

A. The Promises of Joseph (47:29-31)

1. The Bed of Jacob

-This is the first of three bedside scenes involving Jacob.

-Jacob lived for 17 years in Egypt (47:27-28)

-Joseph fulfilled his promise to take care of Jacob (45:11) all the way to the very end.

2. The Burial of Jacob

-Jacob called Joseph to him to make burial arrangements

-Jacob later instructed all his sons about his burial (49:28-32)

-Why did Jacob make this request to be buried in Canaan?

-A central element of the promise to Abraham, was the promise of the land (15:7)

-The manner of the request suggests an allusion back to the sending of Abraham's servant for a bride for Isaac (24:1-4)

-This promise of

B. The Portion of Joseph (48:1-22)

1. The Benedictions

-In this second bedside scene with Jacob, Joseph receives the first of two blessings (48:15)

-Why did Joseph receive two blessings while all of the other brothers only received one (49)?

47:29 And when the time drew near that **Israel** *must die*, he called his son **Joseph** and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, *put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt,*³⁰ but *let me lie with my fathers.* Carry me out of **Egypt** and *bury me in their burying place.*" He answered, "*I will do as you have said.*"³¹ And he said, "Swear to me"; and *he swore to him.* Then **Israel** bowed himself upon the head of his bed.

48:1 After this, **Joseph** was told, "Behold, your father is ill." So he took with him his two sons, **Manasseh** and **Ephraim**.² And it was told to **Jacob**, "Your son **Joseph** has come to you." Then **Israel** summoned his strength and sat up in bed.³ And **Jacob** said to **Joseph**, "**God Almighty** appeared to me at **Luz** in the land of **Canaan** and blessed me,⁴ and said to me, '*Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.*'⁵ And now your *two sons*, who were born to you in the land of **Egypt** before I came to you in **Egypt**, are mine; **Ephraim** and **Manasseh** shall be mine, as **Reuben** and **Simeon** are.⁶ And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.⁷ As for me, when I came from **Paddan**, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of **Canaan** on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to **Ephrath** (that is, **Bethlehem**)."

⁸ When **Israel** saw **Joseph's** sons, he said, "*Who are these?*"⁹ **Joseph** said to his father, "They are my sons, whom **God** has given me here." And he said, "*Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them.*"¹⁰ Now the *eyes of Israel* were *dim with age*, so that he could not see. So **Joseph** brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.¹¹ And **Israel** said to **Joseph**, "I never expected to see your face; and behold, **God** has let me see your offspring also."¹² Then **Joseph** removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.¹³ And **Joseph** took them both, **Ephraim** in his right hand toward **Israel's** left hand, and **Manasseh** in his left hand toward **Israel's** right hand, and brought them near him.¹⁴ And **Israel** *stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands* (for **Manasseh** was the

2. The Boys

-The firstborn was to receive a double portion (Dt 21:17)

-Joseph received the double portion instead of Reuben (1Ch 5:1-2)

-Reuben lost his birthright due to his defilement of Jacob's concubine (35:2)

-Why did Joseph receive the double portion?

-Line of Christ came through Judah (49:10)

-Manasseh and Ephraim were made equal to Jacob's other sons (48:5).

-Joseph was literally being treated as two sons by Jacob, which emphasizes the double portion honor.

-Ephraim and Manasseh each became tribes when Israel was established as a nation.

-When Moses selected helpers from each tribe to assist him in numbering the people in the wilderness of Sinai, he selected one each from Ephraim and Manasseh (Num 1:10).

-When the tribes were numbered, the children of Joseph were numbered according to "the tribe of Ephraim" (Num 1:32) and "the tribe of Manasseh" (Num 1:35)

2. The Boys (cont.)

-When Moses selected spies from each of the tribes to spy out Canaan, he selected one each from "the tribe of Ephraim" (Joshua, Num 13:8) and "the tribe of Manasseh" (Num 13:11).

-When the Israelites were numbered a second time towards the end of the book of Numbers, the tribe of Joseph was numbered again according to Manasseh (Num 26:34) and Ephraim (Num 26:37)

-In blessing these two boys, Jacob demonstrated great faith as noted in Heb 11:21 - "By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph..."

Faith is confident of God's Word (48:3-4)

-Jacob recalls his encounter with God at Bethel (35:9-13)

-The terms of God's covenant with Abraham (and then reiterated to Isaac and Jacob) are repeated here.

-These reiterations frequently occur as part of a direct divine encounter with Yahweh (Gen 12:1-3; 15:1-6; 17:2; 22:17; 26:4, 24; 28:3).

