

“Promised Peculiarity”

Genesis 30-50

VIDEO: “FAILING IS LIVING”

2 Corinthians 3:5 = *Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.*

P = (Peculiar) P’s

1. Promise: **THE Gospel... Genesis 3:15**

*“I will put enmity (**I am declaring war** – The Message) between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

2. Plan: **“In the Beginning... God Had/Has a Plan”**

Him - Creator, Sustainer, Holy, Just, Righteous, Power, Knowing, Loving...

Here - Created, Maintained, Broken, Temporary, for the Glory of God...

Hurt - Devil, Deceit, Doubt, Desire, Despair, Doom... SIN!

Help - Holy Spirit, Bible, Truth, Love, the Church, each true Christian...

Hope - Him! His name is Jesus... read 2 Timothy 1:1

3. People: **“God’s Perfect Plan for Imperfect P.E.O.P.L.E.”**

P = Proper Perspective (**Him, Here, Hurt, Help, Hope**)

E = Elect (God’s chooses His children)

O = Obedience (obedience, faith, & love cannot be separated)

P = Powerful Promise (God empowers His P.E.O.P.L.E. plan)

L = Loves the unlovely (God loves the unlovely)

E = Everything (God is sovereign is over EVERYthing/one)

VIDEO: “MARCH OF THE UNQUALIFIED”

E = (Peculiar) **Election** – we find it strange that God would choose some and not others...

1. **Jacob**
 - a. Rueben, Simeon, & Levi
 - b. Joseph & Benjamin
 - c. Judah

2. **Saul/Paul**
 - a. #1 enemy of Christ's gospel
 - b. #1 champion of Christ's gospel

3. **Peter**
 - a. Fisherman... Fisher of men
 - b. Walked on water... Denied Christ 3 times...
 - c. Petros (the small stone)... "get behind me Satan"

3. **You & Me!** ...it is all of grace! We *faithfully repent, believe, & receive*

VIDEO: (SONG) "NOT BY MY HANDS ..."

C = (Peculiar) **Church** – a.k.a. "family" of God

1. Delightful families
2. Dysfunctional families
3. Delivered families

VIDEO: "MIRACLE METAPHOR"

U = (Peculiar) **Uniforms**

1. Eclectic "uniforms" externally
 - a. Some look like they are on the team... but aren't
 - b. Some look like they are not on the team... but are
2. Unifying uniforms internally

L = (Peculiar) **Love** – Agape

1. No matter what!
2. ALL the time...
3. Real love warns.
4. Real love disciplines.
5. Truth is/in love!

I = (Peculiar) **Inclusivity**

1. You are not "in the family" because of DNA or what you do...

2. You are “in-HIM” because of what HE has DONE!
 - * His Choice
 - * His Cross

VIDEO: “I AM A DISCIPLE”

A = (Peculiar) **Absolutes** – in a world over run with sinful religious relativism

1. Creator God DESIGNED
2. Creator God DETERMINES
3. Creator God DELIVERS

R = (Peculiar) **Reminder / RADICAL**

1. God hates sinners. (Psalms 5:4-6)
2. God loves sinners. (John 3:16)
3. The cross of Christ...
 - **Genesis 50:20** - *“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...”*

VIDEO: David Platt...

4. THE Gospel!
 - **Genesis 45:7** – *“God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.”*
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** – *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

Let’s Pray!

VIDEOS: “NOT GUILTY ANYMORE”
“Pieces”
“Jesus Paid It All”
Observations

Ch. 30:

Note jealousy raging between Rachel & Leah...

Note Jacob's lack of compassion for Rachel in 30:2 ("his anger burned...")

Jacob's family is born and growing in deceit, turmoil, and sinful choices (key on sons)

Note how Jacob and Laban each deal selfishly & deceitfully with each other...

Jacob becomes wealthy thru selective breeding practices (but gives God the credit).

Ch. 31:

Laban & his boys get ugly toward Jacob as a result of Jacob's effective breeding... wealth shift

Then God spoke to Jacob and said: Go home... I will be with you (31:3)

Rachel & Leah "trust" Jacob but they rationalize in a worldly way first, trusting God second

Rachel steals her dad's "household gods" -- bad for any & all number of reasons!

Jacob does the "right thing" (obey God), but does it the "wrong" way (he deceived Laban)

God intervenes on Jacob's behalf... "coming to Laban in a dream" (don't sway him...)

Laban's intense search for the idols reflects his priority of pagan worship...

Jacob's description of his 20 yrs of labor really show Laban for the evil, deceiver he is...

1. Jacob says: if you weren't afraid of my God and my dad you would have....
2. Jacob acknowledges that **Laban's dream was God's endorsement on Jacob...**
3. Don't miss... "ten times you changed my wages..." = Laban's underhandedness

"Mizpah Promise" = modern jewelry, represents misunderstood covenant of Laban/Jacob

Ch. 32:

This chapter opens with us being told that **God sent His angels to meet Jacob** along the way...

