



**Portion:**

**Title:**

**SCRIPTURES**

- Genesis 47:28-50:26
- Jer. 31:9; Exodus 4:22-23
- I Chronicles 7:20-29
- Romans 8:28-30

**CARD-CARRYING MEMBER**

**SINCE 1745 BC**

- Predestined
- It's All Good!
- Called, Justified, Glorified

*Sometimes it's hard to appreciate what really took place when all it is to you is words on a page. Think about history for a moment. Pick any historical narrative, and then consider how you view that memory. You likely see it in your mind as a still picture. Maybe you see it as a short video clip; that would be minimally closer to reality. But, have you ever tried to place yourself inside those scenes? Have you ever tried to live out "a day in the life" of the real person who actually endured what you experience as a photograph or a movie?*

*I've actually done that. I've tried to imagine myself as a soldier during the American Civil War. I've pictured myself frozen in my tent at night, with soaking wet boots, no way to keep warm, hardly a fragment of food, and desperately missing my loved ones. I've contemplated the real possibility of dying the next day, or worse yet,*

*becoming mutilated and having to die in slow motion, while laying twisted and broken on a mucky and icy battlefield, as my life slowly slipped away, afraid, in agony, and maybe with some regrets. And what I just described is a single day in what could have lasted four years for many real soldiers. Just one dark night, of 1,488 dark nights, is all I've imagined. Has this gruesome painting become visceral enough for you, real enough?*

*Now, try reading the Bible the same way, imagining being there in real time. For a moment, stop painting pictures of characters on a page and, instead, see yourself as the one who had to endure Joseph's 13 years of pain and sorrows, or his father's agony of loss for 22 years. Have you ever tried to imagine yourself being there and what it would really take to persevere for so many years? Or, do you rather stay hyper-focused on your own little world of immediate needs?*

*Let's practice. The Bible describes these years in just one sentence. You can dismiss it as quickly as it takes to read, or you can contemplate all the years this sentence represents. "Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation." One verse...three generations. You can assume it was all sunshine and rainbows and move on, or you can further investigate Ephraim's life and witness what it took for Joseph to see those three generations. Reality check! Ephraim's first three sons, Shuthelah, Ezer and Elead were all*

*murdered. Yes, “Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation,” but he also may have witnessed the horror of his grandsons being murdered. It’s so much more than one verse.*

*My admonition to you today is to stop focusing on yourself for a day, and try imagining what that was like for Joseph and Ephraim. And then go one step further and feel all their pain while still proclaiming “all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”*

#### **THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

**“Then Jacob said to Joseph:** “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and said to me, ‘Behold, **I will make you fruitful** and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, **and give this land to your descendants** after you as an everlasting possession.’” Genesis 48:3-4 NKJV

“Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for **am I in the place of God?** But as for you, **you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.** Now therefore, **do not be afraid;** I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.” Genesis 50:19-21 NKJV

“So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father’s household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. **Joseph saw Ephraim’s**

**children to the third generation.** The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph’s knees.” Genesis 50:22-23 NKJV

## **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

“And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.** For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son,** that He might be **the firstborn among many brethren.** Moreover whom He predestined, these **He also called;** whom He called, these **He also justified;** and whom He justified, these **He also glorified.”** Romans 8:28-30 NKJV

## Let’s Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. In this Torah portion, Jacob prepares for his death by securing a double portion of inheritance for Joseph and then blessing each of his sons with prophetic blessings. The book of Genesis ends with the death of Jacob, followed shortly by the death of Joseph and a promise of redemption from Egypt. Keep in mind that at the time of Joseph’s death, Israel is still a “welcomed guest” in Egypt. They are not slaves nor are they being treated badly.

## **Genesis 47 (the final section)**

2. Jacob is 147 years old and he asks Joseph right before his death to promise that he'd bury him with his "fathers" in the cave in the land that Abraham purchased (see [Hidden Treasure](#) sermon notes.) Joseph agrees.

