

Read Genesis 48:1-7

1 One day not long after this, word came to Joseph, “Your father is failing rapidly.” So, Joseph went to visit his father, and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

2 When Joseph arrived, Jacob was told, “Your son Joseph has come to see you.” So, Jacob gathered his strength and sat up in his bed.

3 Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me.

4 He said to me, ‘I will make you fruitful, and I will multiply your descendants. I will make you a multitude of nations. And I will give this land of Canaan to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.’

5 “Now I am claiming as my own sons these two boys of yours, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born here in the land of Egypt before I arrived. They will be my sons, just as Reuben and Simeon are.

6 But any children born to you in the future will be your own, and they will inherit land within the territories of their brothers Ephraim and Manasseh.

7 “Long ago, as I was returning from Paddan-aram, Rachel died in the land of Canaan. We were still on the way, some distance from Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). So with great sorrow I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath.”

What was happening to Jacob (v. 1)? He was getting ready to die.

What did Joseph do when he got the news? He went to visit his father and took his two sons with him.

Why didn’t any of Joseph’s brothers come also since their dad was getting ready to die? The Bible doesn’t tell us.

What happened when Joseph and his sons arrived (v. 2)? Jacob got up all his energy and sat up in bed.

What did Jacob say to Joseph (v. 3)? He told Joseph about a time when God appeared to him a long time ago (Genesis 29:13).

What did God tell Jacob back then (v. 4)? (Read) You will have lots of children and I will give you, and all your family after you, the Promised Land to live in forever.

What did Jacob tell Joseph about his two sons (v. 5)? Jacob was adopting Ephraim and Manasseh as his own sons. They would be his sons just the same as Joseph and his 11 brothers.

What did he tell Joseph about any more children that Joseph might have (v. 6)? Jacob wouldn’t be adopting them. They would be like the children of Ephraim and Manasseh when it came to inheriting land to live in.

What did Jacob talk about next (v. 7)? He was remembering the time when his favorite wife Rachel died and how he had buried her beside the road. In Jacob’s eyes, Ephraim and Manasseh took the place of other sons that Rachel might have had if she hadn’t died.