

Blessing Joseph's Sons (48:1-7)

- Before Jacob dies, he will pass the blessing onto his sons.
- Jacob recounts the appearance and promise of God's blessing.
- Jacob officially recognizes Ephraim and Manasseh, not as his grandchildren, but as his sons.
- They, and Jacob, will receive a double portion of an inheritance.
- This is also why sometimes the twelve tribes are numbered thirteen.

Joseph's Complaint (48:8-22)

- The children are brought forth to officially receive the blessing.
- But Jacob gives the greater blessing to the younger sibling.
- Jacob recounts the Abrahamic blessing to Joseph.
- Jacob acknowledges God's blessing over his whole life.
- Joseph, ironically, complains about the younger receiving a greater blessing.
- Jacob knows he will die, but prophesies and reminds them of God's promise to return to the promised land.
- Joseph will receive an extra portion of land.

Blessing the Twelve (49:1-27)

- Jacob gathers his sons to bless and prophecy over them.
- Reuben will lose his firstborn birthright because of his sexual sin.
- Simon and Levi will be scattered because of their violent sin.
- Judah will gain the preeminent blessing and eternal kingship.
- Zebulun will be blessed with the coasts.
- Issachar will have to be a servant to stay in the promised land.
- Dan will wait for God's salvation.
- Gad will get revenge on raiders who wrong him.
- Asher will produce rich food.
- Naphtali will spread out unrestrictedly to the north.
- Joseph will survive the attacks of others and come out blessed.
- Benjamin will be the smallest tribe but the strongest militarily.
- Joseph and Judah gets the two longest blessings, understandably.

Death and Burial (49:28-50:14)

- Jacob asks to be buried in the promised land with Abraham and Isaac.
- It is also where Sarah, Rebekah, and Leah are buried.
- He dies and is gathered to his people, taken to Abraham's bosom waiting resurrection.
- They mummify him for forty days and mourn for seventy.
- Joseph asks permission to go and bury his father, with the promise to return.

- Almost everyone goes back to the promised land, except for their children and goods stayed back.
- The whole nation mourned loudly for a week.
- They bury him and return back.
- This is foreshadowing the Exodus and the promise they will return.

Epilogue (50:15-26)

- The brothers are worried that Joseph's forgiveness was only for his father's sake.
- They remind Joseph of their father's wish for forgiveness.
- Joseph weeps again.
- Joseph refuses to take God's vengeance into his own hands.
- Joseph acknowledges God's sovereignty over his life.
- The evil worked against Joseph resulted in the salvation of multitudes, like Christ.
- Joseph promises not to take vengeance but to give blessings instead.
- Joseph lives to see his great-great-grandchildren.
- He prophesies as he dies that God will take them back to the promised land.
- He does not need to be taken now and is content to have his bones go with them when God fulfills his promises.

Looking Back

- God blesses humanity, but Adam and Eve introduce the curse.
- The curse spreads so far that humanity must start over with Noah.
- Humanity fails to spread the blessing, so Abraham is chosen as a particular nation.
- The blessing passes through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and ends with the nation of twelve tribes but the promise waiting fulfillment.
- Understanding the narrative of Genesis is vital to understanding the rest of the Bible.
- Remember the past blessings, pass on the blessing in the present, and expect the final consummation of the blessing.