## **Genesis 48**

3. Jacob claims Joseph's two sons Manasseh and Ephraim as if they were his own.
4. Jacob reminds us of the "fruitful and multiply" blessing that started with his grandfather Abraham, passed to his father Isaac, now rests on him, and he is ready to pass it down.
5. Jacob's eyesight is failing and he wants to bless the two boys (Joseph's sons) and he says, "I didn't expect I'd see your [Joseph's] face, but now God has shown me your children too."
6. Joseph puts his boys in front of his father, but Israel crosses his hands and blesses the second born Ephraim with his right hand (another second born taking firstborn status—See [Birthrights For Sale](#) sermon notes.)
7. Joseph tries to correct his father, but Israel says, Manasseh will be great also, but his younger brother will be greater and become many nations.

8. Israel blessed them that day, saying, "Through you, Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, 'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.'"
9. Israel prophesies that his people will return to Canaan one day and shows Joseph that by taking his two sons as his own, Joseph will actually receive a double portion inheritance, the extra coming from the plunder of the Amorites.
  - a) *"Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I took **from the hand of the Amorite** with my sword and my bow."* Genesis 48:22 NKJV

## **Genesis 49**

10. Jacob summons each of his sons and reveals their destinies.  
*"Gather around so that I can tell you what will happen to you in the coming days."* Genesis 49:1 NKJV (Just like Moses blessed the tribes in Deuteronomy 33.)
11. For our purposes we will emphasize Judah and Joseph because from Judah comes the Jews, the lineage of Y'shua. And from Joseph comes Ephraim, the seed of Promise and the Church.
12. Judah is a lion; the scepter won't depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from among his banners. Gifts will be brought to him; people will obey him, and by extension the Messiah.
13. Joseph is a young bull, who strides with oxen. The Almighty will bless him with blessings from the skies above and blessings

from the deep sea below; His blessings are excessive. Joseph is the one set apart from his brothers.

14. Jacob request from his sons that he be buried in the cave Abraham purchased as a burial place for Sarah and then he dies.
  - a) *“Then he charged them and said to them: “I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, 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 as a possession for a burial place. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.”* Genesis 49:29-31  
NKJV

## **Genesis 50**

15. Joseph has him embalmed (as the Egyptians do) and they mourned for him forty days; the Egyptians mourned him for seventy days.
16. Joseph requests from Pharaoh to bury his father where he wished to be buried.
17. Pharaoh agrees and sends his own servants and the elder statesmen in his household and all of the elder statesmen in the land of Egypt to be at the burial.

18. Joseph goes with his entire household, his brothers, and his father's household (no children or animals) for a seven day service.
19. Joseph returns to Egypt, but his brothers are worried that now that their father is gone, Joseph may decide to revisit his bitterness against them so they concoct a story.
- a) *“So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, “Before your father died he commanded, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph: “I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.” ’ Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.”* Genesis 50:16-17 NKJV
20. Joseph and his brothers wept and Joseph said to them:
- a) *“Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”* Genesis 50:19-21 NKJV
- b) **Remember Joseph knew:** *“And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent*

*me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.*"Genesis 45:7-8 NKJV

- c) See ["I Am Joseph"](#) for an extensive teaching about how Joseph meekly reveals his true identity to his brothers and the promises he makes to them.

21. Joseph lived 110 years and saw Ephraim's and Manasseh's grandchildren.

- a) Remember, Joseph was 17 years old when he was sold into slavery.
  - (1) And to add to your Bible Trivia memory banks, before Jacob died at 147, he lived in Egypt for 17 years (Genesis 47:28).
  - (2) That means he lived with the knowledge that Joseph was alive for the exact number years as was Joseph's age when he went missing and Jacob thought him dead.
  - (3) He had Joseph with him for 17 years; then he was missing for \*22 years; then he had Joseph again for 17 years!
- b) And, Joseph was 30 years old when he was released from prison and made second in command over Egypt, which means he ruled for 80 years!
- c) Joseph was 39 years old when he revealed his true identity to his brothers as they sought food from Egypt two years into the

seven years of famine. (\*This confirms he was “missing” for 22 years.)

