

Genesis 48

King James Version (KJV)

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.

(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)

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)

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 almost a thousand years later)

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

⁹And 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)

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; and Manasseh, the older a normal portion)

(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)

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,

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.

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.

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 this is the UK)

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.

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)