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Genesis Chapter 48

As we move through Genesis chapter 48, we're going to see some historically significant events occur within these Scriptures. And in order to understand the historical significance taking place here in Genesis chapter 48, we're going to have to jump ahead in our Scriptures, and do a little bit of studying, so that we can better understand the foundation that Genesis chapter 48 is laying out for us.

During this particular study...we'll not only see the historical and biblical significance of exactly what a modern-day Christian truly is, and is not... but we'll also see the historical and biblical significance of exactly what an Israelite is, and is not. We'll also uncover why there were originally 14 tribes of Israel in the beginning. And... we'll uncover why it was that Jacob (also known as Israel) wound up with 14 sons, instead of just the 12 that we know of today.

And as we drill down even farther, we'll also understand why there were two houses of Israel and not just one house of Israel. And we'll also uncover why it is that in the end, when our Messiah comes to set up his new kingdom, there will once again only be one house of Israel. And so, this particular study is not only going to uncover a multitude of historical and biblical facts that are by and large unknown to most modern-day Christians... it's also going to uncover a multitude of historical and biblical facts that are unknown to most modern-day Jews.

And I want to make this disclaimer right up front before we ever even get started... what you're about to hear here today, may challenge your denominational understanding. If you are still walking around with a denominational value stamped across your forehead... I want you to prepare yourself before we ever even get started here this evening. You're going to need to fasten your seatbelts and put your seats in the upright position. Because this evening we're going to introduce you to the truth of scripture as it's written in both the first half of the book, and the 2nd half of the book, so that the true unfolding plan of our Father in heaven can be seen and heard by everyone who has the eyes to see and the ears to hear.

What we will see, and hear this evening comes straight from our God breathed Scripture and nowhere else. It does not come from any charter of men, it does not come from any Council of men, it does not come from any so-called "early church father", and it does not come from any New Age philosophical man-made, man created theology or dogma.

And so, with this understanding under our belts, and this most important disclaimer having been made... let's turn to the 48th chapter of the book of Genesis, and let's read it in its entirety so

that we can know exactly what it does say, and just as importantly... what it does not say.
Genesis chapter 48:

Gen 48:1 *After this, Joseph was told, “Behold, your father is ill.” So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.*

Gen 48:2 *And it was told to Jacob, “Your son Joseph has come to you.” Then Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed.*

Gen 48:3 *And Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,*

Gen 48:4 *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.’*

Gen 48:5 *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.*

Gen 48:6 *And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.*

Gen 48:7 *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).”*

Gen 48:8 *When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, “Who are these?”*

Gen 48:9 *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.”*

Gen 48:10 *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.*

Gen 48:11 *And Israel said to Joseph, “I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also.”*

Gen 48:12 *Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.*

Gen 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 him.*

Gen 48:14 *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 firstborn).*

Gen 48:15 *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,*

Gen 48:16 *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.”

Gen 48:17 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.

Gen 48:18 And Joseph said to his father, “Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.”

Gen 48:19 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.”

Gen 48:20 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.

Gen 48:21 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.

Gen 48:22 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.”

As we can see in Genesis chapter 48 verse one, Joseph’s father Jacob (also known as Israel) is slowly but surely coming to the end of his life, and he calls his son Joseph to his bedside along with his two grandsons Ephraim and Manasseh. Upon which time, Jacob (also known as Israel) Adopts Joseph’s two sons Ephraim and Manasseh as his own sons.

Now we have to remember, Jacob already has 12 sons, therefore... and so this now means that Jacob has 14 sons, and I want you to keep that in mind as we move forward here because you’re going to be required to perform some simple mathematical equations within this particular study. And if you’re not a mathematician, don’t worry about it... neither am I... but we’ll get through this together.

So, Jacob (also known as Israel) has just adopted Joseph’s two sons Ephraim and Manasseh as his own, and because Jacob has adopted Ephraim and Manasseh, there are now for the time being... 14 tribes of Israel. And I want you to keep that in mind as we move forward.

Now some people might make the argument that Jacob was simply adopting Ephraim and Manasseh into the house of Israel, because they were born from an Egyptian woman, and were technically Egyptian children... but I would submit to you my friends that this is much more than a simple adoption into the house of Israel. Both Ephraim and Manasseh are not only adopted into the Commonwealth and the citizenship of the house of Israel... but Ephraim and Manasseh are counted as two of the 12 tribes of the house of Israel... which is a much higher honor than simply being grafted in as a citizen.

Those of us who have truly been born again through the watery grave of baptism, and have picked up our crosses, and have made a conscious decision to follow our Messiah, and to walk

as he walked, have a very deep seeded, and deeply rooted love, and passion for Israel and the Torah of Yahovah. And I don't think that most of us really understand where that comes from. In fact... I've even heard some within our own assembly, ask if they should even be supporting Israel as a nation today. And the reason that they ask these questions is because they don't understand why it is that they have this naturally deep-seated, and deeply rooted love and passion for Israel.