- d) **And flash forward:** We know that Moses was 80 years old when he led Israel in the Exodus (He was 40 when he fled Egypt and he was in exile for 40 years before he returned with a message to Pharaoh to “Let My people go!”).
- e) It’s as if Moses has to pick up where Joseph left off, although 64 years pass between the death of Joseph and the birth of Moses (see Point #24 below). Even so, one way to look at it is that Joseph’s “ministry” ends after 80 years and Moses’ “ministry” begins after 80 years.

22. Just before his death, Joseph prophesies that Israel will be delivered from Egypt (even though they have no idea what’s coming):

- a) *“And Joseph said to his brethren, “I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.””*

Genesis 50:24 NKJV

23. Then Joseph made the children of Israel promise him they would take his bones out of Egypt when they eventually leave; *“God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.”* Genesis 50:25 NKJV

a) And, of course, we see this happening 144 years later in the exodus!

24. **Note:** there seems to be math confusion over how long it was between the death of Joseph and the new Pharaoh making the Israelites slaves in Egypt and the Exodus. And there is some incorrect thinking over how long was the total years of captivity of Israel in Egypt (slaves in Egypt doing hard labor). There is a great explanation [here](#) and it is not what you think!

a) **Facts to Note:** Joseph died 144 years before the exodus and Moses is born 64 years later. We know that Moses is 80 when when the exodus takes place.

b) Up until at least the death of Joseph, Israel is a guest in Egypt, not a slave. At some point after his death; *“There arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.”* Exodus 1:8 NKJV

c) It is not until some point in this new Pharaoh’s reign that Israel is subjected to “hard labor,” which of course lasts until the exodus when Moses is 80 years old.

25. Links to past teachings on this Portion: [Passing the Mantel](#) & [Ambassadors with Swords in Chains](#)

## PREDESTINED

### 1. And yet another plot twist in the long saga of firstborn sons!

#### A. Jacob leaves his final mark...

(1) About to die at 147...

(a) “And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt **seventeen years**.

So the length of Jacob’s life was one hundred and forty-seven years.” Genesis 47:28 NKJV

1. Jacob died in **1745 BC**, seventeen years after he moved with his family to Egypt to escape the famine. He was 147 years old.
2. It is interesting to note that after 22 years of believing Joseph was dead, Jacob lived with the knowledge that he was alive for 17 years, the exact age that Joseph was when his brothers sold him into slavery.
3. It is also true that Jacob favored Joseph in those first 17 years and that those years came to an end soon after Joseph made an open display of his partiality (with his coat of many colors).
4. Now, Jacob is about to die which puts us at the end of another 17 years with his favorite son, and he is about to do something very dramatic, once again displaying his partiality.

(2) **This Sermon’s Namesake:**

(a) Card-Carrying Member Since 1745 BC

1. I think if you really contemplate your legacy as a Christian, this is one of the great inflection points in history.
2. Jacob is about to leave his indelible mark on the faith-line of Christianity, one that every Christian can identify with.
3. It's a moment predestined by God and executed by mankind—one that leads to the very legacy of every believer: "...*these **He also called**; whom He called, these **He also justified**; and whom He justified, these **He also glorified.***"

(3) Do me this one last favor—Don't bury me in Egypt

- (a) "When the time drew near that Israel must die, **he called his son Joseph and said to him**, "Now if I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me. **Please do not bury me in Egypt**, but let me lie with my fathers; you shall **carry me out of Egypt** and bury me in their burial place." And he said, "I will do as you have said." Then he said, "Swear to me." And he swore to him. So Israel bowed himself on the head of the bed." Genesis 47:29-31 NKJV

1. **Later we see this:** “Now when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, **‘My father made me swear, saying, “Behold, I am dying; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.”** Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back” ...**So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them.** For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place.” Genesis 50:4-5, 12-13 NKJV

**B. Hey Joe, maybe there’s one more small thing you can do for me, besides the burial thing...**

(1) Hey boys, grandpa is sick. Let’s go visit him.

(a) “Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, **“Indeed your father is sick”**; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh **[first born]** and Ephraim **[second born]**. And Jacob was told, **“Look, your son**

**Joseph is coming to you**"; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed." Genesis 48:1-2 NKJV

(2) Listen Joe, things are going to happen just as Yahweh promised me (and just like He promised my father Isaac and my grandfather Abraham).

