

Introduction

Genesis is the beginning history and reveals God's plan for redemption (cf. 3:15; also 1 Pet.1:18-19) by Him:

- Establishing a people (Israel) to be a (12:1-2)
- Blessing to all the people of the earth (12:3)
- Bringing a promised Redeemer (15:5-6; 17:19-20).

Major Theme

God desires relationship with us and, due to man's sin, chooses a nation through whom He will bring a future Redeemer for mankind.

Overview

Genesis is the book of beginnings

Relationship Established (beginning of creation - 1:1-2:3)

- Six Days of Creation
- Seventh Day for Rest

Relationship Broken (beginning of mankind - 2:4-11:32)

- Original sin (Adam & Eve; foreshadowing of blood sacrifice – 3:21)
- Inherited sin (Seth – cf. 5:3)
- Line of salvation established (Seth – cf. Lk 3:38)
- Picture of salvation (Noah)
- Reminder of man's sinful pride and rebellion and need for salvation

(Tower of Babel)

Redemption Plan Revealed (beginning of Israel - 12:1-50:26)

- His person (Abraham)
- His plan (Isaac)
- His people (Jacob)
- His protector (Joseph)

Creation &
Corruption

People &
Patriarchs

Sermon Plan

PART 1 – CREATION AND CORRUPTION (relationship established and broken) **CHAPTERS 1-11:26**

GENESIS 1:1- In The Beginning God

Big Picture

Before there was, God is. Before creation, God existed.

(He is outside of time and has never not been. God alone is eternal vs. immortal: all other beings have a point of being created and henceforth will forever exist; i.e., angels, humans.)

Main Points Of Application

- Nothing (nor anyone) in life compares with God
- Nothing (nor anyone) in is greater than God
- The above two points make Him alone worthy of worship
- Because of His self-existence, God has authority over all things

GENESIS 1:1-2 – In The Beginning God Created

Big Picture

God created something from nothing and sustains all things.

(This is the beginning of history (and the of time itself). From this point on history becomes linear.)

Main Points Of Application

- Your life (and *all* life) began through Him
- Your life (and *all* life) only makes sense with Him
- Your life (and *all* life) is sustained by Him
- Your life (and *all* life) is for Him

GENESIS 1:3-23 – The First Five Days Of Creation

Big Picture

The text reveals God's accomplishment of His will through His Word.

(This passage is about Divine activity to prepare creation for habitation by mankind.)

Main Points Of Application

- Like all of creation, the purposes of God for our lives are accomplished through His Word
- The Word of God, who was the agent of all creation (John 1:2), came and dwelt among us (John 1:14), and all who believe in Him have the right to become His children (John 1:12), and grow into His likeness.
- We have the opportunity to make the Lord of creation the Lord of our lives.

GENESIS 1:24-27 – God Created Mankind In His Image

Big Picture

Mankind is the crown jewel/pinnacle of creation

(The triune God puts creatures on land and creates man in His image. Man is the only aspect of creation to be so designated).

Main Points Of Application

- Human beings have inherent dignity (IOG). Everyone, regardless of race, status, beliefs, and gender, and sin's stain, needs to be viewed/treated accordingly
- We are something like God (emotion, will, intellect volition, personality), but He is nothing like us
- We are created with purpose (v. 26 – to rule over creation); later vs. 28 – to reproduce

GENESIS 1:28-31 – In The Responsibility of Mankind: Do What God Puts Before Us

Big Picture

Man is created on purpose and has purpose.

(God completes creation by blessing mankind - male and female - with abundance creation is for mankind's subsistence and by giving him the tasks to reproduce – sex - and to rule over creation – stewardship - man and woman as co-regents).

Main Points Of Application

- Work is good and is from God.
- Men and women are equal before God
- Men and women have co/shared responsibility to steward
- We still have the same purposes to procreate and care for creation.
- God made earth to sustain life, and he will continue to have the earth do so (v. 29).

