



FEED MY SHEEP

PUBLISHED BY DR. JAMES W. BRUGGEMAN
STONE KINGDOM MINISTRIES
P. O. Box 5695
ASHEVILLE, NC 28813 U.S.A.
See my blog at www.stonekingdom.org

Issue #172

May 2013

Anglo-Saxon Israel *The Story of Joseph, Part 37*

Our study last time stopped in the midst of a discussion of the birthright blessing which had been conveyed from Isaac to Jacob, although Jacob's twin, Esau, was the elder of the two. Jacob's being the chosen one had nothing to do with the respective *works* of the brothers. It was a sovereign choice of God Almighty, and had nothing to do with Jacob's or Esau's good or bad choices.

One could then ask: Since God meant for the birthright to be Jacob's, wasn't it okay for Jacob to lie and deceive his father Isaac? Wasn't it okay to get all hairy and pretend like he was Esau? No, it was not okay! That was a case of Jacob's sin nature getting the best of him. He knew God's plan was for him to inherit the birthright, but he did not trust that God would bring it about in His own time.

So instead of trusting God to make good on His promise, Jacob, in distrust, took matters into his own hands and took possession of the birthright through deception and conniving. Jacob thought that he had to make it happen. And it resulted in many troubles for Jacob for many years. Hmmm.

Do you know that there are a lot of Christians today who have that same attitude? They are called Christian Zionists. They believe that before Jesus can return to earth that "The Antichrist" has to appear and make a treaty with the Jews and the third temple has to be built, and so on. And so they, being self-deceived, are using their influence in Washington—conniving to try to get our President (regardless of political party) to do whatever it takes to manipulate events to bring this about. As in the life of Jacob of old, this is bound to result in great troubles for us nationally. Indeed, it already has. Consider that ever since 1948 when our government recognized the state of Israel over there in the Palestini-

an territory, I think it is a fair assessment of history to state that our country has been in one long moral slide.

The descendants of Esau deceive nearly all Christendom, and with it the United States, into believing they are God's chosen people. The deception has caused our government to support them to an extent as we have done for no other nation-state in the world, while for decades we have alienated the Arab nations—the descendants of Ishmael.

Fortunately, this sad state of affairs is not without its solution in its proper time. Because every deception, every case of mistaken national identity, every event in every nation, as bad as it seems, is all part of Father's marvelous and perfect Plan. But to go a step further, there are not only millions of deceived Christians trying to support the Jews so that it will bring about the Lord's return, but there are others—indeed those who know and understand who Esau is and who true Israel is—but they make the same mistake of trying to bring about *through their own doing* the righteous government of God throughout the earth. Again, trying to make sure God keeps His promises by taking matters into their own hands.

And so, once again we see in all of this a key feature of the sovereignty of God in that even the bad things, the calamities, the evil, the wicked, the deceptions, the mistakes—they are all part of God's tremendous Plan. Thus, the birthright *did* come to Jacob, and now old Jacob is ready to depart this life, but before he does, it is time for him to officially pass on the birthright.

The Bible makes it clear that after Jacob, the next lawful inheritor of the birthright was Reuben, the

firstborn son of Jacob and Leah. Do you recall some issues back when the brothers came to Egypt the second time to buy food? And when Joseph—still known as Governor Zaphnath-Paaneach—to the brothers, when he gave the command to serve dinner for them, and the Bible says in ...

Genesis 43:33 And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another.

Next, we will see why Reuben, just as Esau, lost the birthright. But whereas Esau had sold the birthright because he did not value it highly, in Reuben's case, he forfeited the birthright because of a very serious sin.

1 Chronicles 5:1 Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.

Precisely how he defiled his father's bed is narrated elsewhere.

Genesis 35:22 And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:

Here is an example of Jacob waiting on the Lord, for there is no question but that from the very birth of Joseph, Jacob desired to give *him* the birthright. But in this case, Jacob simply needed to wait. He did, and God caused Reuben to do what he did, thus providing Jacob with a legitimate reason to transfer the birthright from Reuben to Joseph. This might beg a couple of questions in the minds of some listeners.

