

JACOB'S FAITH

Hebrews 11:21

Even as Jacob neared death, he had faith!

I. JACOB BELIEVED HE HAD SOMETHING TO PASS ON!

- He blessed each of the sons of Joseph - Hebrews 11:21a
- *Turn to Genesis 48*

A. AN EVERLASTING POSSESSION FROM GOD (48:4)

- Promised by God to Jacob in Genesis 28:13-14

B. A DOUBLE PORTION TO JOSEPH (48:5, 22)

1. Claiming (adopting) his two oldest sons as his own
2. This is a loving tribute to Jacob's wife Rachel
3. This is also a demonstration of inclusion of sons with an Egyptian mother

C. A GODLY LEGACY (48:16b)

- This is the essence of the actual blessing ... "May they have ..."
- 1. The family name
- 2. The family's promised growth

D. AN UNDESERVED FAVOR (48:17-20)

1. Putting the younger son, Ephraim, before the older, Manasseh
2. Understanding that God's ways are not our ways
3. Propagating a three-generation tradition
 - Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, Joseph over Reuban

E. A CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S PROVISION (21)

1. God will be with you Joseph
2. God will bring you back to the land of your fathers

II. JACOB BELIEVED HE HAD SOMEONE TO WORSHIP

- He worshipped leaning on the top of his staff - Heb. 11:21b

A. HIS CONDITIONS

1. Even though he was weak in his body
 - a. Leaning on his staff - Heb. 11:21b
 - b. Knowing he was dying - Heb. 11:21a and Gen. 48:21
 - c. Hardly able to sit up - Gen. 48:2
 - d. Barely able to see - Gen. 48:10
2. Even though he had wavered in his faith
 - a. Taking advantage of his brother to gain the birthright - Gen. 25:29-34
 - b. Deceiving his father to gain the blessing - Gen. 27:1-29
 - c. He had been a selfish and deceitful plotter ...
 - But "Jacob" - The striver became "Israel" - the prevailer

B. HIS COMMITMENT

1. Worshipping the God who gave him peace and protection at Bethel (House of God) - Gen. 28:11-22
2. Worshipping the God who allowed him to be cheated by Laban - Gen. 29:21-27
3. Worshipping the God who with whom he had wrestled at Penuel (Face of God) and limped forever after that - Gen. 32:24-32
4. Worshipping the God who had taken his wife in childbirth - Gen. 35:16-21 (and see 48:7)
5. Worshipping the God who let him experience great sorrow in thinking he'd lost his favored son - Gen. 37:31-35
6. Worshipping the God who caused him to endure great famine - Gen. 42:1-2, 43:1
7. Worshipping the God who had transplanted him to Egypt - Gen. 45:1-3
8. Worshipping the God who gave him more than expected - Gen. 48:11

C. HIS CONFESSION - Gen. 48:15-16

- This is the God I worship ...

1. The God of my fathers (15a)
2. The God who has been my shepherd (15b)
3. The Angel who redeemed me from evil (16a) [see Gen. 31:12-13]

CONCLUSION:

Because Jacob had faith, he blessed his family and worshipped his God

Might we be doing so throughout life and remain doing so at death

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