GENESIS 2:1-3 – The Model of Rest/Worship

Big Picture

God rested and provides the basis for Sabbath rest.

(God intentionally stops creating, after accomplishing His intended purposes, and makes Day 7 a holy day of rest, thus creating a cycle of six days of work followed by 1 day of rest.)

Main Points Of Application

- We need to learn to rest upon completing our work.
- We need to have a specific day of rest.
- Later in Scripture God commands a day rest, and this passage in Genesis is the basis for that command (cf. Ex. 20:3-10).
- Learn to be still and recognize God; take time to worship.

GENESIS 2:8-17 – The Garden of Eden

Big Picture

God provides for mankind and knows what is best for us – which is to obey Him.

(God provides the perfect setting for mankind to live and the prohibition not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil lest he die.)

Main Points Of Application

- God provides what we need to live and enjoy Him
- Mankind is given a choice of obey or not obey God.
- Life comes from following God's will; death comes from disobedience to it.
- Blessing comes from being in God's presence, and some day we will be fully with Him again.

GENESIS 2:18-25 – The Beauty of Marriage: The Gift Of A Completer

Big Picture

God made people to be in relationship and not to be alone.

(God creates woman to complete man and establishes the oneness of the marriage relationship and the means by which mankind will fulfill the command to multiply and fill the earth - cf. 1:28).

Main Points Of Application

- It is not good for anyone to be alone; we are made for relationship
- Marriage is the union of a man and woman becoming one.
- Women and men are of equal value in God's sight (cf. also 1:28).
- Christ is our ultimate completer.
- There is no shame when we are in God's perfect will.

GENESIS 3 – The Destructive Power of Sin: Deception, Guilt, Blame, Provision...The Institution Of Forgiveness

Big Picture

God initiates a blood offering as the means by which he covers sin and maintains relationship with Adam and Eve.

(Adam and Eve disobey God's command by yielding to temptation, and as a result they and all of creation incur the consequences - death, relational strife, cursing - but God covers their sin and removes them from the garden to make possible man's ultimate, future redemption.)

Main Points Of Application

- Sin is enticing.

- Sin has devastating consequences (spiritual death, increased pain, marital discord, environmental issues, etc.).
- God initiates forgiveness of sins by slaying an innocent animal.
- God forgives sins (and offers the ultimate, future cure – 3:15)
- God protects us from the folly of our own decisions (tree; leave garden)

GENESIS 4 – Cain and Abel

Big Picture

God's shows grace in the midst of Cain's sin and establishes a line for the coming Redeemer.

(With the first murder recorded in Scripture, we see the ugliness and consequences of sin and yet the grace of God as He provides protection for Cain and a provision for a future godly line through Seth.)

Main Points Of Application

- All new life comes from the Lord (4:1).
- Worship is a gift to the Lord, and there are acceptable and unacceptable forms of worship.
- Sin brings consequences.
- God extends grace to sinners.
- The advances of culture bring convenience (4:17-22), but a spiritual imprint leaves a legacy (4:25-26)

GENESIS 6 – The Flood

Big Picture

God is holy and punishes wickedness and honors the righteousness/faithfulness of Noah.

(Sin and wickedness pervade every aspect of society. God not only chooses to limit the lifespan of humans due to their increased wickedness (6:3), but ultimately decides to destroy all living flesh on the earth, including mankind - except Noah and his family).

Main Points Of Application

- Sin grieves the heart of God and demands judgment.
- God desires that people live obediently.
- Live righteous and faithful lives in these unrighteous times.
- God, in His grace, has a plan to redeem mankind.

GENESIS 7-8 – Saved Through The Flood

Big Picture

God continues His plan to redeem mankind by saving Noah and his family.

(God provided protection/passage for Noah and his family through the flood and makes a covenant never again to curse the ground because of man's sin nor kill every living creature (note: rainbow and promise to never again destroy the Earth by flood is chapter 9).