-The blessing to Joseph's sons demonstrated that Jacob believed in the promises of God.

firstborn).¹⁵ And **he blessed Joseph** and said, "The **God** before whom my fathers **Abraham** and **Isaac** walked, the **God** who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,¹⁶ the **angel** who has redeemed me from all evil, **bless the boys**; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers **Abraham** and **Isaac**; and **let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.**"

¹⁷ When **Joseph** saw that **his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.** ¹⁸ And **Joseph** said to his father, "**Not this way, my father**; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head." ¹⁹ But his father refused and said, "**I know, my son, I know.** He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, **his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.**" ²⁰ So **he blessed them** that day, saying, "By you **Israel** will pronounce blessings, saying, '**God** make you as **Ephraim** and as **Manasseh.**'" Thus he put **Ephraim** before **Manasseh.** ²¹ Then **Israel** said to **Joseph**, "Behold, I am about to die, but **God** will be with you and **will bring you again to the land of your fathers.**" ²² Moreover, I have given to you rather than to your brothers **one mountain slope** that I took from the hand of the **Amorites with my sword and with my bow.**"

Faith is not fearful of death (48:21)

-Jacob knew he was about to die but expressed no fear.

-He continued to express faith in God's promises.

3. The Bestowal

-Jacob bestowed upon Joseph an extra portion of land

"mountain slope" - The Hebrew word used here, *shekhem*, is identical to the Hebrew name of the location Shechem. Jacob purchased land at Shechem (33:18-19) and Joseph was later buried there (Josh 24:32).

"with my sword and with my bow" - This probably does not refer back to the massacre at Shechem (Gen 34) or Jacob's purchase of land at Shechem (33:19), but to another incident in Jacob's lifetime that is not recorded in Genesis. Jacob did not participate in the massacre at Shechem; instead he condemned it (34:30; 49:5-7).

Faith is not dependent on human sight (48:10-14)

-Jacob was not able to see well, but his vision of faith was crystal clear (Heb 11:1; 2Co 5:7)

Faith is a blessing to man (48:15,20)

-Because of Jacob's faith, both Joseph and his sons received blessings on that day.

Faith is often opposed (48:17-19)

-Jacob blessed Ephraim before Manasseh, even though Manasseh was older.

-This is somewhat parallel to what happened with Isaac, Jacob, and Esau in chapter 27, though in that case it was a mistake.

-Joseph assumes this is a mistake and tries to correct Jacob.

Faith is certain (48:19)

-Jacob was certain that Ephraim would be greater than Manasseh.

-This is the language of faith.

-Ephraim would become the more noteworthy of the two tribes, eventually becoming virtually synonymous with the northern kingdom of Israel (Isa 7:17; Hos 5:12)

Promises

The Bed of Jacob

Genesis 47:27–28 (ESV)

²⁷ Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly. ²⁸ And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.

Genesis 45:11 (ESV)

¹¹ There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

The Burial of Jacob

Genesis 49:28–32 (ESV)

²⁸ All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him. ²⁹ Then he commanded them and said to them, "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, ³⁰ in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. ³¹ There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah— ³² the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the Hittites."

Genesis 15:7 (ESV)

⁷ And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."

Genesis 24:1–4 (ESV)

¹ Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. ² And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, ³ that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, ⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

Genesis 50:1–14 (ESV)

¹ Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him. ² And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. ³ Forty days were required for it, for that is how many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

⁴ And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, ⁵ 'My father made me swear, saying, "I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me." Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return.' " ⁶ And Pharaoh answered, "Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear." ⁷ So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, ⁸ as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen. ⁹ And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very great company. ¹⁰ When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days. ¹¹ When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians." Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan. ¹² Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them, ¹³ for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. ¹⁴ After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

Portion

The Boys

Deuteronomy 21:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ but he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits of his strength. The right of the firstborn is his.

1 Chronicles 5:1–2 (ESV)

¹ The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's couch, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel, so that he could not be enrolled as the oldest son; ² though Judah became strong among his brothers and a chief came from him, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph),

Genesis 35:2 (ESV)

² So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments.

Genesis 49:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until tribute comes to him;
and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Genesis 48:5 (ESV)

⁵ And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are.

Numbers 1:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ from the sons of Joseph, from Ephraim, Elishama the son of Ammihud, and from Manasseh, Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur;

Numbers 1:32 (ESV)

³² Of the people of Joseph, namely, of the people of Ephraim, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war:

Numbers 1:35 (ESV)

³⁵ those listed of the tribe of Manasseh were 32,200.

Numbers 13:8 (ESV)

⁸ from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun;

Numbers 13:11 (ESV)

¹¹ from the tribe of Joseph (that is, from the tribe of Manasseh), Gaddi the son of Susi;

Numbers 26:34 (ESV)

³⁴ These are the clans of Manasseh, and those listed were 52,700.

Numbers 26:37 (ESV)

³⁷ These are the clans of the sons of Ephraim as they were listed, 32,500. These are the sons of Joseph according to their clans.