First, some might wonder, why Joseph? Why wouldn't Dan, the firstborn of Jacob and Bilhah; or Gad, the firstborn of Jacob and Zilpah, why wouldn't they become next in line to become the holder of the birthright since they were both born *before* Joseph was? The answer is that Bilhah and Zilpah were both concubines, handmaids to the sisters, Leah and Rachel. The sisters were wives, not concubines, and so in the culture of that society, Rachel outranked the concubines and when Leah's son forfeited the birthright, the eldest son of Rachel was next in line.

Secondly, some who are perhaps newer to our teaching ministry might question the idea behind my assertion that God *caused* Reuben to lay with his fa-

ther's concubine. Why not soften it and just say that God *permitted* Reuben? Or go one step further and just say that God had nothing to do with it and that Reuben did it of his own free will?

No, I will stand by my statement that God *caused*. But I will also state that that fact does not let Reuben off the hook. He bears responsibility for his action. But how can that be fair and just then, someone will respond. And you see, one question leads to the next. I will not take the time to go into the rather long and detailed explanation of that here. We have already addressed it very extensively in our series called *The Sovereignty of God*, which audio series has been greatly expanded into book form with the title: *Sacred Secrets of the Sovereignty of God*. A proper understanding of that subject is fundamental to true biblical faith.

Here we are in Genesis 48, verse 13, as Jacob has now been divinely guided to adopt the two sons of Joseph and to convey the birthright upon *them* instead of directly upon Joseph. So Jacob is sitting up on the edge of his bed. Joseph rises and brings his two full-grown sons forward, and no doubt has them kneel in front of their grandfather, both as a sign of great respect and honor, and also for the practical reason so that he could lay his hands upon them.

Genesis 48:13 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 unto him.

14 And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn.

15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day,

16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

This passage is pregnant with prophetic import. Let us expound. Verse 15: he blessed Joseph by asking God to—in verse 16—bless the lads. Joseph was blessed in his sons. Next, notice the word “God” in verse 15: God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, The Angel which redeemed me from all evil...God, ...God, ...the angel.... Do you see how

they are synonymous? This therefore shows that the angel with whom Jacob wrestled was indeed a temporary incarnation of the eternal God. It was God in the form of this angel that renamed Jacob as Israel.

After that incident, there is no record that Jacob ever did anything deceitful again, or anything that was less than honorable, and thus Jacob was worthy of the new name. He was a changed man. He was converted, we would say today.

Now look at the same verse 16 for another point. ...bless the lads; and let my name be named on them,

Alright, Jacob says that his name, that is, the name Israel, will be carried by Ephraim and Manasseh. That has tremendous significance! It was fulfilled precisely when after the death of Solomon, the kingdom split into two separate kingdoms. The southern portion became known as the Kingdom of Judah, named after the predominant tribe in the south. But the ten northern tribes formed what became known as the Kingdom of Israel because both Ephraim and Manasseh were there and were the leading tribes in the north. But the fulfillment lasted beyond the Old Testament.

Hence, even if one were to accept the theory of old British-Israel scholars that the Jews today constitute the people of Judah, then it still shows that Israel is distinct from the Jews. Thus, the modern, so-called "State of Israel" is a lie and deception, even to its name. Verse 16 continuing...

let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;

Despite what untold multitudes of ministers say, Abraham was not a Jew. You will not find that in the Bible. The word "Jew" is derived from "Judah," his grandson. Abraham, however, was of the line of Heber and so Abraham was a Hebrew. And the name Hebrew is to be named upon the Israelites.

Since blindness to our Israelite identity is still upon the vast majority of our people, this fact that we are Hebrews remains to be recognized as well. Now look at the next part of the verse. In effect, Jacob is prophesying "to let the name of Isaac be named on Ephraim and Manasseh." And we understand this to mean that Ephraim and Manasseh here stand for the whole northern House of Israel, the ten tribes. We know this is the case because it ties back to the verse I alluded to earlier. In the KJV it reads:

Genesis 21:12 And God said unto Abraham,

Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Here is the way the pertinent part of the verse reads in a couple of other translations:

NAS Genesis 21:12 ...for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.