(a) **"Then Jacob said to Joseph:** "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and said to me, 'Behold, **I will make you fruitful and multiply you,** and I will make of you a **multitude of people,** and give this **land to your descendants** after you as an everlasting possession.'" Genesis 48:3-4 NKJV

1. Prophetic Preview: The name, Ephraim, means "fruitfulness."
2. This fruitful thing Yahweh has promised our family line, it's not going down exactly as you might imagine.
3. As a matter of fact, I am about to throw a wrench into the whole 12 tribes of Israel thing.
4. I know the whole coat of many colors thing and you being my favorite, and all, caused a lot of "unnecessary complications."
5. However, I'm going to make that look trivial compared to what I'm about to do. And your eleven

brothers are about to witness what real favor looks like!

(3) The Big Switch

- (a) “And now your two sons, **Ephraim [second born] and Manasseh [first born]**, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as **Reuben [first born] and Simeon [second born]**, they shall be mine.” Genesis 48:5 NKJV
- (b) “Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; **they will be called by the name of their brothers [Ephraim or Manasseh] in their inheritance.**” Genesis 48:6 NKJV
1. Are you ready for this? Your (Joseph’s) first two sons, the ones born in Egypt, they are going to become my (Jacob’s) sons.
  2. But they will not only be reckoned to me as sons, but they are going to slot into the birth order of my natural sons right at the top, as if they are my first and second borns (taking the place of Reuben and Simeon).
  3. You see Joseph, Reuben and Simeon were born to Leah, who was not my first preference as a wife. I got

kind of blindsided on that one, as I thought I was getting Rachel (her younger sister, your mom).

4. But, let's face it, I gave my own brother Esau the shaft when I hijacked his firstborn status for a bowl of soup, and then I stole his blessing by dressing up in some smelly animal skins, so I guess we can say I deserved it.
5. So you are actually the "firstborn" of my preferred wife.
6. And now your two sons will be treated as if they are my first and second born sons.
7. However, I want you to notice who I named first when I declared that Ephraim **[second born]** and Manasseh **[first born]** would be as of they are mine, as Reuben **[first born]** and Simeon **[second born]**.
8. That is an important clue about what is coming next.

#### (4) The Big Switch within the Big Switch

##### (a) The Birth-order Crossover

1. "And Joseph took them both, Ephraim **[second born]** with his right hand toward Israel's **left hand [for second born blessing]**, and Manasseh **[first born]** with his left hand toward Israel's **right hand [for first born blessing]**, and brought them near him. **Then**

Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's **[second born]** head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's **[first born]** head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the **firstborn.**" Genesis 48:13-14 NKJV

(b) Confirming a Name

1. "And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day, The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, **Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;** And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.""  
Genesis 48:15-16 NKJV

(c) Dad—you got it all wrong!

1. "Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his **right hand [for first born blessing]** on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; **so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.** And Joseph said to his father, "**Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.**"" Genesis 48:17-18 NKJV

(d) No I didn't Joe—I know what I am doing

1. “But his father refused and said, **“I know, my son, I know.** He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; **but truly his younger brother [Ephraim the second born] shall be greater than he [Manasseh’s the first born],** and his descendants shall **become a multitude of nations.”**” Genesis 48:19  
NKJV

(e) Your names will become a blessing forever!

1. “So he blessed them that day, saying, **“By you Israel will bless, saying, ‘May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!’** ” And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.” Genesis 48:20 NKJV

(f) A Double Portion

1. “Then Israel said to Joseph, “Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers. **Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers,** which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow.””  
Genesis 48:21-22 NKJV

(g) Let me recap the Big Switch within the Big Switch

1. Joseph has no clue about what is about to happen, but it’s all **predestined!**

2. He presents his two sons to his father just as he should, positioning Manasseh, his firstborn son, on Jacob's right side and Ephraim, he second born son, on Jacob's left side.
3. I like how Yahweh uses Jacob's "Israel" name in the narrative as the blessing ceremony commences, because what he (Israel) is about to do is shake up the tribes!
4. And we learn specifically that what he is about to do, he is doing "knowingly."
5. We already witnessed the "Big Switch" as Jacob declared his grandsons would actually be considered as if they were his own first and second sons.
6. Now Jacob reaches out to place his hands on his grandsons, but first crosses them over so his right hand (the first born blessing) lays on Ephraim's head and his left hand (the second born blessing) lays on Manasseh's head. This is the Big Switch within the Big Switch!
7. The Blessing: they will carry my name (Jacob/Israel) and the name of their forefathers Abraham and Isaac! They are the seed of promise!

