

Day 65: Genesis 48:1-22: Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh



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- **Your two sons are mine:** Ephraim and Manasseh “adopted” and each given an inheritance with the other sons of Jacob; given the blessing of the first born of Jacob; a double portion
- **I never expected to see your face:** God has let me see your offspring
- **Jacob crossed his hands:** blessing Ephraim the younger with his right hand and Manasseh the elder with his left hand
- **May God bless the boys:** the God before whom Abraham and Isaac walked; the God who has been my shepherd; the angel who has redeemed (*goel*) me from all evil (first mention of redeemer in Scripture)
- **I am about to die:** but God will be with you and bring you again to the land of your fathers: Gen. 46:4
- **One mountain slope (*shekem*):** given to Joseph; near Shechem; Joseph’s burial place: Josh. 24:32; site related to Jacob’s well in Sychar of Samaria: John 4:5

Assignment:

Read Hebrews 11:21. Reflect upon the details of Jacob’s life and observe carefully his words and actions in this chapter. How do these last words demonstrate his settled faith in God?

By blessing Ephraim with his right hand, Israel was reminding Joseph that God doesn’t always choose the firstborn as pre-eminent. When else has God chosen a younger son over the older? (Hint: start in Genesis 4!)

What have you been learning of God and his ways, and what is your response to the God who both created and redeemed you?