Main Points Of Application

- God is faithful to His plan to redeem mankind.
- God honors obedience.
- God honors/keeps His word.
- God remembers those who trust Him (8:1)
- God will deliver us.

GENESIS 10-11 – The Division Of The Nations (Tower Of Babel)

Big Picture

God is opposed to man's sinful pride, accomplishes His plan for man to fill the earth by scattering the nations, and then works through Shem to bring about Abraham, through whom His plan of redemption will be birthed.

(These chapters highlight successive generations from the descendants of the flood, the sinful pride of man, and God's insistence that mankind obey His command to fill the Earth - 1:27; 9:1.)

Main Points Of Application

- God has the right to override my plans.
- My plans should always be in accordance with God's will.
- Partial obedience is still partial obedience.
- Don't build monuments to ourselves or seek to promote our name above God's name.
- God continues to accomplish His plan of redemption through the line of Shem.

PART 2 – PEOPLE AND PATRIARCHS (redemption plan revealed)

CHAPTERS 11:27-50

GENESIS 11-14 – God’s Call And Promise To Abraham

Big Picture

God reveals that Abraham is the person through whom He will establish a nation and future Redeemer.

(Abram, son of Terah, takes his kindred in response to a call from God to a new land where he will live in security and become a nation that will be a blessing to all the nations of the earth. After arriving in Canaan, Abram journeys to Egypt to escape famine but returns to Canaan, gives deference of first choice to Lot only to later rescue him from Sodom, whom Abram conquers and gives all credit to God for the victory and showing honor to Melchizedek as well.)

Main Points Of Application

- God has a sovereign plan, and we need to trust His leading/direction (Calling).
- Responding to God in faith means sacrificing in response to God’s mission (Calling).
- Responding to God in faith means submitting to God’s direction. (Calling).
- Trust the Lord at His word (Calling).
- When we become afraid, don’t lie to get out of trouble (Abram/Egypt).
- Sin is enticing and enslaving (Lot/Sodom).
- Give God credit for the victories (King of Sodom/Melchizedek the King of Salem).

GENESIS 15 – God’s Covenant With Abraham

Big Picture

God reaffirms His promise to Abraham of a future nation and heir, though they will first suffer in Egypt.

(Since God’s Covenant with Abram was first established in 12:1-3, Abram still does not have an heir, and in this chapter the Lord twice reaffirms His promises to Abram, although God does give Abram a prophetic dream of Israel’s future enslavement in Egypt.

Main Points Of Application

- God wants us to trust him in our fears, with our security, and for our provision.
- Belief in God makes possible what our sin made impossible (righteousness Belief in God makes possible what our sin made impossible (righteousness before God))
- God is faithful to His promises, though we may not see all or understand all the ways He brings them to fruition.

GENESIS 16:1-15 – Sarah, Abraham, Hagar, and Ishmael

Big Picture

God's plan for a promised heir cannot be thwarted by Abram and Sarai's doubts and efforts to take matters into their own hands, and even in their attempt to control matters God's grace and care shines through in his provision.

(This passage occurs immediately after the renewal of the Abrahamic Covenant and Abram and Sarai's attempt to manipulate the fulfillment of God's promise by having Abram become the husband to Hagar, who gives birth to Ishmael, *not* the promised heir. This is just one more example of doubt (cf. 12:10-20; 15:2; 17:17-18; 20:2-13; see also 18:11-15) and lack of faith from Abraham regarding God's provision for a child and protection with his wife.)

Main Points Of Application

- We become impatient and take matters into our own hands rather than listening to and waiting on the Lord.
- We tend to allow other voices to influence us into making poor choices.
- The effort to manipulate God will have long-lasting consequences.
- The Lord looks with compassion upon the oppressed and mistreated.

GENESIS 18-20 – Abraham Becomes A Man Of Prayer

Big Picture

God, while accomplishing His plan to bring Abraham an heir to be the line for a future Redeemer, is attentive to Abraham's prayers.)