Note how Jacob no sooner ends one crisis (Laban) and immediately finds himself having to face the potential problem of reconnecting with his brother Esau who wanted to kill him 20 years ago when Jacob fled to Laban's (out of fear of Esau).

Note how **Jacob sucks up to Esau** through the messengers: refers to Esau as "my lord" (2X)

Jacob is "greatly afraid" of Esau's coming with 400 men (contrast David before Goliath)

Jacob cries out to God in vv. 9-12... Great prayer! Key is sincerity....

Jacob sends an enormous string of animals ahead as gifts to Esau... **trying to manipulate** him

Jacob wrestles with God all night long... Key turning/change point in his life – Amen!

1. Note: **Jacob's life has been a life defined by struggle**
 - a. With Esau, brother (ch.25-27)

- b. With Isaac, father (ch. 27)
 - c. With Rachel & Leah, wives (ch. 28)
 - d. With Laban, father-in-law (ch.29-31)
 - e. With God, here at Peniel (32:24-32)
2. **Jacob won't quit until he gets God's blessing.... A blessing worth fighting for!**
 3. **Jacob has a truly life-changing experience (fight) with God – Amen!**
 4. **Jacob now has a personal relationship with his father's God – Amen!**

Ch. 33:

Notice how Jacob orders the placement of the women & children approaching Esau = KEY!

1. Jacob not only shows a priority of women & wives but of children too
2. Don't miss the sinful, unspoken message such an act would say to everyone...
3. **Joseph's future story begins to be told right here (33:2)**

Incredible work of God! Look at the beautiful expression of forgiveness & love (vv.4-11)

Very odd twist... after all that, **Jacob does not do as he said and follow Esau** (vv.12-17)

Jacob returns to the land of his fathers “safely” (v.18) = **God fulfilled His promise!**

Jacob rebuilds one of Abraham's alters and pronounces that he and his land will be identified as worshippers of: “God, the God of Israel” – which shows that he has truly been transformed... his language ties back to his wrestling with God at Peniel...

Ch. 34:

Rape is introduced to the story... Dinah is raped by Shechem (a local prince of the area)

Inter-marriage is offered/suggested with all kinds of worldly “benefits” suggested...

Jacob's sons respond with deceit... using their God's covenant to deceive. Don't miss this!

Note: Jacob's sons tell Shechem & Hamor that in order to be “one people” all they have to do is take the covenant sign of circumcision... to them, it was an “external” thing as opposed to an internal reality/faith of the heart...

Two of Jacob's sons (**Simeon & Levi**) **killed Dinah's rapist** (Shechem) and his father, as well as all of the men of the city who had just been circumcised (as an expression of unification with Jacob's family).

- Then **they “looted the city” and “all their wealth”**
- Then they “took their flocks and their herds...”
- Then **they “captured all their little ones and all their wives...”**

Jacob tongue lashes his two murderous sons... However, **his outrage is not linked to the sinful nature of their actions but rather, to the threatening consequences** such actions will bring upon him (Jacob) from the surrounding peoples...

Note: the chapter closes with **Jacob's sons trying to justify their actions** with a “But they...”

Ch. 35:

Once again, God speaks to Jacob... amazing grace!

God tells Jacob to “Arise, and go up to Bethel and live there, and make an alter to God...”

Interesting observation; since God was telling Jacob to move, the Bible says: “So Jacob said to his household... ‘Put away **the foreign gods which are among you**, and purify yourselves...” This **seems to say that Jacob had false gods/worship in his household** & did not treat it as a serious issue until he heard God’s voice again, moving him out of apparent, immediate trouble.

God renames Jacob... Jacob is named Israel by God Almighty!

God restates His covenant to/thru Jacob! (vv.9-12)

Rachel dies giving birth to her second and last son... Benjamin

A seemingly obscure reference is made to Reuben (Jacob’s first son) sleeping with Bilhah, Jacob’s concubine (Rachel’s maid & mother of 2 of Jacob’s sons)

Isaac dies at 180 years old... with Jacob & Esau by his side.

Ch. 36:

Esau is here (and forevermore) now identified with/as Edom & the Edomites

“Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan...” ...shows **Esau intermarried**

Esau moves his entire clan/animals to a new land due to his and Jacob’s success being so great that the land could not sustain the two of them so close to one another...

This chapter is totally devoted to sharing Esau’s lineage.

Ch. 37:

Jacob now lives in Canaan (the promised land) & Joseph is said to be 17 years old...

Joseph is reported to have “told on” his brothers (a “bad report”) to Jacob...

Jacob loved Joseph more than all his other sons & made him a special multi-colored tunic (v.3)

Joseph’s brothers saw that their dad loved him more... so they hated him... (v.4)

Joseph has/shares a dream that causes his brothers to hate him even more... (v.5)

Joseph’s dream involved his brothers bowing down to Joseph...

