

Genesis 48

King James Version (KJV)

(God's blessing, through Jacob, to Joseph's sons)

48 And it came to pass after these things, that one told Joseph, Behold, thy father is sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. (Manasseh = forgetful; Ephraim = fruitful)

²And one told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed.

³And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, (Jacob renamed Luz to Bethel; Luz = almond tree; Bethel = the house of God)

⁴And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession.

NOTE: (This is the Jews' claim to the Holy land, which is today, Israel. They claim the land by this promise from God)

⁵And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. (He is elevating Joseph's sons to become heads of tribes, just as his own sons are. Joseph is getting a double blessing – 2 tribes instead of 1)

⁶And thy issue, which thou begetteth after them, shall be thine, and shall be called after the name of their brethren in their inheritance. (Each will be a tribe – Ephraim and Manasseh) (Joseph received the double portion of the first born – maybe because of what Reuben did)

(Reuben lost the double blessing of the first born because of his incestuous affair with Leah's maid; who was Jacob's concubine. Therefore, God chose Joseph, instead of Reuben, to work His great miracle)

⁷And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan in the way, when yet there was but a little way to come unto Ephrath: and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath; the same is Bethlehem. (This is where Jesus would be born seventeen hundred years later)

⁸ And Israel beheld Joseph's sons, and said, Who are these? (Jacob was almost blind from old age by now)

⁹ And Joseph said unto his father, They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place. And he said, Bring them, I pray thee, unto me, and I will bless them.

¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them.

¹¹ And Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed. (Jacob thought Joseph was dead, for many years. Instead, not only is Joseph alive doing well; but he has two sons)

¹² And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.

¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him. (He set them up – the first born at Jacob's right hand, because he knew Jacob couldn't see well anymore. The one on the right would receive a double portion)

¹⁴ And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. (Jacob crossed his arms to bless the two boys. This would give Ephraim, the younger, the double portion <the right hand>; and Manasseh, the older, a normal portion <the left hand>)

NOTES: (Today, all parts of the commonwealth of Great Britain have the X in their flag, along with the cross of Jesus, to commemorate the crossing of Jacob's arms in his blessing of those two boys. Many believe that Ephraim would become GB, and Manasseh would become America. 3 thousand years later, it was King James who commissioned the translation of the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek manuscripts into the first English Bible in 1611. This gave the common English speaking man access to God's Word)

(The king line of Israel came from Judah and the priest line of Israel came from Levi)

¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, (God always takes care of those who love Him and follow His Word)

¹⁶ The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth. (And they did just that. Great Britain and the US have been blessed throughout the centuries)

¹⁷ And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. (Joseph thought that Jacob had made a mistake)

¹⁸ And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head.

¹⁹ And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations. (People believe that the younger brother Ephraim is the British Commonwealth <the United Kingdom>, today)

²⁰ And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh. (People believe that Manasseh is the US today)

NOTE: (In the generation of the fig tree, which began in 1948 when Israel was reborn; The UK became a multitude of nations <the commonwealth>, and the US became the superpower of the world. This is exactly the blessing that Jacob passed onto these two sons of Joseph)

²¹ And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers. (Moses would be chosen to do that, almost 400 years later)

²² Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow. (Reuben forfeited the right of firstborn when he had an incestuous affair with Jacob's concubine, also when he took part in selling Joseph.

Joseph earned it by saving the lives of the whole family in Egypt. His sons would become two tribes of Israel, instead of just one under Joseph)