(Abraham has an encounter with "three men" who predict a son for him and Sarai, who laughs with doubt but is quickly rebuked. The men then proceed to announce coming destruction on Sodom, but Abraham courageously "negotiates" with the Lord and intercedes for the innocent people in Sodom and Gomorrah. Eventually the city is destroyed, but Sodom clearly had an lasting negative impact on Lot's family, whose daughters become pregnant by him and whose children become perennial enemies of Israel (Ammonites and Moabites). As further evidence of the sinfulness of man, Abraham again lies about Sarah not being his wife and offers her this time to Abimelech who, though he did not violate Sarah, faces the consequences of his sin until Abraham prays.)

Main Points Of Application

- God's power always supports His promise (ch. 18)
- God works according to His timing and purposes (ch. 18).
- Nothing is too hard for the Lord (ch. 18).

- This passage reminds of another promised Son (Jesus Christ), whose birth would come in an unexpected way (virgin Mary) but be a blessing to the nations (ch. 18).
- Our sin is not hidden from God (ch. 18-19).
- God values the role of an intercessor (ch. 18-20).
- Our malignant culture can have harmful effects on our families (ch. 19).
- Sin can have lasting consequences (ch. 19).
- Don't let the influence of the world dictate your actions, corrupt your mind, attach your family, weaken your faith, and/or compromise your witness/testimony (ch. 18-20).
- Live a life worthy of being remembered by God (ch. 18-19)
- God desires purity in marriage – perhaps even more than we do (ch. 20).
- When there is no fear of God, it does not bother us to repeatedly sin (ch. 20).
- When there is not fear of God, it does not bother us that others suffer for our sin (ch.v20).
- We tend to rationalize our sin (ch. 20).

GENESIS 21-22 – The Birth Of A Promised Child (faith)

Big Picture

God's revealed promise to make a great nation through Abraham and Sarah becomes a reality with the birth of Isaac.

(God speaks to Abraham and reminds him that the promise would be through Isaac, but that God would also bless Ishmael because "he also is Abraham's seed." This passage also chronicles a covenant between Abraham and Abimelech over land and a dispute over a well, which is sealed by the giving and receiving of lambs.)

Main Points Of Application

- God is faithful to His word and His plan.
- God hears the cries of those who suffer.
- Seven lambs sealed the covenant between Abraham and Abimelech, but it was one spotless lamb named Jesus who forever sealed God's covenant with His people.

GENESIS 22 – The Offering Of Isaac (The Principle Of Substitutionary Atonement)

Big Picture

Abraham demonstrates obedience and faith in God and His word regarding Isaac as the promised heir (cf. Heb. 11:17-19 – even believing that God would raise Isaac from the dead).

(This passage is after the call of Abraham, the clarification that Ishmael would not be the child of promise, and the birth of Isaac. Hagar and Ishmael have departed. Abraham trusted in God's promise of an offspring before any such offspring was given. Now, the "test" is to continue to trust God despite what he doesn't see.)

Main Points Of Application

- Faith is having the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb. 11:1).
- We have no right to extract the difficulties of the Bible because they make us uncomfortable.
- It is exactly that scandalous request of Abraham that God demanded of Himself.
- Only Christ WAS the sacrificial lamb. There was no ram to sacrifice in His place
- Indeed, God will provide for Himself a sacrifice – and that sacrifice was God Himself! (John 1:29 – "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world")

GENESIS 24 – A Wife For Isaac

Big Picture

God orchestrates a wife for Isaac in order to establish a nation through whom He will eventually bless all the other nations of the earth.

(This passage takes place after the death of Sarah and at a time when Abraham is advancing in age. Abraham has secured land for his family's future and now is concerned to provide a wife for his son, Isaac, through whom the covenant would continue. Abraham calls his servant and commissions him with the task of securing a wife for Isaac. He finds the woman the Lord reveals, and the attributes of Rebekah as beautiful and a virgin as well as hard working stand out in the text. Isaac takes her as his wife.)