Joseph’s second dream even had Jacob bowing down to him... which angered his dad

Jacob sends Joseph to go check on the welfare of his brothers... don’t miss the sad contrast and **irony between Joseph’s mission and his outcome...** such is the norm for Jacob’s boys...

Interesting irony... Reuben was the one brother who was semi-against doing the worst of things to Joseph (ironic cause Reuben is the one who slept with Jacob’s concubine)

Brothers sell Joseph into slavery & slave traders sell Joe in Egypt to Potipher, Pharaoh's officer

Ch. 38:

Judah (one of the 11 brothers) went out on his own and his lineage begins to be shared...

Judah took a wife (Tamar) for his son Er... But God killed Er cause he was evil

Judah then had his other son (Onan) take Tamar as his wife to honor his brother Er... but Onan "wasted his seed" on purpose so as to prevent any child from being conceived... BUT God was displeased by Onan's action and He "took his life also."

Jacob sends Tamar back to her family (rather than give her to another one of his sons because feared his other sons would die too). Jacob promises Tamar that when his under-age son is old enough, he will send for her and marry her to his younger son (which would uphold her honor). However, **Judah does not do as he promised. Tamar realized the truth and goes to where Judah is on a trip and veils herself to look like a "harlot/temple prostitute" – who Judah propositions & sleeps with & conceives with...**

Judah's sin & hypocrisy is revealed when he hears of Tamar's pregnancy and calls for her to "be burned!" – until she shows him that her harlotry was with him...

Tamar's pregnancy results in twins... Interesting point, the midwife tied a red thread to the first born's hand as his (Perez) hand came out... BUT, he then pulled back into the womb and the other son (Zerah) actually came out first...

Ch. 39:

Focus shifts back to Joseph in Potiphar's household in Egypt...

Joseph was a "successful man" because "the Lord was with Joseph" – God's hand is on Joseph (as foretold in the dreams that created the friction with his brothers and dad).

Potiphar trusted all of his possessions to Joseph's leadership and **"God blessed the Egyptian's household on account of Joseph"**

Potiphar's wife tries to seduce Joseph but he is a stand up guy...

Joseph identifies "sin" (adultery in this case) as "sinning against God" – huge point!

NOTE: huge difference between Joseph and his dad and brothers...

The adulterous wife is persistent "day after day" but **Joseph is more persistent** – Amen!

After grabbing Joseph and causing him to literally flee her advances, she spitefully screams and manufactures a lie, claiming Joseph attempted to rape her

While Potiphar was enraged and had Joseph put in jail... **"But the Lord was with Joseph and extended His kindness to Joseph, & gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer."** (v.21)

God is with Joseph... even in this injustice... even in the bowels of prison!

“The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph’s charge because the Lord was with him; **and whatever he (Joseph) did, the Lord made to prosper.**”

Ch. 40:

Joseph interprets 2 dreams while in jail... BUT, **he first acknowledges that only God can...**

Joseph’s correct interpretation thus proves God’s hand/blessing is on Joseph

“Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.” (v.23)

1. How many times are people helped in crisis, only to selfishly walk away & forget
2. **Notice Joseph’s attitude remains positive throughout all of his injustice!**

Ch. 41:

Pharaoh has a disturbing dream (drought coming) but none of his magicians can interpret it...

The cupbearers tells the Pharaoh about Joseph’s interpretations from jail (2 years ago)...

Pharaoh calls for Joseph, Joe interprets, Pharaoh believes him and makes him #2 in Egypt...

KEY: v.16 “Joseph answered: ‘It is not me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.’”

Joseph explains **two dreams are “one in the same,” which is a double warning (love warns)**

NOTE: God not only gives Joseph the ability to interpret the dreams... **GOD INSTRUCTS** Joseph on how to instruct the Egyptians... God blesses others (who do not yet love Him) through the ones that do love and trust Him as God... **THIS IS THE GREAT COMMISSION principle!**

Pharaoh even gave Joseph his signet ring... an unheard of demonstration of trust/power

Curious observation... Pharaoh gave Joseph a new name and a pagan wife (daughter of a pagan priest) and Joseph received the wife and thereby was fully integrated into the royal court...

1. How does this jive with God?
2. Is this the “wart” that keeps us from putting Joseph up too high on a perch?
3. What consequences come from such decisions?
 - a. Good....
 - b. Bad...

KEY: notice that Joseph was 30 here... already he had been proven to be a gifted/godly leader:

1. Over Potiphar’s estate
2. Over the entire jail
3. Over the country of Egypt --- with miraculous (literally) success!

Chapter closes with announcement/intro of Joseph’s two sons... Manasseh & Ephraim

1. “Manasseh” = “God has made me forget all my troubles & my father’s household
2. “Ephraim” = “God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction”

When the famine came (as God/Joseph had said), “all of Egypt” & “all the earth” came to Joseph (at Pharaoh’s command) for grain... NOTE: what a witness! God brought the people

from all over the earth to the source of His truth and blessing (parallel animals coming to the ark...)

