

Genesis 47–50 Concise Outline — Joseph, Jacob, and the Prophetic Blessings

Based on Chuck Smith Narrative Study

1. Joseph's Journey — God's Hand Through Suffering

Joseph's Path

- Sold into slavery by his brothers
- Blessed in Potiphar's house
- Falsely accused and imprisoned
- Elevated in prison through faithfulness
- Interprets dreams of the baker and butler
- Forgotten for two years
- Finally called before Pharaoh
- Interprets Pharaoh's dreams
- Raised to second in command over Egypt

Major Theme

God was preparing Joseph long before Joseph understood the purpose.

Key Spiritual Insight

Every apparent setback:

- slavery
- false accusation
- prison

- delay

...became preparation for leadership and preservation.

2. Pharaoh's Dream and God's Provision

The Dream

- 7 healthy cows consumed by 7 thin cows
- 7 healthy ears of grain consumed by 7 withered ears

Joseph's Interpretation

- 7 years of abundance
- followed by 7 years of severe famine

Joseph's Wisdom

Joseph not only interpreted the problem — he proposed the solution.

Leadership Principle

Godly wisdom combines:

- revelation
 - preparation
 - administration
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3. Reunion and Restoration

Joseph's Brothers Arrive

- Brothers do not recognize Joseph

- Joseph tests their hearts
- Judah emerges as protector of Benjamin
- Joseph finally reveals himself

Joseph's Perspective

"What you meant for evil, God meant for good."

Spiritual Theme

God redeems broken family history.

4. Israel Settles in Goshen

Why Goshen?

- Fertile land
- Ideal for shepherds
- Separate from Egyptian culture

Pharaoh's Favor

Pharaoh grants:

- land
- protection
- provision

Important Insight

God often preserves His people by placing them separately before eventually calling them out.

Egypt became:

- refuge first

- bondage later
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5. Jacob Before Pharaoh

Jacob Blesses Pharaoh

Instead of trembling before power,
Jacob blesses the ruler of Egypt.

Key Verse Concept

“The lesser is blessed by the greater.”

Jacob’s Description of Life

“Few and evil have been the days of my pilgrimage.”

Spiritual Insight

Jacob finally views life correctly:

- temporary
- difficult
- a pilgrimage

Not a permanent home.

6. Joseph’s Economic Administration

The Famine Intensifies

People eventually exchange:

1. money
2. livestock

3. land
4. themselves

...for survival.

Joseph's System

- Pharaoh owns the land
- People work it
- 20% goes to Pharaoh

Key Observation

Joseph preserved civilization through wise management.

7. Israel Multiplies in Egypt

God's Blessing Continues

Israel grows rapidly in Goshen.

Prophetic Fulfillment

God had already told Abraham:

- his descendants would sojourn in Egypt
- for 400 years

Important Principle

Even in foreign places,
God still fulfills covenant promises.

8. Jacob Adopts Ephraim and Manasseh

Joseph Receives the Double Portion

Jacob adopts Joseph's two sons as his own.

This gives Joseph:

- two tribal inheritances
- the double blessing of the firstborn

Spiritual Insight

Reuben lost the birthright through instability.
Joseph received it through faithfulness.

9. Jacob Crosses His Hands

Ephraim Over Manasseh

Though Manasseh was older,
Jacob intentionally blesses Ephraim more greatly.

Recurring Genesis Pattern

God repeatedly chooses:

- Abel over Cain
- Isaac over Ishmael
- Jacob over Esau
- Ephraim over Manasseh

Major Theme

God's purposes are not controlled by human tradition or natural order.

10. Jacob's Prophetic Blessings (Genesis 49)

Jacob now prophesies over the tribes.

Reuben

Character

- unstable
- impulsive
- morally weak

Result

"You shall not excel."

Lesson

Giftedness without character collapses.

Simeon & Levi

Traits

- violent
- wrathful
- cruel

Result

Scattered in Israel.

Lesson

Unchecked anger destroys legacy.

Judah

The Great Messianic Prophecy

- leadership
- kingship
- authority

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah...”

Prophetic Fulfillment

From Judah comes:

- David
 - the royal line
 - Jesus Christ, the Lion of Judah
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11. “Shiloh” – The Coming Messiah

Key Prophecy

“Until Shiloh come...”

“Shiloh” points to:

- peace
- the Messiah

- Jesus Christ

Major Insight

Jacob's prophecy reaches far beyond his sons — it points directly to Christ.

12. “I Have Waited for Thy Salvation”

Powerful Moment

Jacob suddenly cries:

“I have waited for thy salvation, O Lord.”

The Hebrew word here connects to:

- Yeshua
- salvation
- Jesus

Spiritual Meaning

Even in Genesis,
the longing for Christ is already present.

What Most People Miss

1. Joseph Is One of the Clearest Types of Christ in Genesis

Like Jesus:

- rejected by brothers

- sold for silver
 - falsely accused
 - humbled before exaltation
 - becomes savior to the very people who rejected him
-

2. Judah's Transformation Is Massive

Judah once suggested selling Joseph.

Later:

- he offers himself for Benjamin
- becomes protector and leader

This transformation explains why:

- the kingly line comes through Judah
 - Jesus comes through Judah
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3. Egypt Is Both Refuge and Warning

At first Egypt:

- saves Israel

Later Egypt:

- enslaves Israel

Spiritual Parallel

The world system often begins as comfort before becoming bondage.

4. Jacob's Greatest Hour Was the End

Much of Jacob's life was messy:

- manipulation
- fear
- conflict

Yet at the end:

- he speaks prophetically
- blesses others
- walks in spiritual clarity

Encouragement

A difficult beginning does not prevent a strong finish.

Final Teaching Themes

God Uses Broken People

Jacob, Judah, Joseph, and the brothers all failed deeply — yet God still fulfilled covenant promises.

God Works Through Delays

Joseph waited:

- years in slavery
- years in prison
- years forgotten

But God never lost control.

God Sees Beyond Human Order

The firstborn repeatedly loses prominence:

- Reuben
- Esau
- Manasseh

God chooses according to His purposes.

Genesis Ends Pointing Toward Christ

The book begins with creation —
but ends looking toward:

- salvation
- kingship
- the coming Messiah
- the Lion of Judah

A beautiful transition into Exodus and the unfolding redemption story.