



## Genesis Lesson 38 Chapter 48

*Jacob and his family have made the long trek to Egypt and have settled in as the local shepherds in the land of Goshen. Due to Joseph's provision, they not only survived the famine but increased in population and possessions. After living in Egypt for seventeen years, Jacob did not forget God's promise to him and his forefathers to make their family a large nation and to give them the land of promise. Before his death he makes Joseph promise to take his body back to Canaan*

*and bury him there. But how will the actual possession of the land by his family ever take place when they are firmly established in the land of Egypt? Surely God's words to Abraham echoed back to Jacob ... "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions." Genesis 15:13-14*

### READ CHAPTER 48

1. *Give the account of the circumstance surrounding Jacob's name being changed to Israel. Genesis 32*
  
2. *God renames Jacob/Israel a second time in Genesis 35:9-10. What is that name change tied to in Genesis 35:11-12?*



*The name Jacob means “heel-grasper” or “he deceives.” Israel means “he struggles with God.” The name change identifies the transformation that took place in Jacob from the time he deceived his brother and ran to Haran for safety, and twenty years later when he returned to take his place as the possessor of the birthright. In chapter 35 Jacob meets with the God of Abraham and Isaac, and after clearing out all the foreign idols from his family, he is once again given the blessing of the covenant promise. His name change is reiterated with this promise.*

3. *How might the above information explain the use of both names in Genesis 48:2 and the continual use of the name Israel in the rest of the chapter?*
  
4. *Later in the Scriptures what do the names Jacob and Israel come to signify? See Exodus 19:3; Deut.6:4; Joshua 4:22; Is.8:17; Luke 1:33.*
  
5. *Why is Jacob blessing Joseph’s sons? See 1 Chronicles 5:1-2.*
  
6. *Later, when the Israelites came out of Egypt and went back to the Promised Land, how did the fact that Joseph received a double portion through his sons still keep the land allotment to 12 tribes? See Joshua 14:1-4.*

7. *What was Joseph doing in verse 13 to help in the process of Jacob blessing his sons?*
8. *In what other instances in Genesis did the younger brother receive the status of firstborn?*
9. *Blessing the firstborn was the traditional norm for this society. Breaking this norm was somewhat upsetting for Joseph. What kinds of societal or religious traditions or rituals do you have? How might you respond if God asked you to break out of them?*
10. *How does Joseph come to possess that portion of land that Jacob promises him in vs.22?  
See Joshua 24:32*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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