Ch. 42:

Jacob opens the chapter by scolding his sons (seems a bit harsh & hard hearted) for their inability to resolve the famine's affects... then he sends them to Egypt to get some grain...

BUT, he holds back Benjamin, stating he is fearing Ben might get hurt...

1. Is this a continuation of Jacob's favoritism...
2. Remember, Ben was the only other brother from Rachel (source of favoritism)

Joseph recognizes his brothers when they come to him (bowing – fulfilling Joseph's dreams that they hated him over...). However, they do not recognize Joseph.

Joseph puts them through a ruse that includes accusing them of being spies... to which they respond (in biblical irony): “We are honest men...” Imagine them saying that to Joseph...

***** Don't miss the parallel to us telling Jesus “we're good enough,” “good people”**

Joseph's good heart shines thru... At one point Joseph hears the brothers admitting their sinful treatment of him and **he begins to weep privately**. Then Joseph sends the brothers home to Jacob/Israel with food... without charging them for the food (grace) and keeps one brother (Simeon) under lock and key, so as to get Benjamin to come to him (out of love)...

Ch. 43:

Jacob sends sons back to Egypt... not for Simeon (which would be love), but for sustenance (which is self-preservation).

Sons refuse to go (defiant disobedience) unless Jacob agrees to send Benjamin too; out of fear due to Joseph's final instructions to bring Ben back, “to prove you are not spies”

Jacob sends the sons (Ben too)... but once again (like when coming back to Esau), he sends all kinds of “stuff” as hopeful, manipulative, gifts... THEN, after packing up all the goodies, Jacob says: “may God Almighty grant you compassion in the sight of the man”

When Joseph sees Benjamin he is moved to tears.

Joseph seats his brothers in birth order and then give Ben 5X the food portion of his brothers

Ch. 44:

Joseph sends all the brothers home, but first plants his “silver cup” in Benjamin's bag... He also instructs his servants to put all the brother's money back in their bags as well (again – just like on their first trip... showing loving generosity).

Note uncomfortable use of the word “divination” associated with Joseph... While we cannot say with utter certainty, it appears that such statements are part of Joseph's muse and ruse with his brothers... leading them to think that he has “mind blowing” powers... (see v.15)

It appears that Joseph did all this to keep only Benjamin with him...the “penalty” for the “crime”

Judah gives long and selfless speech asking that he take Benjamin's place out of love for Jacob... NOTE: transformation (unseen and not accounted for in the text) has obviously taken place in Judah (Amen!)... Key point given unfolding story ahead...

Don't miss the change in Judah from when he didn't care about Joseph's or Jacob's well being...

Ch. 45:

Joseph cannot contain himself any more... he tells all his servants to leave him and his brothers alone... He tells his brothers who he is and says:

1. Is my dad still alive???
2. **Don't be burdened with anger/guilt over what you did to me... God had a plan!**
3. **"God sent me before you to preserve life" (v.5)**

Pharaoh so appreciates Joseph that he is thrilled to hear of Joseph's joy that he gets involved and **sends the brothers back with a near royal caravan** and the promise to give Jacob and his family the very best land and possessions Egypt has to offer when they come back...

Telling observation... **note Joseph's last words** to his brothers as they are pulling out of Egypt (with all the promises and potential just given them)... **"Do not quarrel on the journey."**

Leads on to think Joseph either saw something or just knew how they could be...

Jacob's/Israel's response is one of shock, disbelief, and love... **"It is enough; my son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die." (v.28)** It appears that Jacob had come to realize (at least in this microcosm, that the "stuff" of life cannot compare to the joy of oneness and restoration with those you love).

Ch. 46:

Jacob packs up everyone and everything in Pharaoh's generous caravan...

After worshipping, God speaks to Jacob in his "visions of the night"/dreams) and said:

1. **I am God, the God of your father;**
2. **Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt,**
3. **For I will make you a great nation there (note the connect: promise/place)**
4. **I will go down with you to Egypt,**
5. **And I will surely bring you up again (foretelling promise of Moses' calling)**
6. **And Joseph will close your eyes (you will die in your beloved son's care)**

The Hebrew people later delivered out of bondage began here, with Jacob's 70... (v.27)

Goshen is a much larger part of the story than meets the eye... see notes on 46:34

Ch. 47:

The storyline in ch.47 is direct and straight-forward... the famine comes, gets worse and worse, and the Egyptian people systematically sell off everything they have, including their land, and ultimately themselves, to Pharaoh (through Joseph) .

Israel and the Israelites thrive in Goshen and grew to become "very numerous"

Israel/Jacob lived in Goshen 17 years but asked Joseph to promise to bury him with his fathers

Israel worshipped God after getting Joseph's promise to bury him with his fathers...