8. Then Joseph, thinking that Jacob is unknowingly making a mistake, tries to correct his father's hand position.
9. Jacob insures Joseph the he knows exactly what he is doing. It's all been predestined. "All of Israel will forever envy the position of your two sons. Not only will you, Joseph, receive a double portion blessing of my inheritance, by me appropriating your two sons as if they are mine, and giving each a full tribe's worth of inheritance, but I am purposely pronouncing the first born blessing over Ephraim, your second born. He is **predestined** as the seed of promise!"
10. Once again we have witnessed a plot twist in the long saga of firstborn sons! And it is this very plot twist that makes every Christian a "Card-Carrying Member!"
11. It's all been **predestined** and this moment we just witnessed is a powerful inflection point in history, one that is relevant to every Christian.
  - a) *"For whom He foreknew, **He also predestined** to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be **the firstborn** among many brethren."*  
Romans 8:29 NKJV

b) "... *the church of the firstborn* who are registered in heaven..." Hebrews 12:23 NKJV

## Summary: PREDESTINED

### 1. And yet another plot twist in the long saga of firstborn sons!

#### A. Jacob leaves his final mark...

(1) Jacob is about to die at 147

(a) Seventeen years after moving to Egypt...

1. Jacob died in **1745 BC**, seventeen years after he moved with his family to Egypt to escape the famine. He was 147 years old.
2. It is interesting to note that after 22 years of believing Joseph was dead, Jacob lived with the knowledge that he was alive for 17 years, the exact age that Joseph was when his brothers sold him into slavery.
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(3) Do me this one last favor—Don't bury me in Egypt

(a) **Please do not bury me in Egypt**

1. **Later we see this: So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them.**

**B. Hey Joe, maybe there's one more small thing you can do for me, besides the burial thing...**

- (1) Hey boys, grandpa is sick. Let's go visit him.
- (2) Listen Joe, things are going to happen just as Yahweh promised me (and just like He promised my father Isaac and my grandfather Abraham).

(a) Then Jacob said to Joseph: "I will make you fruitful..."

1. Prophetic Preview: The name, Ephraim, means "fruitfulness."
2. This fruitful thing Yahweh has promised our family line, it's not going down exactly as you might imagine.
3. As a matter of fact, I am about to throw a wrench into the whole 12 tribes of Israel thing.
4. I know the whole coat of many colors thing and you being my favorite, and all, caused a lot of "unnecessary complications."
5. However, I'm going to make that look trivial compared to what I'm about to do. And your eleven brothers are about to witness what real favor looks like!

(3) The Big Switch

(a) Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine as Reuben and Simeon are mine!

1. Are you ready for this? Your (Joseph's) first two sons, the ones born in Egypt, they are going to become my (Jacob's) sons.
2. But they will not only be reckoned to me as sons, but they are going to slot into the birth order of my

natural sons right at the top, as if they are my first and second borns (taking the place of Reuben and Simeon).

3. You see Joseph, Reuben and Simeon were born to Leah, who was not my first preference as a wife. I got kind of blindsided on that one, as I thought I was getting Rachel (her younger sister, your mom).
4. But, let's face it, I gave my own brother Esau the shaft when I hijacked his firstborn status for a bowl of soup, and then I stole his blessing by dressing up in some smelly animal skins, so I guess we can say I deserved it.
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6. And now your two sons will be treated as if they are my firstborn sons.
7. However, I want you to notice who I named first when I declared that Ephraim **[second born]** and Manasseh **[first born]** would be as of they are mine, as Reuben **[first born]** and Simeon **[second born]**.
8. That is an important clue about what is coming next.

