

UNDERSTANDING WHEN WE
CANNOT SEE
Genesis 47:27-48:22

INTRODUCTION

As we read through Scripture, God does or allows things that seem wrong to us at the time - especially in a narrative, when we put ourselves in the story as it unfolds. God alone knows how He will make things work out, and we have difficulty understanding when we cannot see. Here is when it's most important to return to what we do know. When things don't make sense, don't critique God. God does things we don't expect, things we couldn't think possible. *Job 9:10, Psalm 77:14, Luke 4:17-22.* Marvel at **The Wonder Of God's Ways.**

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 47:27-48:22. The famine has passed. Jacob will now begin to pronounce blessings on his family as they are living in Egypt. Some unlikely events take place – things we might question. In your study, reflect upon how the Lord has brought you to this time in your life – hasn't He been always faithful? Certainly He has, but often at times and in ways you never could have imagined. And that is OK! *Jeremiah 29:11-14, Isaiah 55:8-9* Sometimes, you cannot figure God out. *Selah*

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

I. Genesis 47:27-48:4. Jacob remembers Bethel. As sojourners, Jacob knew Egypt was not his home. Extracting a pledge from Joseph, Jacob knows his body will be buried in Canaan – the land that God promised to Israel. *Genesis 35:6-12.* Even in Jacob's day, Canaan belonged to Israel, and his family is to be settled there. Although Jacob lives outside Israel much of his life, God's Word will certainly come to pass. Yet, who could have scripted the twists and turns of history to bring Israel to this place at this time? Beloved, don't try to tell God how to work things out. God knows what He is doing. *Romans 11:33*

II. Genesis 48:5-9. Jacob assumes two tribes. Joseph's two sons are adopted by Jacob as his own. They will each become a head of future tribes in Israel. Again, we might not have done things this way, but God's way is right. *2 Samuel 22:31*

III. Genesis 48:10-16. Jacob gives his blessing. Imagine Jacob's joy as he reflects upon his long rich spiritual heritage. Abraham, Isaac, himself, and now Joseph (who he had thought was dead) and his two sons! God scripted things perfectly. Beloved, are you thankful for your spiritual heritage? Think about how God has brought blessings to you.

IV. Genesis 47:17-19. The younger. Tradition calls for the elder son to receive the blessing, and Joseph is displeased that Jacob put his right hand on Ephraim and not Manasseh. Yet, the elder son has been passed over before (Jacob was set over Esau, Joseph over his brothers). Rather than tradition, or man's thinking, what does God want to do? How does He want to do it? We should always seek the mind of the Lord. *Psalm 86:10-11, Isaiah 40:13, Romans 11:34*

V. Genesis 47:20-22. The finish. Setting things in proper order, Jacob set Ephraim over Manasseh. Manasseh – for God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house; Ephraim – God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction. Through all the twists and turns, God brought a double blessing to Joseph. *Ephesians 3:20-21*

Jacob is nearing his final days on earth, and now is passing a blessing to the next generation. He reflects on God's faithful promises coming to pass over the years, and has insight given by God into the future for his family. It is good to stop along the way as sojourners, meditate on God's faithfulness to guard and guide us each step, and praise our Lord for The Wonder of God's Ways.

CONSIDER As Jacob reflects upon his own life in Genesis 48:15-16, we can relate to his testimony. The Lord is...

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| o The God who has fed you... | Your Shepherd | <i>Psalm 23:1-2 & 5, Psalm 37:3-4</i> |
| o The Angel who has redeemed you... | Your Saviour | <i>Psalm 107:1-3, Ephesians 1:7</i> |
| o The Lord who will bless and grow you... | Your Future | <i>Numbers 6:24-26, Ephesians 1:13-14</i> |

"He does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number." Job 9:10

PRAY

- o that you can settle your heart on the fact that God's ways are perfect, regardless of your circumstances.
- o in thanksgiving for the faithfulness of the Lord in your life and reflect on that faithfulness in uncertain times.
- o that the Lord would meet with each person who attends the Pastor's Getaway in February.
- o the Billings family, the Barger Family, the Fantley Family as they serve the Lord in foreign lands.