BBE Genesis 21:12 ... because it is from Isaac that your seed will take its name.

This has been literally fulfilled for centuries and yet the church as a whole remains blind to it. As an abundance of articles in our literature shows, the linguistic changes in the name of Isaac down through many centuries and many languages results in the name Saxons, meaning the sons of Sak or the sons of Isaac. The Saxons are Israel. A province in Germany is called Saxony. The Saxons are part of what we refer to as the Germanic people. But they were not the only people in Germany.

Centuries ago, some of the Saxons came from the land called Germany today, and they invaded the land of the Angles, which is Angle-land or England. The Angles were an earlier branch of Israel. Before some of them migrated to Britain, they too had settled in the area now called Germany. Therefore, some of the English are descended from the Saxons, and as they mixed with the Angles or Angli, they were called the Anglo-Saxons. Consequently, today there are many Saxons—many sons of Isaac and Israel—in Germany, in England, in the United States, in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and many other locales. It should go without saying, of course, that the Jews have never been, and have never called themselves, Saxons. Ironically, we call ourselves both Saxons and Gentiles, which is an oxymoron in the commonly accepted meaning of the word Gentiles.

As the dying patriarch Israel laid his hands upon the heads of Joseph's sons, Joseph panicked. He knew that the blessing from the right hand was the greater blessing. Now to continue in verse...

17 And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head.

18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this *is* the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head.

19 And his father refused, and said, I know *it*, my son, I know *it*: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.

20 And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

21 And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers.

22 Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.

In verse 19, that phrase “multitude of nations” is the same idea as a “company of nations” because when God confirmed the birthright and the Abrahamic Covenant with Jacob himself many years earlier, God had told Jacob in...

Genesis 35:11...be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee,

These few verses (especially 17 through 19) are also staggering in their impact, for they have been fulfilled in the histories of two great and mighty peoples. Their impact on the world stage can hardly be understated. Yet, it is precisely that, understated by historians to the point of nothingness or zero. All because these two great, brother peoples have not been identified as Israel by most historians.

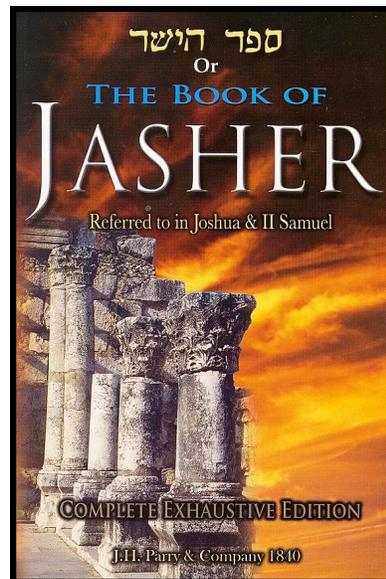
So I guess we could say that by being lost, Israel has, by no effort on her own part, attained to being nobodies, to nothingness, to zero point. Just a little play-on-words there for those of you who have read the book and who also realize that our job is to become nothing, so that in Christ, you may attain all. (To be continued.)

The Book of Jasher

One of the most thrilling books I have ever read—and re-read!” — JWB

This has the beautiful, full-color cover. It is the 1840 edition. Do not be fooled by the bogus 1829 edition. 254 pgs. \$13 + \$4 shipping*

* Note re: shipping savings: if ordering more than one item, add \$4 for the first item; \$0.50 shipping for each additional item.



Feed My Sheep is a part of the teaching ministry of Dr. James W. Bruggeman and it is sent out freely. However, we reserve the right to discontinue sending it at any time to any one. The donations and tithes of those who are blest, taught and fed by this publication make it possible for us to continue in ministry. Gifts can be sent to PO Box 5695, Asheville, NC 28813. Thank you.