Ch. 48

Here we are given a glimpse into **Israel's closing moments & bedside chat with Joseph**

Israel blesses Joseph's two sons BUT, once again, we see the blessing going to the younger...

1. Note the pattern...
 - a. Isaac after Ishmael
 - b. Jacob after Esau
 - c. Joseph (more loved) than his older brothers
 - d. Now Ephraim rather than Manasseh (Joseph's first born)
2. Israel directs God's blessing thru Ephraim... God's promise thru the younger again

Joseph is angered by what he thinks is a very inappropriate mistake... but Israel is very clear in that he knows what he is doing... He speaks authoritatively on behalf of God's plan...

Manasseh is "also going to be great, but Ephraim will be greater..." & "Ephraim's descendants will become a multitude of nations"

"Then Israel said to Joseph, I am about to die, but God will be with you..." the promised blessing

Ch. 49:

This chapter is the prophecy of Jacob/Israel on his death bed... He tells the prophetic outlook on each of the "12 Tribes of Israel" – after which he literally takes his last breath

Jacob/Israel makes it clear that he wants to be buried with Abraham & Isaac... back home...

Each of the sons receives their own prophetic talking to...

Key observations:

1. Reuben is rebuked and his birthright as oldest is taken away because he slept with one of his father's wives/concubines... dishonoring himself & the family
2. Simeon & Levi (next in the birth order line) were also rebuked for their anger and viciousness toward the Shechemites (people of Dinah's rapist)
 - a. Levites are told they will be scattered...
 - b. Thus Levites are not a geographical tribe... they become the priestly tribe and are spread throughout all the other tribes
 - c. If you ever wondered why the Levites are "different" – this is the answer.
3. **JUDAH:**
 - a. **The tribe of Judah will be victorious & successful in war**
 - b. **This tribe will be superior to the rest.... In size and power over others**
 - c. **Judah would be "leader tribe" both here & later (Judges 1:2)**
 - d. **JUDAH GETS THE BIRTHRIGHT PROMISE... THE PROMISE!**
 - d.i. **God's promise rests and raises through the Tribe of Judah**
 - d.i.1. **David brings the promised royalty back to/thru this tribe**
 - d.i.1.a. **"the scepter shall not depart from Judah..."**
 - d.i.2. **Jesus is of this tribe...**
 - d.i.2.a. **Revelation 5:5 confirms Jesus as:**
 - d.i.2.b. **"The Lion of the Tribe of Judah"**

- d.i.2.c. **Jacob calls them a “Lion’s roar”**
 - d.i.2.c.i. **They are strong & courageous!**
 - d.i.2.c.ii. **They are qualified for command & conquest!**
 - d.i.2.c.iii. **They are great leaders, appropriate with their strength, not bullies...**
- d.ii. **Consequently, with the blessing shared amongst the brothers, the rest of the tribes acknowledge Judah’s role...**
 - d.ii.1. **Judah’s tribe wears the promise well...**
 - d.ii.2. **Others are content with following them...**
 - d.ii.3. **They will be very fruitful in temporal needs....**
- d.iii. **CRITICAL POINT: SEE THE “TYPE” OF JESUS in Jacob’s prophecy...**
 - d.iii.1. **Jesus is the Ruler of ALL His Father’s children**
 - d.iii.2. **Jesus is the conqueror of ALL His Father’s enemies**
 - d.iii.3. **Jesus is the praise of ALL the saints**
 - d.iii.4. **Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5)**
 - d.iii.5. **Jesus is the One sitting at the right hand of the Father**
 - d.iii.6. **Jesus holds the scepter of eternal royalty**
 - d.iii.7. **Jesus is the lawgiver**
 - d.iii.8. **Jesus is the One to whom all peoples will come & gather**
 - d.iii.9. **Jesus is the One who will draw all men unto Himself**
 - d.iii.10. **Jesus is the One who unifies true brothers & sisters**
 - d.iii.11. **Jesus is our gifted nourishment, our bounty! (Isaiah 55:1)**

Genesis 49 is like the family photo album, coupled with the hospital’s birth certificates and the family will all rolled together...

Genesis 49 sets the stage and explains the behind-the-scenes dynamics for what will be unfolding up to the birth of Christ, the coming of THE Messiah!

Jacob’s/Israel’s modest prophetic utterances regarding Joseph & Benjamin support the fact that Jacob was speaking for God... for had he had his own way, clearly he would have passed the blessing down thru Joseph... or Benjamin as a second choice.

Last words of chapter 49... “When Jacob finished charging his sons, he... breathed his last...”

Ch. 50:

Joseph asks for Pharaoh’s permission to bury Jacob where/how he had asked... Pharaoh not only agrees but empowers another royal-like precession all the way back to the grave/cave... Joseph’s brothers fear that with dad gone, Joseph may lose his forgiving heart and turn on them **so they (brothers) lie to Joseph** & tell him their father had also asked that Joseph promise not to avenge his mistreatment by the brothers (a lie)... but Joseph’s good heart shines through again and he consoles them all and promises to take good care of them & their families...

v.20 = “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...”