Main Points Of Application

- You can trust God to be faithful to His promise.
- You can trust God for your journey.
- You can trust God for your family.

GENESIS 25-27 – Conflict In Isaac's Family (Jacob And Esau)

Big Picture

God's sovereign plan to grow a nation through Isaac continues to unfold as Jacob receives the blessing, and yet in the midst of God accomplishing His plan we see people attempt to take matters into their own hands.

(In this passage, Abraham gets married again. He will have more children with Keturah. More is said of Ishmael than the sons of Keturah and his is blessed as a child of

Abraham, but not the child of promise. Then God promises Isaac that the covenant flows through him and that His presence will be with him. Finally we see the details of Rebekah and Jacob's deception to obtain the blessing. Esau marries in defiance of the wishes of his family and his wives brought grief to his family. Isaac and Rebekah's favoritism here leads to division in their family. No doubt she justified her deception as helping her son. Perhaps she recalled the Lord's promise in 25:23 that her older son would serve the younger. But, God did not need her help to fulfill His promise.)

Main Points Of Application

- How do I respond to God's blessings on others? (ch. 26)
- Am I going to listen to others or the Lord? (ch. 26)
- Do others see God's blessings on my life? (ch. 26)
- When God blesses me, do I bless Him? (ch. 26)
- The potential impact of a godly blessing on a home. (ch 27)
- The lingering consequences of sin. (ch 27)
- The folly of our best efforts to accomplish God's will on our own. (ch 27)
- God's faithfulness to His promise despite our sin. (ch 27)

GENESIS 29-30 – Jacob's Love For Rachel

Big Picture

God uses the deception, preferences and negotiations with Jacob's family to produce the 12 sons who would become the fathers of the 12 tribes of His people. These tribes will chart the history of the nation of Israel until this day.

(Jacob travels in search of a wife, meets Laban, and gets deceived regarding Leah and Rachel. Taking both women back with him, Rachel and Leah then vie for their husband's affection and Rachel competes against her to produce sons.)

Main Points Of Application

- Your sins will find you out
- The day always reveals the evils of the night
- God's forgiveness of my sin does not negate the consequences of it for my life or my family.
- God's activity in my life is never "Plan B."
- Significance in the family must never be perceived by what one can do for me
- The blessings on our family are gifts from the Lord
- Honor the Lord for His blessings on your family and to rely on Him in your needs.
- Seek God's plan for your family
- God sees those who are broken-hearted.
- Turn to God in times of need
- God loves the unloved

- What God gives is much better than what I can procure or manipulate on my own.
- The wisdom of God's plan for marriage (one man and one woman for life) is seen in the strife, competition, and manipulation that has and will continue to plague this family.

GENESIS 32-33 – Jacob Wrestles With God

Big Picture

Jacob wrestles with God and receives the name "Israel," and experiences some familial resolution and acceptance of God's plan.

(Jacob leaves Laban and is finally on his way home but must prepare to meet Esau, the brother he deceived, the reason he left home, and one of the sources of their families division. After sending his family ahead, Jacob spends the night alone, encounters a "Man" who changes his name, his posture, and his life. After his night alone wrestling with God, Jacob awakens to the same reality—Esau is coming. When they finally meet, Jacob's fears subside as he advance before his family and Esau (the brother who formally hated him) runs to meet him. Jacob realizes God's blessings and worships God and accepts God's plan for His life.)

Main Points Of Application

- Believers can be comforted by the presence of the Lord.
- Reconciliation requires initiative, effort, and risk.
- We can turn to the Lord in our fear.
- Sometimes lessons of faith come when we are alone with God.
- Sometimes lessons of faith come when we are wrestling with God.
- Sometimes lessons of faith come when we are prevailing, sometimes in defeat.
- Believers may need to take steps to initiate restoration with a brother or sister in the Lord.
- Believers need to recognize God's blessings and honor Him as the giver of every good gift.

