

Jacob, the Younger Son, Blesses the Younger Grandson (Gen 47:28–48:22)

Grace Chapel June 16, 2010 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

(47:28–31) As Jacob neared death, he made Joseph swear not to bury him in Egypt, but to bury him with his ancestors (at the cave of Machpelah)

(48:1–7) Joseph brought his sons to Jacob for conferral of the Abrahamic blessing; Jacob adopted Joseph's sons as his own

(48:1) As Jacob was dying, Joseph brought his sons to him for blessing

(48:2–4) Jacob sat up and recounted God's Abrahamic promise to multiply them and to give the land (of Israel) to them and to their seed forever

(43:5–6) Jacob adopted Joseph's first two sons as his own (Joseph's double inheritance)

(48:7) Rachel had died on the way to Bethlehem (so she only had two sons, but now she has two more)

(48:8–13) Joseph brought his sons before Jacob for a birth-order based blessing

(48:8–11) Joseph brought his sons for Jacob (who was almost blind) to bless

(48:12) Joseph bowed to Jacob as he presented his sons

Joseph was released from prison when Jacob was 120 years old.

The earliest Manasseh could have been born was when Jacob was 121 years old.

Jacob died at age 147, so Manasseh could not have been older than 26 in this passage.

Jacob (in verse 16) calls them lads, but even Joseph (age 57) was a young man to Jacob.

(48:13) Joseph presented his sons so Jacob's right hand would be upon Manasseh (the elder) and his left hand would be upon Ephraim (the younger)

(48:14–20) Jacob purposely crossed his arms (despite Joseph’s objection) to bless the younger above the elder as he blessed them both with the Abrahamic blessing

(48:14) Jacob purposely crossed his arms so his left hand would be upon Manasseh (the elder) and his right hand would be upon Ephraim (the younger)

(48:15–16) As Jacob’s hands were upon Ephraim and Manasseh, he blessed Joseph (in blessing the lads) with the Abrahamic blessing of growing into a multitude in the land

Rather than *earth*, the translation should be *land* (e.g., the land of Israel)

(48:17–19) Joseph was displeased and tried to prevent Jacob from blessing with crossed arms because of birth order, but Jacob said that both would be great, but the younger would be the greater one

(48:20) In blessing both lads, Jacob gave priority to Ephraim over Manasseh

(48:21–22) Jacob said that (though he would die) God will return the family to Israel and he affirmed the double portion to Joseph (for which Jacob had fought Amorites)

The commentary given in Hebrews 11

SUMMARY