Key promise: (from Joseph but really from God) “I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” (v.24)

Interesting close to Joseph's story... he died in Egypt and was left in Egypt (not with his fathers), until Joshua brings his remains back in the future...

Teaching Verses:

- 30:1-2 = Rachel's jealous heart and Jacob's hard heart...
- 30:30-21 = Rachel & Leah repeat Sarah's sin... Joseph's brothers born under that cloud...
- 30:21 = Dinah (daughter) mentioned in prep for tragedy in ch.34...
- 30:27 = Laban says he has "divined" that God blessed him thru Jacob...**
 - 1. **Read Deut. 18:9-12... Laban was practicing forbidden rituals...**
 - 2. **Apply Deut. 18:9-12 to our day!**
 - 3. **NOTE: this verse doesn't jump out as a "bad" thing... but it is!**
- 31:3 = God speaks to Jacob (the unlovely) & says "Go home... I will be with you"
- 31:24 = "God came to Laban... do not speak to (sway) Jacob with good or bad"
- 31:35 = Rachel lies directly to her dad... claims to have her menstrual cycle to hide idols
- 31:36-42 = Jacob's outburst on Laban turns the lights on and puts Laban in his place
- 31:43-55 = Mizpah Covenant is agreement not to cross a geographic line to harm the other...
- 32:6-7 = Jacob is "greatly afraid" of Esau coming with 400 men (vs. David with Goliath)
- 32:9-12 = Great prayer! Should be our prayer too. Key is that it be our heart's desire!**
- 32:20 = Are the animals "gifts" or "bribes" or "blood money?" Answer told from heart!
- 32:24-32 = Jacob wrestles with God... changes his name & his life! (Hosea 12:3-4)**
- 33:1-2 = Unhealthy priorities and playing favorites can lead to long-term consequences!
- 33:4-11 = Incredible work of God! Look at the beautiful expression of forgiveness & love.
- 33:12-17 = Very odd twist... after all that, Jacob does not do as he said and follow Esau
- 33:18 = Jacob returns "safely" to the land of his fathers... God fulfills His promise! Again.
- 33:20 = Jacob identifies himself & his land as worshippers of: "God, the God of Israel"
- 34:9-12 = Inter-marriage with locals is offered/suggested by local rapist of Dinah...
- 34:13 = "...Jacob's sons answered Shechem & his father Hamor with deceit, because..."
- 35:1 = God speaks to Jacob again...

- 35:2-4 = Jacob's household had "foreign gods" within...
- 35:5 = God put a "great terror" upon the cities around them = God protects Jacob again!
- 35:9 = "God appeared to Jacob again... and said... you shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name."
- 35:12 = God directly restates His covenant to/thru Jacob
- 36:2 = Esau is shown to have intermarried with the daughters (plural) of Canaan
- 37:2-4 = Joseph snitches on brothers, Jacob loves him most, brothers know & hate Joe...
- 37:5 = Joseph has/shares a dream that makes his brothers hate him even more...
- 37:18 = Joseph's brothers "plotted against him to put him to death" (Jacob's heritage)
- 38:7 = God killed Er (Judah's son) because the Lord found him to be evil...
- 38:24 = When Judah hears that Tamar is pregnant thru harlotry he says: "burn her!" Once again we see the stain and pain of Jacob's past living out in his future bloodline... Don't miss the incredible hypocrisy!
- 39:2 = "The Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man." God's hand is on Joe!
- 39:3 = "Now his master saw that the Lord was with him..." – God's hand should be seen!
- 39:9 = The adulterous wife is persistent... but Joseph is more persistent in rebuffing her
- 39:21 = God again is with Joseph... through it all, giving Joseph favor with the head jailer
- 39:23 = The jailer gave Joseph supervisory/leadership privileges over all the prisoners... Note the repeated rise of Joseph in leadership roles... but even more importantly, give God the credit... "the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made to prosper"
- 40:14-15 = Joseph simply asks for kindness and support after being God's instrument of help, while reinforcing the injustices that have been done to him.
- 40:16-19 = The imprisoned "baker" heard the cupbearer's interpretation and asked Joseph to do the same for him... Unfortunately for the baker, his truth/interpretation was one of wrath... NOTICE: many people say they want the truth until they get it.
- 41:16 = Joseph tells Pharaoh: "It is not me; God will answer"
1. "I can't... but God can."
 2. "I won't... (because I can't)... but God will... (for His blessing is on me)"
- 41:32 = Joseph tells Pharaoh (and us) that God repeated the dream (repetition) to emphasize His point...
1. I AM going to do this...
 2. I am going to do it SOON!

