

ISRAEL IS BLESSED IN EGYPT

Lesson Aim: Be faithful to the Lord in all your ways and He will make you fruitful in all your days.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson and insert the following questions where they fit the lesson for class discussion.

Introduction: Jacob brought his whole family down to Egypt and Joseph took care of them. Later Joseph was honored when Jacob adopted his two sons. He gave a greater blessing to Ephraim, the younger son. Later he blessed all of his natural born sons. Jacob's blessing of Judah contained a prophecy of Christ. When Jacob died, Joseph had a royal burial for him in Canaan. Joseph was good to his father and to his brothers. "He which sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (2 Cor 9:6b).

How did God use Joseph to care for his father and brothers? Gen 47:1-12

Joseph arranged for them to live in Goshen, the Nile delta. It was fertile land, good for raising sheep and cattle. It was sparsely populated by Egyptians, separating them from the idolatry of Egypt. Joseph also gave them grain during the famine. God will take care of us, too; we must not worry (Mt 6:25-34).

Why did Jacob make Joseph vow to bury him in Canaan? Gen 47:29-31; cf 49:29-33

God told Jacob that Canaan would be given to him and his descendants and he believed God. He showed his faith in God's promise when he made Joseph vow to bury him in Canaan with Abraham and Isaac and their wives, Sarah and Rebekah and with his wife, Leah. It was their land. We also must take God's promises seriously and claim them by faith with actions that prove our faith (Jam 2:17-26).

How did Jacob honor Joseph? Gen 48:1-5, 22

Jacob honored Joseph by adopting his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. This gave Joseph twice the inheritance of his brothers. This meant Joseph received the birthright that Reuben forfeited by sexual misconduct. God will reward us, if we maintain a godly attitude when treated wrongfully (Mt 5:11-12).

Why did Jacob bless Ephraim, the younger son, over Manasseh? Gen 48:8-20

Jacob blessed both sons of Joseph, but he gave the greater blessing to Ephraim's descendants. God knew that they would serve His purposes better than Manasseh's descendants, so He led Jacob to give the greater blessing to Ephraim. God will help us to do His work when we walk with Him (Ps 143:10).

What did Jacob say about Judah that is fulfilled in Jesus Christ? Gen 49:8-12

Jesus was a descendant of Judah, so notice what is said of Judah that could apply to Jesus Christ.

Your brethren shall praise you (v. 8). Jesus is praised now and will be praised forever by all believers.

Your hand shall be in the neck of your enemies (v. 8). Christ will destroy all of His enemies when He returns.

Your father's children shall bow down before you (v. 8). All believers will bow before Christ as their King.

Judah is like a lion (v. 9). Christ is called, "The Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Rev 5:5).

The scepter shall not depart from Judah . . . until Shiloh comes (v. 10) clearly refers to Christ, who is Shiloh.

Poetic expressions of the prosperity of Judah (vs. 11-12) will be fulfilled in Christ's Millennial Kingdom.

We are joint heirs with Christ and will rule with Him in His Kingdom on earth (Rom 8:16-17; Rev 3:21; 20:6).

How did Joseph treat his brothers after his father died? Gen 50:15-21

Joseph continued to be kind to his brothers, which shows his forgiveness of them was genuine. We are to be kind to those that sin against us and forgive those that ask for it (Eph 4:30).

How did Joseph show faith in God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Gen 50:24-25

He took an oath of the Israelites to take his bones when they would leave Egypt and return to Canaan (48:21). We show our faith when we give our money, children and lives to do God's work (Mt 6:19-21).

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