

Unexpected Blessing > Genesis 48:1-22

48:1-7 *Adopted into the promise.* Joseph brings his two sons before Jacob during his final days. Unexpectedly, Jacob announces his plan to elevate Joseph's sons into being full heirs in Joseph's place.

48:8-16 *The promise continued.* Jacob formally blesses the two sons in a manner that has come up repeatedly in Genesis: the younger (Ephraim) ends up receiving the more prominent blessing over the older (Manasseh).

48:17-22 *The unexpected promise.* Joseph believes his father is making a mistake due to his poor vision, but it turns out that Jacob is being guided ultimately by the Lord in this.

Context: In one sense, it would seem that the Joseph and Jacob arc of our story is largely complete now that the family has moved to be together in Egypt. Yet, this is only a part of what God is doing. He plans to turn this small family into a great nation, just as He promised to Abraham long ago.

Argument: Foreigners (Joseph's sons) are brought into the family of God by grace. It is no different for anybody else: all who trust in Christ are adopted into God's family.

Gospel: In Christ, we – likewise – receive blessings we don't deserve. Indeed, an inheritance that we have not, and could never, earn. We are called to live as people brought into the family formed by our Lord.

Applications: Make time this week to thank Christ for the glorious inheritance He offers. Ask Him to give you an opportunity to share that amazing news with somebody else.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
