### Genesis

## Chapter 48

1Well, sometime after that, this report came to JoSeph:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Your father is ill!’  
  
So he took his two sons, ManasSeh and Ephraim, and they went to [see] Jacob.  
  
2Then when Jacob was told that his son JoSeph had come to see him, IsraEl straightened himself and sat up on his bed.  
  
3And [he] said this to JoSeph:  
  
 ‘My God appeared to me in Luza in the land of CanaAn and blest me.  
  
 4‘Then He said to me:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll make you grow and increase, and I’ll make many nations come from you. I’ll also give this land to you and to your offspring that comes after you as an inheritance throughout the ages.’  
  
 5‘Now, your two sons (Ephraim and ManasSeh) who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came here, are my [sons] the same as ReuBen and SimeOn are my [sons]... 6And any children that you have from this point on will share in the names of their brothers; so, [the lands that they’ll] inherit will be named after them!  
  
 7‘As for me... After I left Assyrian MesoPotamia, your mother RachEl died in the land of CanaAn during the evening, near the ChabRatha racetrack while we were coming to EphRatha (or BethLehem).  
  
 ‘So I buried her beside the road at the racetrack of BethLehem.’  
  
8Then, when IsraEl noticed JoSeph’s sons, he asked:  
  
 ‘Who are they?’  
  
9And JoSeph replied to his father:  
  
 ‘They’re the sons that God has given to me here.’  
  
And Jacob said:  
  
 ‘Bring them here to me, so that I can bless them.’  
  
10Now, IsraEl’s eyes were weak due to his age, so he couldn’t see. But he drew them close, and he hugged and kissed them both.  
  
11Then IsraEl said to JoSeph:  
  
 ‘Look! I haven’t been deprived of seeing your face, and now {Look!} God has also shown me your offspring.’  
  
12So at that, JoSeph brought them out from [between] his [father’s] knees, and they bowed to [IsraEl] with their faces to the ground.  
  
13Then JoSeph took his two sons, with Ephraim at his right hand (but on the left of IsraEl), and ManasSeh at his left hand (but on the right of IsraEl), and led them near to him again.  
  
14However, IsraEl stuck out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim’s head (he was the younger), and he put his left hand on ManasSeh’s head, with his arms crossed.  
  
15Then he blest them, saying:  
  
 ‘May the God who found my fathers AbraHam and IsaAc pleasing (the God who fed me from my youth until now 16and the [spirit] messenger who protects me from all that’s evil) bless these boys… And may they be called by my name and by the name of my fathers, AbraHam and IsaAc...  
  
 ‘Let them grow to be a vast number on the ground!’  
  
17Well, when JoSeph noticed that his father had put his right hand on Ephraim’s head, that seemed wrong to him. So JoSeph took hold of his father’s hand to move it from Ephraim’s head to ManasSeh’s head.  
  
18And JoSeph said:  
  
 ‘Father! This is the first-born... Lay your right hand on his head!’  
  
19But Jacob wouldn’t. He said:  
  
 ‘I know, son, I know. [Your eldest son] will be a [tribe of] people, and he will be important. However, his younger brother will be greater, and his offspring will become many nations.’  
  
20So he blest them that day. And he said [to JoSeph]:  
  
 ‘In your name, IsraEl will pronounce this blessing:  
  
 ‘May God make you like Ephraim and ManasSeh!’  
  
...and he put Ephraim before ManasSeh.  
  
21Then IsraEl said to JoSeph:  
  
 ‘Look, I’m dying! But my God will be with you, and He will return you to the land of your fathers.  
  
 22‘I am giving you SheChem (a better portion than that of your brothers), which I took from the Amorites with my sword and my bow.’