

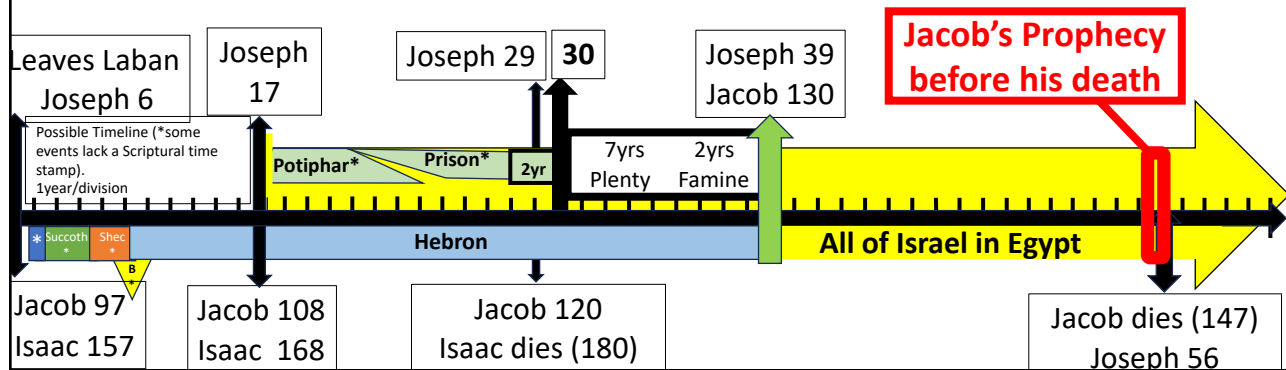
Parashah 44 (B'resheet 48:1-49:27; Isa 43:1-7; John 16:25-33)
Jacob's Prophecy

Summary by Claudio Ramos

Belt Hallel Congregation - Parashah 41 CR notes

Jacob Blesses His Sons & Gives Prophetic Words

- Eesh Tam-blameless man, now old and ill, remembers God's blessing
- Jacob adopts Joseph's sons and blesses them, then his other sons
- We'll look at Jacob's blessing and see how God has continued to remember His people while His Plan of Redemption Unfolds



1

The Last Day of Jacob's Life

Belt Hallel Congregation - Parashah 41 CR notes

- Chapters 48 & 49 indicate that this was Jacob's last day
 - Ch 47: The last Parashah concludes with "when the time for Israel to die drew near, he called his son Joseph and said to him ... Please do not bury me in Egypt..."
 - Ch 48: Today's Parashah starts with "... after these things ...father is sick."
 - Then Joseph arrives with his 2 sons to see his ill father
 - Jacob seems to struggle to get up from his bed to welcome Joseph
 - v2 "...Israel collected his strength and sat up in bed"
 - Jacob blesses Joseph and his 2 sons
 - V21 Jacob says "... I am about to die ..."
 - Ch 49: Jacob summoned his sons
 - After Jacob's prophecy of his sons, he states "I am about to be gathered to my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave"
 - 49:33 "When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people."
- From the blessing of Joseph / Ephraim / Menasheh through the prophecy of all of Jacob's sons, Jacob starts by struggling to get out of bed and then returning to bed and dying. The out-and-in of bed seems to be 'book-end'.

2

Jacob Remembers God's Promise

Belt Hallel Congregation – Parashah 41 CR notes

- Today's Parashah starts with "... after these things ...father is sick."
 - Joseph arrives – Israel collected his strength and sat up
 - El Shaddai appeared to me at Luz with the Promise *Gen 28:13-15, 35:9-12
(Luz is the previous name of this place, but Jacob renamed as 'House of God' Gen 28:17-19. Bethel seems to be the southward side of Luz Josh 18:13. The name Luz is still used in the time of Judges 1:26)
 - Many Descendants – The Land – Company of Peoples
 - Jacob remembers Gods words from * Gen 46:4 and restates to Joseph
 - 48:21 "... Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you, and bring you back to the land of your fathers."
 - Company of Peoples 48:4 & Company of Nations 35:11
- קְהַל עַמִּים קְהַל גּוֹיִם
- Note: K'hal is primarily replaced by Synagogue or Ekklesia in the LXX.
- The fulfillment – All Nations of the Earth will be Blessed in your Seed
 - * To Abraham 22:18; To Isaac 26:4; To Jacob 28:14

All Followers of Messiah are Graphed / Adopted into the Believing Remnant

3

Jacob Adopts and Blesses Joseph's sons

Belt Hallel Congregation – Parashah 41 CR notes

- v5 "Now your 2 sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine...as Reuben & Simeon are"
 - Jacob is in Egypt 17 years, Joseph is married 26 years (17+7+2)
 - 41:50 "now before the year of famine came, 2 sons were born"
 - Joseph's children can be as old as 25 & 24 or as young as 20 & 19
(1st born: 25 = 17+6+2 for oldest age. 2nd born: 19 = 17+2 for youngest age)
- Jacob first acknowledges God before giving the blessing
 - The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked
 - The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day
 - The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil
- Jacob purposely places Ephraim before Menasheh
 - Again the 2nd born receives the expected 1st born's blessing
 - Not by natural descent but by God's Sovereign Election

4

“That I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come.”