GENESIS 37-38 – Joseph: Dysfunction In A Family

Big Picture

God places Joseph in Egypt and allows the sin of Judah with Tamar to advance His plan to protect the nation of Israel and continue to establish the lineage for a future Redeemer.

(This story is the transition from Jacob as the lead character to Joseph. Here we see more family dysfunction, the downward cycle of sin, and its consequences. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers to the Ishmaelites. We also see another picture of

deceit in Jacob's family when Judah separates from his family and marries outside the community of faith, demonstrates poor decision making, and severe character flaws.)

Main Points Of Application

- The consequences of that sin can be dramatic and linger. (ch. 37-38)
- The sin of favoritism can divide families. (ch. 37)
- Sin leads to further sin (ch. 37)
- But, God can cause our evil to bring about good (ch. 37)
- We tend to make bad decisions when we get away from the community of faith (ch. 38)
- When we are where we should not be, doing what we should not be doing, we should not be surprised when we find ourselves vulnerable to temptation. (ch. 38)
- Our character says a lot about our faith. (ch. 38)
- God cares for those who have been mistreated. (ch. 38)
- God is a God of grace and judgment (ch. 38)
- Poor choices and inopportune places often lead to increased temptations. (ch. 38)
- Even despite our sin, God can accomplish His purpose. (ch. 38.) For example, King David and eventually God's Messiah came through the line of Tamar and Judah.

GENESIS 39-41 – Joseph in Egypt

Big Picture

God blesses and tests Joseph and eventually positions him to save the nation of Egypt from a famine crisis and makes a way for the future protection of His people.

(The favor of the Lord on Joseph was demonstrated by His divine presence, Joseph's success, and the prosperity he enjoyed as the overseer of Potiphar's house. Potiphar's wife noticed Joseph but lied about a sexual advance when he refused to commit adultery. Consequently Joseph is thrown in prison for two years, but God works miraculously to get him released and to accomplish His purpose of guiding Egypt through a famine crisis.)

Main Points Of Application

- God can accomplish His purpose in us and through us through "tests" in our lives.
- A test doesn't mean you are being punished, it means you are being tested.
- Tests are opportunities to demonstrate the excellence of our faith.
- Our character, even in difficult times, should be exemplary.
- The gifts we have are from the Lord.

- We can use our gifts for God's glory.
- Believers should guard against forgetting those who helped them along the way; be a grateful person.
- We can trust God's timing in our lives.
- Wait on the Lord and do so in faith and with courage and conviction.

GENESIS 42-44 – Joseph And His Brothers

Big Picture

God's appointment of Joseph the son not only gives life to but will also prove to be the means of forgiveness and reconciliation for Jacob and family.

(Jacob instructed his sons to go to Egypt to buy grain, but through some deception on Joseph's part he accuses his brothers of being spies and puts them in prison. Joseph offered his brothers a compromise that required them to bring Benjamin to Egypt, to which Jacob later blames his sons for their circumstances. Judah intervenes with his father, accepts responsibility for returning Benjamin safely. The brothers return to Egypt with Benjamin, Joseph dines with his brothers, and again deceives them and demands that Benjamin remain in Egypt, to which Judah shares his anxiety over telling his father, and then he offers himself in place of Benjamin.)

Main Points Of Application

- God can use our circumstances and even our mistakes to bring about His plan. (ch. 42)
- Mistakes of our past can prevent courage in the present. (ch. 42)
- God can use our circumstances to remind us of our sin. (ch. 42)
- Believers need to be careful not to blame God when we experience consequences of our own sin. (42)
- Taking responsibility requires personal risk and accepting responsibility. (chs. 43-44)
- Ultimately both Joseph and Judah foreshadows Christ, who not only give life and reconciliation (Joseph) but who also accepted responsibility for sin (Judah) on behalf of others.

GENESIS 45-47 – The Reconciliation Of A Family

Big Picture

God works in the heart of Joseph to forgive his brothers and to bring reconciliation and to preserve for Himself a people.

