

***“The Foundations of Our Faith Revealed, Theme by Theme in Genesis —
Divine Election Operates in the Sphere of Divine Judgment — Part 7”***

Review: God’s Selective Work Focuses on Isaac’s Son Jacob: The Lord Reigns Over Man! Scripture Confirms God’s Choice of Israel as His Nation among the Nations.

- ***(Chapter 35): God Blesses Jacob at Bethel where he is commanded to live by God; Benjamin is Born and Rachel Dies; Isaac dies and is buried by Jacob & Esau; the Twelve Tribes are formally constituted as a family and eventually a nation among many nations***
- ***(Chapter 37): Joseph is loved above the rest and is sold as a slave in Egypt — the turning point***
 - ***It is not our purpose today to review further this sacred history. But we must take note that this series of events sets the stage for one of the most blessed series of events in the Bible, the preservation and building of a nation, that very nation that the Lord God promised would come out of Jacob’s loins, the nation named after him, Israel!***
 - ***Our review will emphasize today only a few verses in chapter 45, where Joseph makes himself known to his brethren:***
 - ***Chapter 45 - Joseph revealed himself to his brethren with many tears shed on both sides, with their return then to get Jacob and the family. Joseph’s testimony was that God did it all to preserve life, even the chosen family. Such a proof of our theme again is found here! For now, only a few verses will be singled out for our remembrance and blessing:***

Gen. 45:1-8

1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

2 And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

3 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I *am* Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

6 For these two years *hath* the famine *been* in the land: and yet *there are* five years, in the which *there shall* neither be earing nor harvest.

7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 So now *it was not you that* sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

- *Verses 4, 5 and 7 & 8 are so precious and should be to us as well! Amen and amen. God did send, God sent, not you, but God. Special words indeed, indelibly written here and preserved for our benefit today and forever!*

Our Outline Today:

- ***Jacob's Final Prophetic Words — Scripture Confirms God's Choice of Israel as His Nation Among Many (Chapter 49)***
- ***Joseph's Final Prophetic Words — Scripture Confirms God's Choice of Israel as His Nation Among Many (Chapter 50)***
- ***The Rest of the Story — Scripture Confirms God's Choice of Israel as His Nation Among Many***

I. Jacob's Final Prophetic Words — Scripture Confirms God's Choice of Israel as His Nation Among Many (Chapter 49):

- *Israel's God, the very God also of Abraham and Isaac, has now at this point, as Jacob's life is ebbing away, sets the stage for the future history of this chosen nation. Through the blessings and prophetic comments given to his sons as recorded in Chapter 49, Israel, as the head over his family points forward to future times. I will only read a few of the verses, the ones about Judah and Joseph), but you should all read the entirety of the chapter for your own understanding:*

[READ] Gen. 49:1-2

1 And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you *that* which shall befall you in the last days.

2 Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.

- ***Here the words “in the last days” are quite significant. For Jacob is prophesying of the tribes that will come from these sons in a far future time, probably the Great Tribulation period, though we cannot be sure of the exact timing of this. Let’s skip down to the verses regarding Judah and Joseph as they are most important. Judah is central prophetically as regarding Israel’s coming Messiah and Redeemer while Joseph is central to Jacob’s heart and emphasized here in his final words:***

Gen. 49:3-7

3 Reuben, thou *art* my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:

4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou *it*: he went up to my couch.

5 Simeon and Levi *are* brethren; instruments of cruelty *are in* their habitations.

6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.

7 Cursed *be* their anger, for *it was* fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.

[READ] Gen. 49:8-12

8 Judah, thou *art he* whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand *shall be* in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee.

9 Judah *is* a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

12 His eyes *shall be* red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

Gen. 49:13-21

13 Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he *shall be* for an haven of ships; and his border *shall be* unto Zidon.
14 Issachar *is* a strong ass couching down between two burdens:
15 And he saw that rest *was* good, and the land that *it was* pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.
16 Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel.
17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.
18 I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD.
19 Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last.
20 Out of Asher his bread *shall be* fat, and he shall yield royal dainties.
21 Naphtali *is* a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words.

[READ] Gen. 49:22-26

22 Joseph *is* a fruitful bough, *even* a fruitful bough by a well; *whose* branches run over the wall:
23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot *at him*, and hated him:
24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)
25 *Even* by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb:
26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

Gen. 49:27 Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.

Gen. 49:28 All these *are* the twelve tribes of Israel: and this *is it* that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.

