

Study Guide

Pray: Pray that God will show you something new in His Word and that you will be fully present as you consider these questions.

Read: Begin by reading Genesis 47 – 49 straight through, as you would read the chapters of any great book.

Questions:

1. What decision did Pharaoh make about arrangements for Joseph's family and what did Pharaoh request Joseph's family do for him?
2. What does Jacob do for Pharaoh – did that seem unusual to you given that Egyptians considered themselves gods? Given what is said in Hebrews 7:7 – who is the greater?
3. The people came to Joseph in stages as their plight continued – when they came what did they trade to obtain food?

First (vs.13 & 14):

Second (vs.15-17):

Third (vs.18-20):

4. What arrangement did Joseph establish with the people & how did they react? (vs.47:23-26) Do you think this was fair or unfair?
5. What promise did Jacob require Joseph to make? (vs.47:29-31) Why?
6. a. Joseph took his sons to see Jacob (Chapter 48) and he blessed them? Who was older, but who received the firstborn's blessing?

b. Looking at the Abraham family tree...circle the one who received the blessing

Abrahams sons: Ishmael & Isaac

Isaac's sons: Esau & Jacob

Jacob's sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Napthali, Joseph, Benjamin (adopted: Manasseh, Ephraim)

7. What assurance did Jacob have regarding his family after he died? Chapter 48 v.21
8. Genesis chapter 49 records the blessings Jacob pronounced upon his sons? What word in v. 28 at the end indicates the blessing refers not only to them as individuals?
9. What professions / work would you imagine for each of these sons according to the blessing given?

Zebulun:
Issachar:
Dan:

Gad:
Asher:
Naphthali:

10. What blessings were pronounced on Joseph? Do you think some of them were realized in Joseph's lifetime?
11. From the tribe of Benjamin came Saul, Esther and Paul – if you know their stories, would you say that they were true to the 'type' as suggested by the blessing given to Benjamin?
12. Later in Joshua – the conquered land of Canaan is divided between the 12 tribes. They are
Reuben, Simeon, ~~Levi~~^{*}, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphthali, ~~Joseph~~^{**}, Benjamin, Manasseh, Ephraim

*Levi was given cities of refuge and priestly duties / payment (not land).

**Joseph's portion was given to Manasseh and Ephraim.

How do the words and actions of Joseph in chapter 47 and Jacob in chapter 48 mirror the outcome of the tribes in the time of Joshua?

(Clues: 47:22 – how were priests in Egypt treated? 48:5 – adopted as sons.)

We see the blessings of Jacob and the promises of God fulfilled in the Old Testament and in Christ – thanks to our place in history and the recording of it - we can look back and see those examples, but let not weariness and busyness prevent us from seeing the promises that are valid for us now – now, and in days and years to come.

Come to me all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.