

Read Genesis 48:15-22

**15** Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my grandfather Abraham and my father, Isaac, walked— the God who has been my shepherd all my life, to this very day,

**16** the Angel who has redeemed me from all harm— may he bless these boys. May they preserve my name and the names of Abraham and Isaac. And may their descendants multiply greatly throughout the earth.”

**17** But Joseph was upset when he saw that his father placed his right hand on Ephraim’s head. So, Joseph lifted it to move it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head.

**18** “No, my father,” he said. “This one is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head.”

**19** But his father refused. “I know, my son; I know,” he replied. “Manasseh will also become a great people, but his younger brother will become even greater. And his descendants will become a multitude of nations.”

**20** So Jacob blessed the boys that day with this blessing: “The people of Israel will use your names when they give a blessing. They will say, ‘May God make you as prosperous as Ephraim and Manasseh.’” In this way, Jacob put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

**21** Then Jacob said to Joseph, “Look, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will take you back to Canaan, the land of your ancestors.

**22** And beyond what I have given your brothers, I am giving you an extra portion of the land that I took from the Amorites with my sword and bow.”

**What did Jacob do (v. 15)?** He blessed Joseph.

**What did Jacob do next (v. 16)?** He blessed Joseph’s sons and promised they would be mighty Jewish men and would have many children and grandchildren.

**Why was Joseph so upset (v. 17)?** Because Jacob placed his right hand, the blessing hand, on Ephraim, the youngest of the two. The oldest son, Manasseh, deserved to get the family blessing.

**What did Joseph do (vv. 17-18)?** He tried to move Jacob’s hand onto Manasseh’s head.

**How did Jacob react (19)?** He wouldn’t let Joseph move his hand.

**What did Jacob do next (v. 20)?** He blessed both of the boys but he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

**Why did Jacob bless the youngest son?** Somehow, he knew it was God’s plan for Ephraim to receive the blessing.

**What did Jacob say to Joseph (v. 21-22)?** I’m getting ready to die but God will take you back to the Promised Land. And I’m going to give you an extra piece of land more than your brothers.

**What is Jacob doing here?** He is continuing to show favoritism to Joseph more than his brothers. He should have learned a lesson.