#### (4) The Big Switch within the Big Switch

- (a) The Birth-order Crossover
- (b) Confirming a Name
- (c) Dad—you got it all wrong!
- (d) No I didn't Joe—I know what I am doing
- (e) Your names will become a blessing forever!
- (f) A Double Portion
- (g) Let me recap the Big Switch within the Big Switch
  1. Joseph has no clue about what is about to happen, but it's all **predestined!**
  2. He presents his two sons to his father just as he should, positioning Manasseh, his firstborn son, on Jacob's right side and Ephraim, he second born son, on Jacob's left side.
  3. I like how Yahweh uses Jacob's "Israel" name in the narrative as the blessing ceremony commences, because what he (Israel) is about to do is shake up the tribes!
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Romans 8:29 NKJV

b) *“... **the church of the firstborn** who are registered in heaven...”* Hebrews 12:23 NKJV

IT’S ALL GOOD!

## 2. Just be patient

### A. The timing does not always seem good

(1) Abraham to Isaac

(a) “Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. **I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great;** And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram

departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And **Abram was seventy-five years old** when he departed from Haran.” Genesis 12:1-4 NKJV

(b) “Now Abraham was **one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.**” Genesis 21:5 NKJV

1. From God’s promise to Abraham that he would be a great nation, to the fulfillment of that promise, it was 25 years!

(2) Isaac to Jacob

(a) “Isaac **was forty years old when he took Rebekah** as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian. **Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea,** and Rebekah his wife conceived... Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau’s heel; so his name was called Jacob. **Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.**” Genesis 25:20-21, 26 NKJV

1. From the moment God granted Isaac’s plea to give Rebekah a child, to the birth of Jacob and Esau, it was 20 years!

(3) Jacob with Rachel

(a) “Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter.” And Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. **Stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel**, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her.” And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?” And Laban said, “It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will **serve with me still another seven years.**” Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also. And Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as a

maid. Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years." Genesis 29:18-30 NKJV

1. Jacob served Laban for 14 years to finally get Rachel as his wife. Yes, Rachel who is Joseph's mother!

(4) Joseph to Freedom

- (a) "This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being **seventeen years old**, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father." Genesis 37:2 NKJV
- (b) "Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, **but forgot him.**" Genesis 40:23 NKJV
- (c) "Then it came to pass, at the end of **two full years**, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river." Genesis 41:1 NKJV
- (d) "**Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh** king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt." Genesis 41:46 NKJV
- (e) "Then Joseph said to his brothers, "**I am Joseph**; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer

him, for they were dismayed in his presence. And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. **For these two years the famine** has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting." Genesis 45:3-6 NKJV

1. Joseph was 17 years old when he was sold as a slave.
2. He was confined to prison shortly after that, where he served the better part of 13 years.
3. Even when it looked like he had a way out, it was not for another two full years that he was remembered.
4. He was 30 years old when he was made ruler over Egypt
5. And he was 39 when he finally revealed himself to his brothers, 22 years after he was sold into slavery by those same brothers.
6. It was 22 years from the dreams of promise he had to when they were fulfilled!

## **B. Joseph's Final Ministry**

(1) God meant it for good!

(a) “Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for **am I in the place of God?** But as for you, **you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.** Now therefore, **do not be afraid;** I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.” Genesis 50:19-21 NKJV

(2) All things work for good!

(a) “And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.** For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son,** that He might be **the firstborn among many brethren.** Moreover whom He predestined, these **He also called;** whom He called, these **He also justified;** and whom He justified, these **He also glorified.”**

Romans 8:28-30 NKJV

1. You meant what you did for evil but God meant it for good because “All things work for good!”
2. And in the end Joseph’s family line will receive a double portion.