Gen. 49:29-33

29 And he charged them, and said unto them, *I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,*

30 In the cave that *is* in the field of Machpelah, which *is* before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a buryingplace.

31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah.

32 The purchase of the field and of the cave that *is* therein was from the children of Heth.

33 And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

- *These are sobering words indeed. Jacob (or Israel) has reached the end of a long and fruitful life, but a life of constant trials and challenges. Throughout however he was hard pressed to know God Almighty as his father and grandfather had known him. That finally has been accomplished by the faithful working of His God, even the God of Jacob and Israel, or as he states so powerfully in verse 24: “the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)”. I believe he was weeping while he spoke these words, so prophetic concerning the coming Seed of the Woman. And we can easily understand why. His words of testimony before Pharaoh state that so well:*

Gen. 47:9 And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.

- *Jacob, Israel’s patriarch by his God-given name, has now come to his end, his work accomplished, his life blessed, but through it all his God has laid the foundation for a nation set apart from the Gentile world by his hand using sinful man as his tools.*
- *Our theme has been well revealed here, hasn’t it? God’s selective (even elective) purpose operates in the sphere of judgment, for some are blessed but many are not. And in no case is this based on their works, for as often as not their works were evil. But God sovereignly blessed nevertheless.*

- *All of their lives, of Abraham's, of Isaac's, of Jacob's and of Joseph's, were examples of the Lord God's sustaining power and his mercies abounding. They were blessed indeed but they were brought with challenge upon challenge. Only at the end of his life did Jacob / Israel fully come to understand that blessing. Much of it would follow after his brief life had ended as he communicates so well on his death bed.*

But God did not fulfill the promises given to them, did he? But with hopeful expectation they awaited on the Lord to in his duly appointed time to bring forth the fruit from the vine, the fig from the fig tree, even the fulness of their hope to reality. Hebrews chapter 11 is all about that, isn't it?

- *But without the testimony we read here, Jacob's life would have ended without clear evidence of his firm hope in a coming redeemer, the law giver, Shiloh, the Shepard and the Stone, all prophetic references to the coming Seed of the Woman, our Lord Jesus. Without that testimony, there would have been no foundation for the Elect Nation yet to come to stand upon — no place for Moses to stand, or David or any of those listed in that great chapter of the Hebrews.*
- *But God did not and has not fulfilled those promises. Many died in faith believing, however. Were their hopes for nothing? Or, on the contrary, will God bring them to pass in the realm of his resurrection glory? We have already received that, but their inheritance awaits a future time, perhaps soon. But the Lord God sovereignly chose to bless us first.*
- *What about us, brethren? What does the Lord say? What do we say? What is our testimony? Has God blessed us? Is that the testimony of our hearts? So often it is not our testimony, sadly. But it may be.*

*"And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."
(Heb. 11:39-40)*

Do we know the true value of what we have? The hope of Israel is yet future — unless they should believe today and receive what we already have, that is. God will bring in their

promised Kingdom here on earth with their Messiah and King exactly as promised by Jacob. But we already have our Lord Jesus today, dwelling in our hearts and transforming our lives day by day and hour by hour. Praise God for his abundant grace and the gift of righteousness. Amen.

II. Joseph's Final Prophetic Words — Scripture Confirms God's Choice of Israel as His Nation Among Many (Chapter 50):

- *Jacob, on his death bed passed on his spiritual hope for the nation in process even then of formation through his twelve sons. But there were some earthly duties as well as chapter 50 reveals in the early verses:*

Gen. 50:4-9, 12-17

4 And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spake unto the house of Pharaoh, saying, If now I have found grace in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying,

5 My father made me swear, saying, Lo, I die: in my grave which I have digged for me in the land of Canaan, there shalt thou bury me. Now therefore let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come again.

6 And Pharaoh said, Go up, and bury thy father, according as he made thee swear.

7 And Joseph went up to bury his father: and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,

8 And all the house of Joseph, and his brethren, and his father's house: only their little ones, and their flocks, and their herds, they left in the land of Goshen.

9 And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen: and it was a very great company.

...

12 And his sons did unto him according as he commanded them:

13 For his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of a buryingplace of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre. *[So it still "belonged" to others even though clearly the Caananites were living there then, but as verse 9 indicates, there was the mighty Egyptian army to ensure safety ...]*

14 And Joseph returned into Egypt, he, and his brethren, and all that went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father.

15 And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.

16 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,

17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

Gen. 50:18-21

18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we *be* thy servants.

19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for *am* I in the place of God?

