

## Monday, January 24, 2022

From Darren:

Gen 48:1-49:33 - Jacob passes after blessing his sons

Ps 20:1-9 - The victory banner is now an empty tomb

Pro 4:20-27 - Focused again

Matt 15:29-16:12 - The Disciples were thick...gives me hope for myself

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### **Genesis 48:1-49:33**

**48** **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.” **8** Then Jacob looked over at the two boys. “Are these your sons?” he asked. **9** “Yes,” Joseph told him, “these are the sons God has given me here in Egypt.” And Jacob said, “Bring them closer to me, so I can bless them.” **10** Jacob was half blind because of his age and could hardly see. So Joseph brought the boys close to him, and Jacob kissed and embraced them. **11** Then Jacob said to Joseph, “I never thought I would see your face again, but now God has let me see your children, too!” **12** Joseph moved the boys, who were at their grandfather’s knees, and he bowed with his face to the ground. **13** Then he positioned the boys in front of Jacob. With his right hand he directed Ephraim toward Jacob’s left hand, and with his left hand he put Manasseh at Jacob’s right hand. **14** But Jacob crossed his arms as he reached out to lay his hands on the boys’ heads. He put his right hand on the head of Ephraim, though he was the younger boy, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, though he was the firstborn. **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.”

**49** **1** Then Jacob called together all his sons and said, “Gather around me, and I will tell you what will happen to each of you in the days to come. **2** “Come and listen, you sons of Jacob; listen to Israel, your father. **3** “Reuben, you are my firstborn, my strength, the child of my vigorous youth. You are first in rank and first in power. **4** But you are as unruly as a flood, and you will be first no longer. For you went to bed with my wife; you defiled my marriage couch. **5** “Simeon and Levi are two of a kind; their weapons are instruments of violence. **6** May I never join in their meetings; may I never be a party to their plans. For in their anger they murdered men, and they crippled oxen just for sport. **7** A curse on their anger, for it is fierce; a curse on their wrath, for it is cruel. I will scatter them among the descendants of Jacob; I will disperse them throughout Israel. **8** “Judah, your brothers will praise you. You will grasp your enemies by the neck. All your relatives will bow before you. **9** Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? **10** The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor. **11** He ties his foal to a grapevine, the colt of his donkey to a choice vine. He washes his clothes in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. **12** His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk. **13** “Zebulun will settle by the seashore and will be a harbor for ships; his borders will extend to Sidon. **14** “Issachar is a sturdy donkey, resting between two saddlepacks. **15** When he sees how good the countryside is and how pleasant the land, he will bend his shoulder to the load and submit himself to hard labor. **16** “Dan will govern his people,

like any other tribe in Israel. **17** Dan will be a snake beside the road, a poisonous viper along the path that bites the horse's hooves so its rider is thrown off. **18** I trust in you for salvation, O LORD ! **19** "Gad will be attacked by marauding bands, but he will attack them when they retreat. **20** "Asher will dine on rich foods and produce food fit for kings. **21** "Naphtali is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns. **22** "Joseph is the foal of a wild donkey, the foal of a wild donkey at a spring— one of the wild donkeys on the ridge. **23** Archers attacked him savagely; they shot at him and harassed him. **24** But his bow remained taut, and his arms were strengthened by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob, by the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel. **25** May the God of your father help you; may the Almighty bless you with the blessings of the heavens above, and blessings of the watery depths below, and blessings of the breasts and womb. **26** May my fatherly blessings on you surpass the blessings of my ancestors, reaching to the heights of the eternal hills. May these blessings rest on the head of Joseph, who is a prince among his brothers. **27** "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, devouring his enemies in the morning and dividing his plunder in the evening." **28** These are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said as he told his sons good-bye. He blessed each one with an appropriate message. **29** Then Jacob instructed them, "Soon I will die and join my ancestors. Bury me with my father and grandfather in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite. **30** This is the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre in Canaan, that Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as a permanent burial site. **31** There Abraham and his wife Sarah are buried. There Isaac and his wife, Rebekah, are buried. And there I buried Leah. **32** It is the plot of land and the cave that my grandfather Abraham bought from the Hittites." **33** When Jacob had finished this charge to his sons, he drew his feet into the bed, breathed his last, and joined his ancestors in death.

### **Psalm 20:1-9**

**20 1** In times of trouble, may the LORD answer your cry. May the name of the God of Jacob keep you safe from all harm. **2** May he send you help from his sanctuary and strengthen you from Jerusalem. **3** May he remember all your gifts and look favorably on your burnt offerings. Interlude **4** May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed. **5** May we shout for joy when we hear of your victory and raise a victory banner in the name of our God. May the LORD answer all your prayers. **6** Now I know that the LORD rescues his anointed king. He will answer him from his holy heaven and rescue him by his great power. **7** Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the LORD our God. **8** Those nations will fall down and collapse, but we will rise up and stand firm. **9** Give victory to our king, O LORD ! Answer our cry for help.

### **Proverbs 4:20-27**

**4 20** My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. **21** Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, **22** for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. **23** Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. **24** Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. **25** Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. **26** Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. **27** Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

### **Matthew 15:29-16:12**

**15 29** Jesus returned to the Sea of Galilee and climbed a hill and sat down. **30** A vast crowd brought to him people who were lame, blind, crippled, those who couldn't speak, and many others. They laid them before Jesus, and he healed them all. **31** The crowd was amazed! Those who hadn't been able to speak were talking, the crippled were made well, the lame were walking, and the blind could see again! And they praised the God of Israel. **32** Then Jesus called his disciples and told them, "I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. I don't want to send them away hungry, or they will faint along the way." **33** The disciples replied, "Where would we get enough food here in the wilderness for such a huge crowd?" **34** Jesus asked, "How much bread do you have?" They replied, "Seven loaves, and a few small fish." **35** So Jesus told all the people to sit down on the ground. **36** Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, thanked God for them, and broke them into pieces. He gave them to the disciples, who distributed the food to the crowd. **37** They all ate as much as they wanted. Afterward, the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftover food. **38** There were 4,000 men who were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children. **39** Then Jesus sent the people home, and he got into a boat and crossed over to the region of Magadan.

**16 1** One day the Pharisees and Sadducees came to test Jesus, demanding that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority. **2** He replied, "You know the saying, 'Red sky at night means fair weather tomorrow; **3** red sky in the morning means foul weather all day.' You know how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but you don't know how to interpret the signs of the times! **4** Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign,

but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah. ” Then Jesus left them and went away. **5** Later, after they crossed to the other side of the lake, the disciples discovered they had forgotten to bring any bread. **6** “Watch out!” Jesus warned them. “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” **7** At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn’t brought any bread. **8** Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, “You have so little faith! Why are you arguing with each other about having no bread? **9** Don’t you understand even yet? Don’t you remember the 5,000 I fed with five loaves, and the baskets of leftovers you picked up? **10** Or the 4,000 I fed with seven loaves, and the large baskets of leftovers you picked up? **11** Why can’t you understand that I’m not talking about bread? So again I say, ‘Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’” **12** Then at last they understood that he wasn’t speaking about the yeast in bread, but about the deceptive teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.