3. Jacob to Joseph: *“Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers.”*

**Summary: IT’S ALL GOOD!**

## **2. Just be patient**

### **A. The timing does not always seem good**

- (1) Abraham to Isaac: From God’s promise to Abraham that he would be a great nation, to the fulfillment of that promise, it was 25 years!
- (2) Isaac to Jacob: From the moment God granted Isaac’s plea to give Rebekah a child, to the birth of Jacob and Esau, it was 20 years!
- (3) Jacob with Rachel: Jacob served Laban for 14 years to finally get Rachel as his wife. Yes, Rachel who is Joseph’s mother!
- (4) Joseph to Freedom: Joseph was 17 years old when he was sold as a slave.
  - (a) He was confined to prison shortly after that, where he served the better part of 13 years.
  - (b) Even when it looked like he had a way out, it was not for another two full years that he was remembered.
  - (c) He was 30 years old when he was made ruler over Egypt

- (d) And he was 39 when we finally revealed himself to his brothers, 22 years after he was sold into slavery by those same brothers.
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CALLED, JUSTIFIED, GLORIFIED

## **3. A Prophetic Extension of Jacob from 1745 BC**

### **A. We already saw that Jacob claimed Joseph's first two sons as his own...and then how he assigned Ephraim the firstborn slot over Manasseh!**

- (1) Now we see Joseph's blessing through the line of Ephraim
  - (a) "So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten

years. **Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation.** The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees."  
Genesis 50:22-23 NKJV

(2) Prophetic Destination

(a) We see Ephraim as the predestined son, the one who would carry the seed of promise from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

1. Ephraim was predestined to become the firstborn son of Jacob, even though he is the second born son of Jacob's eleventh born son!
2. Can you see it! *"And we know that all **things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose [Joseph].** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined **[Ephraim]** to be conformed to the image of His **[Jacob] Son**, that He might be **the firstborn among many brethren.** Moreover whom He predestined, these **He also called [?];** whom He called, these **He also justified [?];** and whom He justified, these **He also glorified [?]."** Romans 8:28-30 NKJV*

3. And again, consider all the switching that Jacob did to make Ephraim his “first born son!”
4. And remember that just before he makes all maneuvers, Jacob reminds Joseph of Yahweh’s promise to make Israel fruitful!
5. Prophetic Predestination! Joseph, who is living out God’s purpose in his life—well in advance of knowing if he would ever see his father or brothers again, names his SECOND son, Ephraim, which means “fruitfulness.”
6. Prophetic progression!
  - a) *“Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord: **“Israel is My son, My firstborn.** So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.” ’ ”* Exodus 4:22-23 NKJV
  - b) *“They shall come with weeping, And with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, In a straight way in which they shall not stumble; For I am a Father to Israel, And **Ephraim is My firstborn.**”* Jeremiah 31:9 NKJV

7. Moses calls Israel (Jacob) the first born and Jeremiah calls Ephraim the first born...
  - a) Abraham to Isaac (the second born as Ishmael was the first born)—to Jacob (the second born as Esau was the first born)—to Joseph (the Eleventh born as Reuben was the first born and Joseph the first born of Rachel, Jacob's favorite)—to Ephraim (the second born as Manasseh was the first born).
8. **Roman's Imagery:** God Placed Joseph where he was for a purpose; and Ephraim was predestined to be the firstborn son of Jacob. But...who is the called? The justified? The glorified?

## **B. Ephraim's Generations**

### (1) Three Generations...

- (a) "So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years **[71 additional years after reuniting with Jacob and his brothers]**. Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees."

Genesis 50:22-23 NKJV

### (2) Some Investigative Journalism

(a) “The sons of Ephraim were [\[\\*Are these the three generations Joseph saw?...\] Shuthelah \[Ephraim’s first born son—first generation\], Bered his son \[Ephraim’s grandson—second generation\], Tahath his son \[Ephraim’s great grandson—third generation\], Eladah his son, Tahath his son, Zabad his son, Shuthelah his son, and Ezer \[Ephraim’s second son\] and Elead \[Ephraim’s third son\]. The men of Gath who were born in that land killed them \[all three sons\] because they came down to take away their cattle. Then Ephraim their father mourned many days, and his brethren came to comfort him. \[Was Joseph alive to witness this?\] And when he went in to his wife, she conceived and bore a son; \[\\[\\\*...or, are these the three generations Joseph saw?\\]\]\(#\) and he called his name Beriah \[who now must be the firstborn as the first three sons are dead —so Beriah is Ephraim’s first born son—first generation\], because tragedy had come upon his house. Now his daughter was Sheerah, who built Lower and Upper Beth Horon and Uzen Sheerah; and Rephah \[Beriah’s first born but no lineage so the second born gets the prize again!\] was his son, as well as Resheph \[Ephraim’s grandson—second generation\], and Telah his son \[Ephraim’s great](#)