20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

22 And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived an hundred and ten years.

23 And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third *generation*: the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were brought up upon Joseph's knees.

[READ] Gen. 50:24-26

24 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.

26 So Joseph died, *being* an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

- *So our theme is well supported in all of these verses, isn't it? God selectively chooses so often when the will of man may not be in accord at all, or when it is but for purely fleshly or carnal reasons. Here, at the end, it is not only the matter of a burial place, though that is significant considering the earthly kingdom hope of these Jewish saints, but also the matter of future prophesy being fulfilled literally as it was given, whether by Jacob — or Joseph.*

- *These words are so telling: “God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence”. There is a several fold set of promises here and some questions arise with them:*
 - *God will, he promises here, (after some time, implied here but stated clearly in Gen. 15:17) visit, that is come visibly, it seems, to you as a nation. This is to fulfill earlier promises regarding a nation and its people with promises still unfulfilled (remember Heb. 11: — still unfulfilled then and today) and therefore requiring personal and bodily resurrection. So the view here is forward — to resurrection!*
 - *Why burial in that specific place — that is a good question. We have no such hope — why not?*
 - *But while these promises are promises of blessing for Israel, they will be promises of judgment for the rest, not so chosen. When God blesses the called out ones, he sets aside the rest. That is the bottom line here and that is our theme today as we finish our study in Divine Selection (and one could rightfully call it “Election”) as seen everywhere in Genesis.*
 - *Our theme is now complete. And our verses from Hebrews 11 again are so full of meaning:*

“And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.” (Heb. 11:39-40)

III. The Rest of the Story — Scripture Confirms God’s Choice of Israel as His Nation Among Many:

- *Well, as it is so often with scripture, there is more to the story. A quick look to Exodus, to Joshua, and then to the New Testament book of the Acts, will fill in some details that are important to the Lord God:*

[READ] Ex. 13:19 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.

[READ] Jos. 24:32 And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

- ***This is all about Joseph, but Acts 7, Stephen's final address to the nation leading to his martyrdom by stoning, adds this:***

Acts 7:11-14

11 Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance.

12 But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

13 And at the second *time* Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.

14 Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to *him*, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.

[READ] Acts 7:15-18

15 So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

16 And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.

17 But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

18 Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph...

- ***So indeed this is all about Joseph, yes, but the other patriarchs as well! And it is in reference to the last days of prophecy and therefore to all the tribes constituting the chosen, elect nation of Israel.***
- ***And, of course there is much more if we would seek it out and find it. We close with just one further note here since it is so encouraging for us to know an additional detail.***

We read in Exodus that the prophesied exodus of the children of Israel actually occurred on the very day prophesied, after 430 years of sojourning (and 400 years of enslavement in Egypt). God always keeps his promises. It is most amazing and very encouraging to know this, isn't it? See Ex. 12:40ff. As well as verse 17:

Ex. 12:17 And ye shall observe *the feast of unleavened bread*; **for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt**: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.

- ***And then, in the rest of the chapter:***

Ex. 12:40-43, 51

40 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, **was four hundred and thirty years.**

41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

42 *It is* a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: *this is* that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.

43 And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, *This is* the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof:

...

51 And it came to pass the selfsame day, *that* the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

- ***On the “selfsame” day — cannot God also perform the rest as planned? This should be so very encouraging. For if God did that for Israel he will complete his remaining plan as well. If he did that for them, then he would also fulfill literally other prophecies like this one:***
- ***The three days and three nights regarding Christ’s burial and then resurrection, not one day and one night, or one day and one half night, was so very specific, wasn’t it? For the Lord God had ordained the day, hour, and, I believe, also the minute. But we will leave that for another time, Lord willing.***
- ***Interestingly, many of the promises of God to us his children shall also be accomplished in a single, Almighty God appointed day, for example, the day of the catching up, the Rapture of the Church which is His Body! Amen.***

Conclusions / Application:

“And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.” (Heb. 11:39-40)

- ***There are many applications of the scripture we have studied today to our current lives, even though we live in a very different dispensation indeed.***

But God has called out some in every generation and in every dispensation for his glory. We are most blessed to be included in that great train.

Remember these words we have used as key verses in our study: “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.” (Heb. 11:39-40)

- ***There are fundamental challenges to our faith, if God does not keep his promises to Israel. Then what about his promises to us?***
- ***To close today, Paul writes this in the great Romans chapter 8:***

Rom. 8:24-39

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Praise God for his abundant grace and truth.