 So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

The Book of Genesis ends on a very solemn note.

How tragic that the Book that began with the words - In the beginning God created... Should end with a coffin in Egypt

Adam was warned against the wages of sin.

History proves out the TRUTH of that statement.

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