(Due to time constraints, I'll focus on Judah. See Tim's commentary for a fuller assessment)

Belt Hallel Congregation – Parashah 41 CR notes

The blessing of Judah carries the theme of Genesis to its prophetic conclusion. From the beginning of the narrative, the promise of the woman's seed has lingered in the minds of the readers. Who would this one be? As the story unfolds, it appears that perhaps Joseph is the fulfillment of God's promise. He emerges as the savior, not only of his own family, but also of the entire world of his day. He is highly blessed of God and his character is impeccable. Yet the surprise comes when we realize that it is from Judah that the promised one would come. Once again, God's sovereign election is at work. He has chosen Judah to be the family from whom the Promised Redeemer and King would descend. The blessing of Judah (49:8-12) has long been considered a messianic prophecy. Targum Onkelos translates v. 10 this way: “The ruler shall never depart from the House of Judah, nor the scribe [or teacher] from his children's children for evermore, until Messiah comes, whose is the kingdom, and him shall the nations obey.” The other Targums follow the same pattern, specifically including the mention of Messiah as the import of this blessing. It is no wonder, then, that throughout the rabbinic literature, the blessing of Judah is interpreted as ultimately fulfilled in Messiah. Moreover, even the Qumran society understood this passage messianically (cf. 4Q252), interpreting “Shilo” as the “Righteous Messiah.”

Tim Hegg, Commentary on Parashah 44

5

Jacob's Prophecy on Judah continued

Belt Hallel Congregation – Parashah 41 CR notes

Thus, from ancient times, this blessing was interpreted as the divine edict by which the legitimate kings of God's chosen nation would always be from the tribe of Judah, and from the family of David in particular, and would culminate in the final and ultimate King, even the Messiah.

The Messianic interpretation of Judah's blessing hinges on the meaning of “Shilo” in v. 10: “until Shilo comes.” ... 3. The word Shilo is a personal name derived from the verb, shalah, “to rest” (cp. Ps 122.6). Thus, the most consistent interpretation is that the blessing is a prophecy of One who would be characterized by a name based upon the idea of “rest.” Shilo is the One who brings rest. This is how the ancient Sages of Israel understood the word. And indeed, the Messiah comes to bring rest, not only rest from Israel's enemies, but eternal rest for all who find refuge in Him. Moreover, the fact that His appearance brings about the “obedience of the peoples” is certainly an early prophecy of the manner in which Messiah would fulfill the promise of the Abrahamic covenant, that all of the peoples would be blessed by Abraham's seed. Paul makes it clear that in one sense, the singular Seed of Abraham is the Messiah, Yeshua (Gal 3:16). Here, then, at the conclusion of the Genesis narrative, the long awaited seed of the woman (Gen 3:15) is revealed: the coming Redeemer would be from the tribe of Judah, and would bring the promised rest, conquering the enemy of our souls, and bringing us into the shalom of His family.

Tim Hegg, Commentary on Parashah 44

6

Prophecies & Warnings & Discipline & The Promise

Belt Hallel Congregation – Parashah 41 CR notes

- **Jacob prophesied that Messiah will come from the Tribe of Judah**
 - Seed of a woman, Abraham's Descendant, Judah's Descendant
 - Moses prophesies of the coming servant in * Deut 18:15, 18-19
- **Moses warns Israel: because you did not obey HaShem, you will be scattered from one end of the earth to the other * Deut 28:62,64**
- **Israel has been scattered, exiled, persecuted and scattered again**
 - The last major scattering was during the destruction of the Temple 70AD
- **Moses also says HaShem will restore Israel if they Shema * Deut 30**
- **"Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west." * Isa 43:5**
 - Since 70AD, almost 2000 years later, believers of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob have been regathered to the Land

Who is in Control? We know Who!

7

God's Plan of Redemption is Unfolding

Belt Hallel Congregation – Parashah 41 CR notes

- **Jacob remembers and clings to God's Promise**
- **Jacob adopted Joseph's sons who were half Egyptian**
- **Jacob prophesized that the Messiah will come from Judah's tribe**
- **The Promise given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is that Through Messiah all the Nations of the Earth will be Blessed**
- **God's Gift of Faith in Messiah is the means for adoption of all Nations**
- **Many of the God of Abraham have returned to the Promised Land**
 - God is Gathering His People as we watchfully wait for our Messiah
 - Until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in * Rom 11:25
 - God is in control with Purpose – * Eph 1:4-14

Yeshua responded to them, "Do you now believe? ³³ I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world." John 16:31, 33

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