3. Don't miss the heart of A LOVING GOD WARNS REPEATEDLY

- 41:55-57 = Notice how God orchestrates the entire country & then the entire world of people coming to Joseph, who was quick to give God the glory and thereby point people to salvation... Again, God's mercy & grace is embedded in the unfolding reality; even in (or especially through) the difficulties of life (don't miss the chain of unjust events... brothers sell, Potiphar's wife lies, inmates forget) ALL a part of God's perfect plan for imperfect people!
- 42:18 Joseph emphatically says: "...for I fear God" - the missing link for many
1. Without reverent fear there is no wisdom...
 2. Without wisdom there is no want-to for worship...
 3. Without genuine worship there is no love for the Lord...
 4. Without love for the Lord there is no faithful obedience...
 5. Without faithful obedience there is no hope
 6. Without hope (Jesus/God/Messiah) there is hell.
- 42:21 = Joseph's brothers admit to themselves that they have sinned and this distress is God's consequences for their previous actions....
- 42:38 = Jacob again shows his favoritism... He is willing to sacrifice Simeon (who is promised to be returned if Benjamin is brought to Egypt/Joseph).
1. Jacob will accept a guaranteed loss of Simeon...
 2. Rather than even risk Benjamin...
 3. Which could bring both back safe and sound.
 4. Quote: "My son shall not go down with you; for his brother (Joseph) is dead, and he alone is left..."
 - a. Benjamin is the last of Rachel's children in Jacob's eyes
 - b. But Jacob has 10 other sons (who no doubt feel "second class")
 - c. When Jacob says: "he alone is left," coupled with leaving Simeon
 - c.i. The handwriting remains on the wall...
 - c.ii. Don't miss Jacob's role in his son's sins against Joseph!
- 43:23 = The brothers think Joseph is going to enslave them due to the money issue from their first trip... Joseph's servant assures them that God protected and took care of them... a point proven by the fact that the servant tells them: "I had your money" (which implies: "I gave it back to you")... another demo of peculiar grace
- "Be at ease, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money"
- 43:33-34 = Joseph has them seated in birth order which blows their minds... Then Joseph gives Benjamin (the youngest) 5X the portion of food his brother got... clearly showing a special treatment/feeling for Benjamin... again, blowing the brother's minds.... Don't miss the use of tension in the story.
- 45:7 = **"God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance."**
- 45:8 = **"Therefore, it was not you who sent me here but God..."**
- 45:9-13 = Joseph tells his brothers to go get our father and our entire clan... all your families and all your possessions and "come to Egypt"

1. Note the seemingly good intentions on the part of Joseph...
2. However, also note that Joseph is only speaking of temporal blessings

*** v. 10 = “You shall live in the land of Goshen...” (NOT God speaking!)

- God said Canaan....
- Joseph said Goshen...
- Do difficult circumstances trump God’s way???

***v.11 = “There I (Joseph) will also provide for you...”

- God said He would provide...
- Joseph said he would provide...
- Does what we “see” trump God’s invisible promises???

45:28 = “Then Israel said, ‘It is enough; my son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.’” (v.28)

46:2-4 = After worshipping, God speaks to Jacob in his “visions of the night” and said:

1. I am God, the God of your father;
2. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt,
3. For I will make you a great nation there (note the connect: promise/place)
4. I will go down with you to Egypt,
5. And I will surely bring you up again (foretelling promise of Moses’ calling)
6. And Joseph will close your eyes (you will die in your beloved son’s care)

46:27 = The Hebrew people/Jewish nation/those rescued by God thru Moses... all began here... The millions that would be delivered began with “all the persons of the house of Jacob, who came to Egypt, were 70.”

*** Jacob’s 70... *a.k.a. Israel’s 70*... in Egypt become the “**1st Israelites**”

46:30 = Jacob sees Joseph, they cry in each other’s arms for a long time... the Jacob declares to Joseph: “Now let me die, since I have seen that you are still alive.”

- What a loving and passionate moment... FEEL that exchange...
- Jacob is saying: “Life CAN’T get any better than this... take me now”

46:34 = This verse explains so much... via context...

1. God/Joseph sets up the Israelites in Goshen
 - a. Goshen is also known as the “grassy country”/perfect for shepherds
 - b. Shepherds are detestable to Egyptians (who worship animals)
 - c. This combo allows the Israelites to “be” and keep their religion...
 - d. Goshen is also recognized as the “best” of Egypt’s land... God is good!
2. God ordained the Egyptian experience (all of it) to prepare & equip His people to be large enough and strong enough to take and keep the Promised Land...
3. Without this extended cocoon-experience (even the slavery time), the pattern was proving to be one where the “people of God” would have been absorbed into and totally diluted by inter-marrying and cultural syncretism...

48:11 = Israel/Jacob sees God overflowing grace in meeting his grandsons.... Do we see God’s overflowing grace in the little things of life?

48:21 = The promise of God, the blessing, is transferred from Jacob to Joseph...