Faith

Hebrews 11:21 (ESV)

²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.

Faith is confident of God's Word (48:3-4)

Genesis 35:9–13 (ESV)

⁹ God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. ¹⁰ And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” So he called his name Israel. ¹¹ And God said to him, “I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. ¹² The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.” ¹³ Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him.

Genesis 12:1–3 (ESV)

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 15:1–6 (ESV)

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 17:2 (ESV)

² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”

Genesis 22:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,

Genesis 26:4 (ESV)

⁴ I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,

Genesis 26:24 (ESV)

²⁴ And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham’s sake.”

Genesis 28:3 (ESV)

³ God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples.

Faith is not dependent on human sight (48:10-14)

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV)

⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Faith is often opposed (48:17-19)

Genesis 27 (ESV)

¹ When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son”; and he answered, “Here I am.” ² He said, “Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. ³ Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, ⁴ and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, ⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, ⁷ ‘Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the LORD before I die.’ ⁸ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. ⁹ Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰ And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.” ¹¹ But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. ¹² Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing.” ¹³ His mother said to him, “Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me.”

¹⁴ So he went and took them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared delicious food, such as his father loved. ¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. ¹⁶ And the skins of the young goats she put on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. ¹⁷ And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

¹⁸ So he went in to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” ¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.” ²⁰ But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the LORD your God granted me success.” ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.” ²² So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who

felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands. So he blessed him.²⁴ He said, “Are you really my son Esau?” He answered, “I am.”²⁵ Then he said, “Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son’s game and bless you.” So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.”²⁷ So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said,

“See, the smell of my son
is as the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed!

²⁸ May God give you of the dew of heaven
and of the fatness of the earth
and plenty of grain and wine.

²⁹ Let peoples serve you,
and nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brothers,
and may your mother’s sons bow down to you.

Cursed be everyone who curses you,
and blessed be everyone who blesses you!”

³⁰ As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting.³¹ He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat of his son’s game, that you may bless me.”³² His father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” He answered, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.”³³ Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, “Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed.”³⁴ As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, “Bless me, even me also, O my father!”³⁵ But he said, “Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing.”³⁶ Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.” Then he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”³⁷ Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?”³⁸ Esau said to his father, “Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

³⁹ Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

“Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be,
and away from the dew of heaven on high.

⁴⁰ By your sword you shall live,
and you shall serve your brother;

but when you grow restless
you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

⁴¹ Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” ⁴² But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you. ⁴³ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran ⁴⁴ and stay with him a while, until your brother’s fury turns away— ⁴⁵ until your brother’s anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?”

⁴⁶ Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

Faith is certain (48:19)

Isaiah 7:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

Hosea 5:12 (ESV)

¹² But I am like a moth to Ephraim,
and like dry rot to the house of Judah.

The Bestowal

Genesis 33:18–19 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. ¹⁹ And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem’s father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent.

Joshua 24:32 (ESV)

³² As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money. It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph.

Genesis 34 (ESV)

¹ Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land. ² And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her. ³ And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. ⁴ So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “Get me this girl for my wife.”

⁵ Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came. ⁶ And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. ⁷ The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob’s daughter, for such a thing must not be done.

⁸ But Hamor spoke with them, saying, “The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him to be his wife. ⁹ Make marriages with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. ¹⁰ You shall dwell with us, and the land shall be open to you. Dwell and trade in it, and get property in it.” ¹¹ Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, “Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. ¹² Ask me for as great a bride-price and gift as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me. Only give me the young woman to be my wife.”

¹³ The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister Dinah. ¹⁴ They said to them, “We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. ¹⁵ Only on this condition will we agree with you—that you will become as we are by every male among you being circumcised. ¹⁶ Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and become one people. ¹⁷ But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone.”

¹⁸ Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor’s son Shechem. ¹⁹ And the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob’s daughter. Now he was the most honored of all his father’s house. ²⁰ So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying, ²¹ “These men are at peace with us; let them dwell in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters as wives, and let us give them our daughters. ²² Only on this condition will the men agree to dwell with us to become one people—when every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised. ²³ Will not their livestock, their property and all their beasts be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will dwell with us.” ²⁴ And all who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

²⁵ On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. ²⁶ They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem’s house and went away. ²⁷ The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. ²⁸ They took their flocks and their herds, their

donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. ²⁹ All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered.

³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household.” ³¹ But they said, “Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?”

Genesis 49:5–7 (ESV)

⁵ “Simeon and Levi are brothers;
 weapons of violence are their swords.
⁶ Let my soul come not into their council;
 O my glory, be not joined to their company.
For in their anger they killed men,
 and in their willfulness they hamstringed oxen.
⁷ Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce,
 and their wrath, for it is cruel!
I will divide them in Jacob
 and scatter them in Israel.