

JACOB

16. Ending with God at the Centre

Genesis 48:1-49:28

Be patient - God hasn't finished with me yet

- 3 Consequences of having, and 1 way to keep God at the centre

1. **Jacob can give thanks for the past**

- He had many reasons to grumble but focuses on what God has done
- Thankful because he had met with God – v3
- Thankful because of God's provision and protection – v11, 15
- Thankful because God had rescued him – v16
- Jacob is able to be thankful because he is no longer pursuing blessing – but pursuing God.
- The more we focus on God the more we will be able to give thanks

2. **Jacob refocuses attention on God's kingdom**

- Jacob seeks to point Manasseh and Ephraim to God
- Tells them about the promises of God, the faith of their fathers, prays for them
- Teaches that God's ways are not built on natural order but on grace
- Not simply a proud parent/grandparent, but concerned for their souls

3. **Jacob rectifies past failings**

- Jacob brings God's verdict on his first three sons – Gen 49:1-7
- He is also putting right his failure to deal with them
- Where do you need to put past wrongs to right?

4. **Jacob points us to Jesus – Gen 49:8-12**

- Remarkable prophecy given about Judah
- 4 elements
 - Praise v8 – Judah will be worthy of great praise
 - Power v9 – a mighty figure to be taken seriously
 - Authority & Victory v10 – Picture of triumph and expansion
 - Prosperity v11-12 – a time of extravagant abundance
- Partially fulfilled under the kings of Judah – David & Solomon
- But points forward to the greater king from Judah's family – Jesus
 - Praise – He is worthy of all praise
 - Power – The Lion of Judah (Rv 5:5) triumphs over his enemies
 - Rule – One day he will come and every knee bow before him
 - Prosperity – He is the one who will bring abundant prosperity
- Listeners would wish they belonged to tribe of Judah. When we place our faith in Jesus we can enjoy the blessings of this great king
- As we trust and delight in Jesus, we will be able to keep God at the centre of our lives, living for him, thanking, focusing others on him and rectifying our failings.



new life fellowship

SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sabbath 21st December 08

Notices

Sab 21st Evening service at Day Centre 8pm
"Living so that we are ready to die!" - Gen 49:29-50:14

Tue No Bible Study this week or next

Sab 28th Thanksgiving collection - One way of saying thank-you to God for all his kindness in the past year. Offering going to Romania relief work & Mission work in Sudan.

Mark will be swapping with Rev Peter Jemphrey. If you would like to invite the Jemphrey family for lunch, please speak to Judith (L).

Fri 2nd Jan Go Rally - Launch for the Summer Mission Teams 8pm
Limavady - Speaker Derek Petrie

Sat 3rd Calendar Distribution - meet up at Mark & Judith's at 2pm

Please speak to Caroline if you would like to receive either the Messenger or Covenanter Witness magazines

CDs of the Jacob sermon series are available - please speak to Mark if you would like the series, or individual sermons.

Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, or to refresh your memory, and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

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