49:8-12 = Jacob prophesizes that Judah will be the tribe of THE promise.... Judah's 3 older brothers have been disqualified due to their disgraceful choices/behavior... AND Judah's 2 infamous younger brothers (Joseph & Benjamin) were simply not God's chosen one (Election)... Consequently, while all bets would have been on the oldest one(s) (due to culture & custom), or the youngest one(s) due to a clear pattern of blatant favoritism, neither was the plan of God...

1. Oh how often it is that God's plan is the least expected!
2. Once again God chooses to do the extraordinary thru His blessed "ordinary"

4. JUDAH:

- a. **The tribe of Judah will be victorious & successful in war**
- b. **This tribe will be superior to the rest.... In size and power over others**
- c. **Judah would be "leader tribe" both here & later (Judges 1:2)**
- d. **JUDAH GETS THE BIRTHRIGHT PROMISE... THE PROMISE!**
 - d.i. **God's promise rests and raises through the Tribe of Judah**
 - d.i.1. **David brings the promised royalty back to/thru this tribe**
 - d.i.1.a. **"the scepter shall not depart from Judah..."**
 - d.i.2. **Jesus is of this tribe...**
 - d.i.2.a. **Revelation 5:5 confirms Jesus as:**
 - d.i.2.b. **"The Lion of the Tribe of Judah"**
 - d.i.2.c. **Jacob calls them a "Lion's roar"**
 - d.i.2.c.i. **They are strong & courageous!**
 - d.i.2.c.ii. **They are qualified for command & conquest!**
 - d.i.2.c.iii. **They are great leaders, appropriate with their strength, not bullies...**
 - d.ii. **Consequently, with the blessing shared amongst the brothers, the rest of the tribes acknowledge Judah's role...**
 - d.ii.1. **Judah's tribe wears the promise well...**
 - d.ii.2. **Others are content with following them...**
 - d.ii.3. **They will be very fruitful in temporal needs....**
 - d.iii. **CRITICAL POINT: SEE THE "TYPE" OF JESUS in Jacob's prophecy...**
 - d.iii.1. **Jesus is the Ruler of ALL His Father's children**
 - d.iii.2. **Jesus is the conqueror of ALL His Father's enemies**
 - d.iii.3. **Jesus is the praise of ALL the saints**
 - d.iii.4. **Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5)**
 - d.iii.5. **Jesus is the One sitting at the right hand of the Father**
 - d.iii.6. **Jesus holds the scepter of eternal royalty**
 - d.iii.7. **Jesus is the lawgiver**
 - d.iii.8. **Jesus is the One to whom all peoples will come & gather**
 - d.iii.9. **Jesus is the One who will draw all men unto Himself**
 - d.iii.10. **Jesus is the One who unifies true brothers & sisters**
 - d.iii.11. **Jesus is our gifted nourishment, our bounty! (Isaiah 55:1)**

49:10 = Judah will hold the scepter "until Shiloh comes"

1. LINK Genesis 49:10 with Genesis 3:15
 - a. Add more confirming clarity to 3:15
 - b. Now we know where "HE" will be coming from!
 - c. Jacob/Israel foretells of Jesus' coming – Amen!
2. "Shiloh" is here used to denote the Messiah

3. Judah was David's tribe (he brought royalty back to the tribe)
4. Judah was in Jesus' lineage as well... the ultimate fulfillment!

50:20 = **“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...”**

50:24-26 = **Key promise: (from Joseph but really from God) “I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” (v.24)**

Interesting close to Joseph's story... he died in Egypt and was left in Egypt (not with his fathers)

Personal Verses:

30:22-23 = God's grace to Rachel: “God took away my reproach” & “God...opened her womb.”

33:4 = God can heal and restore what we & the world think is beyond repair – Amen!

33:4-11 = one of the most beautiful pictures of God's healing beauty!

38:7 = God killed Er... he “was evil in the sight of the Lord, so He took his life.”

42:22 = Reuben (said to his brothers once God's consequences appear to be coming): Did I not tell you, ‘Do not sin against (Joseph); and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood.’

1. I can't help but picture Judgment Day in this exchange
2. I am also sensitive to the hypocrisy in Reuben... watch out!
3. We need to walk & witness with a humble, loving, truthful witness

Genesis = “beginnings”

Pentateuch (first 5 books/a.k.a. “The Law”)

- | | | | |
|----|-------------|---|------------|
| 1. | Genesis | = | Beginnings |
| 2. | Exodus | = | Salvation |
| 3. | Leviticus | = | Holiness |
| 4. | Numbers | = | Wandering |
| 5. | Deuteronomy | = | Renewal |

- a. Abraham – the Father of the Promise
- b. Isaac - the Son of the Promise
- c. Jacob/Israel – the Nation of the Promise
- d. Esau – Bi-line to the Promise
- e. Joseph – The Preserver of the Promise