(As Joseph witnesses his brothers begin to take responsibility for their previous mistreatment of him and demonstrate maturity in their concern for Benjamin, he can no longer constrain himself and reveals himself to them. Joseph harbors no hatred towards

his brothers and is not interested in revenge. He knows his family will not survive the famine so he invites get Jacob and his entire 70-member family (cf. 46:27), with Pharaoh's blessing, to return to Egypt and eventually settle in the best land, Goshen. Joseph ultimately proves himself a compassionate and wise leader.)

Main Points Of Application

- Reconciliation is possible only through forgiveness. (ch. 45)
- Reconciliation is demonstrated by the refusal to retaliate. (ch. 45)
- The sin of mankind caused a barrier between us and God for which only the perfect sacrifice of Christ could atone. (ch. 45)
- Instead of God's wrath, God demonstrated to us His love and did for us on the Cross what we could not do for ourselves. (ch. 45)
- Following God's direction in our lives requires trust in God's provision. (ch. 46)
- Where God leads, He will provide and protect. (ch. 46)
- We need to trust God's provision, promise, and plan for our lives. (ch. 46)
- Our actions need to demonstrate what we say we believe about God (ch. 46)
- Wise leaders can impact a nation. (ch. 47)
- Wise Leaders demonstrate dependability in dealing with crises. (ch. 47)
- Wise Leaders demonstrate wisdom in all the decisions. (ch. 47)
- Wise Leaders demonstrate integrity in all their actions. (ch. 47)
- Believers should pray for wisdom in their own lives. (ch. 47)
- Pray that the Lord will give us discernment in dealing with people and circumstances. (ch. 47)
- Believers should recognize the wisdom of God's plan for their lives. (ch. 47)
- One day all who have been saved by God in Christ will rejoice and proclaim, "You have saved our lives (cf. 47:25)!"

GENESIS 48-50 – God's Purposes And Promises

Big Picture

The book of Genesis ends with the full reconciliation of Jacob's family, the blessing of God on the fledgling nation of Israel, the assurance of God's provision for his people, and the anticipation God's salvation of His people.

(Jacob passes the Patriarchal blessing to Joseph and to Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. Then he gathers his sons to him and delivers a prophetic oracle related to their future. Finally Jacob gives instructions regarding his death, dies, and is buried. Joseph's brothers then receive assurance from him that they will continue to be cared for, and then Joseph gives instructions regarding his death, dies, and is embalmed.)

Main Points Of Application

- We can commit our lives to God to the very end. (ch. 48)
- However much time God allows us, we should commit to seeking to accomplish His purpose. (ch. 48)

- We can trust God to be faithful to His Word. (ch. 48)
- We can pass along our faith to our family confident that the God who has been faithful to us, will be faithful also to them. (ch. 48)
- We can trust God's ways plans over our own. (ch. 48)
- Believers can live confident in their faith and they can die confident in their faith. (ch. 48)
- Decisions have consequences. (ch. 49)
- Character matters to God. (ch. 49)
- Decisions we make today can have long-reaching impact on our families. (ch. 49)
- God's blessings often are in accordance with our character. (ch. 49)
- God intends for the believer's journey of faith to be the celebration of God's provision. (ch 50)
- God's sovereign plan which is good outweighs human disruptions that appear evil. (ch 50)
- God doesn't cause evil, but His plan is not thwarted by it. He can use evil to accomplish good. (ch 50)
- Death does not have the final word! (ch 50)
- This world is not our home – just as Egypt was not Israel's home. (ch 50)
- Believers are called to be faithful to the Lord until He brings us home! (ch 50)
- Forgive the hurt that others may have caused us and trust that God can use the evil done to us to accomplish the good He has for us. (ch 50)
- We can forgive others, because God in Christ has forgiven us. (ch 50)
- We can die in faith, because God offers eternal life in Christ. (ch 50)