

Joseph 3

Genesis 46

Israel (Jacob) now convinced Joseph is alive and goes down to Egypt with all 70 of his descendants.

V2 note God speaks at night

Joseph meets them and tells them to tell Pharaoh they are shepherds and they will be allowed to settle in Goshen – away from the Egyptians who didn't like shepherds.

V30 Jacob may feel he's ready to die, but he will live 17 more years.

Genesis 47

Joseph represents the family before Pharaoh – he picks a few of his brothers to go with him.

V31 same words as he used to get Esau's birthright – that's why an oath needs to be sworn.

Genesis 48

Jacob's eyesight must have been failing parallel with Isaac failing to recognise Jacob against Esau.

V12 seem to have still been young

V13 Joseph tries to stage manage the blessing – but note the order of naming in v5

V14 Jacob crosses his hands and blesses the younger son. Manasseh thus joins a long list of firstborn in Genesis who for one reason or other are passed by—Cain, Ishmael, Esau, Reuben, and Zerah. We know of nothing Manasseh did to lose his position, perhaps Jacob was supernaturally guided.

V16 angel ? reference back to Abraham's hand being stayed?

V17 Jacob rejects Joseph's correction – note Joseph is more concerned about getting the right hand blessing for Manasseh than the left hand blessing for Ephraim.

V19-20 Ephraim is to be the greatest BUT not over Manasseh.

The concluding note is about Joseph's preferred status over his brothers.

Genesis 49

What remains is a blessing of Jacob's own sons. He shares with them an inspired prophecy about their destinies. Jacob's last words are a prophecy as his life began with a prophecy.

V3-4 Reuben the eldest forfeits everything because of sleeping with his father's concubine – prophecy fulfilled as Reubenites integrated into tribe of Gad. Teaches that our behaviour affects our descendants.

V5-7 Simeon and Levi cursed for their massacre of Shechem in retaliation for Dinah.

V8-12 Judah is blessed. V10 should probably read until he comes to Shiloh – so could be read as an extension of the Davidic kingdom. Also possible to read it as a Messianic prophecy (following the LXX not the Hebrew). The Qumran community understood it as Messianic. Could also be read as the tribute of the world being brought to Judah.

V13 Zebulun out of order of the sons – probably a favourable prophecy

V14-15 could mean Issachar loves comfort too much and becomes a serf – but probably means they became farmers.

V16-18 Dan statement of praise, means he will defend – his strength will be greater than his size.

V19 Gad had to fight constantly against the Ammonites and the Moabites.

V20 Asher had rich agricultural land

V21 Naphtali will be productive and have beautiful progeny.

V23-26 not clear whether Joseph the individual or Joseph the tribe

V27 Benjamin gets the last words of blessing – implies a military future

Genesis 50

V24 predicts the Exodus