**grandson—third generation]**, Tahan his son, Laadan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son, **Nun his son, and Joshua his son.** Now their possessions and dwelling places were Bethel and its towns: to the east Naaran, to the west Gezer and its towns, and Shechem and its towns, as far as Ayyah and its towns; and by the borders of the children of Manasseh were Beth Shean and its towns, Taanach and its towns, Megiddo and its towns, Dor and its towns. In these dwelt the children of Joseph, the son of Israel.” I Chronicles 7:20-29 NKJV

- (3) Which line(s) do Joseph see?
- (a) Ephraim has three sons Shuthelah, Ezer and Elead who were eventually killed. Shuthelah has a family line who may be the generations witnessed by Joseph. After the death of his first three sons, he then has a fourth son Beriah. Beriah has two sons, the first Rephah has no children, but his second son Resheph has a family line whom Joseph may have also witnessed.
  - (b) [Ephraim's Family Tree](#)
- (4) Three Generations: “Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation.”
- (a) **One line—three generations:** Shuthelah, Bered and Tahath

- (b) **Second line—three generations:** Beriah, Resheph and Telah
- (5) Two Points of Interest
- (a) Which of the two lines would you think is the seed of promise, knowing the patterns of firstborns?
- (b) Six generations after Telah, in the second line, is Joshua, son of Nun, who led Israel into the promised land, and who we know is from the Tribe of Ephraim! *“from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun;”* Numbers 13:8 NKJV
- (6) Regardless of how it looks—Joseph will see Ephraim’s children to the third generation.
- (a) “And we know that all **things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose [Joseph]**. For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined [Ephraim to be the seed of promise in Joseph]** to be conformed to the image of **His [Jacob] Son**, that He might be **the firstborn among many brethren**. Moreover whom He predestined, these **He also called [Ephraim’s first son: Shuthelah or Beriah]**; whom He called, these **He also justified [Ephraim’s grandson: Bered or Resheph]**; and whom He

justified, these **He also glorified [Ephraim's great grandson: Tahath or Telah].**" Romans 8:28-30 NKJV

1. I'm here for a purpose: **I'm Joseph (and I will see Ephraim's children to the third generation.)**
2. I'm predestined to be the seed of promise: **I'm Ephraim (and I have two lines of three generations.)**
3. I'm the first generation—Called: **Shuthelah or Beriah**
4. I'm the second generation—Justified: **Bered or Resheph**
5. I'm the third generation—Glorified: **Tahath or Telah**
  - a) It seems like there is a double portion in those three generations, even in the midst of so much tragedy.
  - b) *"All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."*
  - c) **The Glorified Generation:** *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, **that we may also be glorified together.** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are*

*not worthy to be compared **with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**"Romans 8:16-18 NKJV*

**Summary:** CALLED, JUSTIFIED, GLORIFIED

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    - a) It seems like there is a double portion in those three generations, even in the midst of so much tragedy.
    - b) The Glorified Generation: *Romans 8:16-18*

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### 1. Discuss the final mark Jacob leaves on the long saga of firstborn twists and turns.

- A. What does he do that again shows his great favor towards Joseph?

B. What does he say to Joseph, in advance, that gives us a clue about what he is about to do with Ephraim and Manasseh?

**2. There always seems to be an inconvenient timing regarding Yahweh's promises:**

A. Use Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph to support that statement.

**3. Relate Joseph's attitude in Genesis 50:19-21 with Paul's teaching in Romans 8:28-30**

**4. Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation.**

A. Why is it that it is not through either of Ephraim's first three sons that this promise is fulfilled?

**5. In Romans 8:28-30 we see the words Predestined, Called, Justified and Glorified:**

A. How might we say that Ephraim is Predestined?

B. How might we say that Beriah (Ephraim's 4th son) is Called?

C. How might we say that Resheph (Beriah's 2nd son) is Justified?

D. How might we say that Telah (Resheph's 1st son) is Glorified?