By the end of this study I think it's safe to say that you should be able to understand where this feeling of loyalty for the nation of Israel comes from, and why we have it dwelling deep within our bones as true modern-day Christians.

You see for almost 1900 years; today's modern-day version of Christianity has done its level best to completely erase the first half of your Bible. Most modern-day denominational empires preprogram their congregations not to read the first half of the Bible because their denominational charters of men have wrongfully, and shamefully proclaimed, that the first half of the Bible has all been nailed to some tree somewhere so that we don't have to bother with it.

What today's modern-day version of Christianity has forgotten, is that the family of God is Israel, and that is a well-known biblical fact that anyone who has read the book for themselves from the beginning to the end already knows.

Nowhere within the confines of the 66 books of your Bible will you ever hear God calling any other people "his people," other than the house of Israel. And we're going to prove that to you beyond a shadow of a doubt here this evening as we move forward in this study.

Many modern-day professing Christians will now wrongly proclaim that the real family of God is today's modern-day church, never understanding that what they perceive to be and I quote, "the church"... has never been called God's chosen people. Yahovah... the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob only calls the house of Israel "his people," and only those who have been grafted into the house of Israel are considered to be part of his family. And we're also going to prove that out to you in today's study as well, so if you have never heard that before, once again I would ask you to fasten your seatbelts and put your seats in the upright position, because the truth that you're going to hear here today, may indeed change your life forever.

I want us to understand that both the old covenant and the new covenant were given to the house of Israel and no one else. Yahovah, our Father in heaven never made a new covenant with the church as we know it today. Yahovah our Father in heaven never made a new covenant with the Americans, or the French, or the brit's, or the Mexicans, or the Canadians, or the Indians, or the Pakistanis, and most certainly not... with the Romans.

Our Father in heaven made both the old covenant, and the new covenant, with the house of Israel, and only the house of Israel. And to cement that into the ground, I want us to turn to Jeremiah chapter 31 versus 31 through 34:

Jer 31:31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

Jer 31:32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

Jer 31:33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jer 31:34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Now... the first thing that I want us to see here with our own eyes, and to hear with our own ears, is that there is utterly no mention of a new covenant being made between Yahovah, and the Gentiles, or a gentile church. Furthermore, there is absolutely no mention here of our Father in heaven making this new covenant with any specific church, denominational charter of men, religious group, organization, Council of men, or early church father. And I think that it's safe to say, that all we have to do is to gaze upon the text, read it for ourselves, and accept the truth of what it says in order to be in the truth of God's word.

What's important for the nations of the world to understand, is that if you are a Gentile... (Which means you are not borne by blood an Israelite)... you, and your family must therefore be grafted into the house of Israel before this new covenant can apply to you and your family. You and your family do not qualify to be included in this new covenant unless you have been grafted into the house of Israel.

And I know this is a brand-new concept for many modern-day Christians today who have been preprogrammed to believe that their new found Gentile denominational church has replaced the house of Israel. But let me tell you something as a brother my friends... to simply put it to you truthfully... that's a bald-faced lie. And don't expect me to dance around tiptoeing through the tulips concerning that biblical fact. Replacement theology is, and always has been, a demonically inspired weapon that has been weaponized by many of today's modern-day denominational charters of men, and is now being used to destroy the salvation of God's people, and to lead them astray, and we need to stand up against it, and we need to speak the truth, and we need to stop it before it does any more damage than what it's already done.

If you think that your modern-day denominational church has replaced the house of Israel... you have a decision to make here today. Are you going to listen to your denominationally challenged charter of men, and their wisdom?... Or are you going to listen to the very God breathed Scriptures that our Father in heaven made sure that you would have to hold in your

very hands today. It's just that simple. Either you're going to believe, and put your faith in the wisdom of men, or you're going to believe, and put your your faith in the God breathed Scriptures that he gave you. You decide. Choose this day whom you will serve. And for those of you who believe that your newfound, New Age denominational charter of men has replaced the house of Israel... I would like us to continue on in Jeremiah chapter 31 versus 35 through 40:

Jer 31:35 Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the LORD of hosts is his name:

Jer 31:36 "If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever."

Jer 31:37 Thus says the LORD: "If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the LORD."

Jer 31:38 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when the city shall be rebuilt for the LORD from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate."

Jer 31:39 And the measuring line shall go out farther, straight to the hill Gareb, and shall then turn to Goah.

Jer 31:40 The whole valley of the dead bodies and the ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be sacred to the LORD. It shall not be plucked up or overthrown anymore forever."

Listen closely to what the Scripture is saying my friends. If the sun stops giving off its light, and the waves cease to occur in the oceans, and the stars disappear, and the moon stops shining.... then... and only then... will Yahovah cease to consider the house of Israel his people.

You simply cannot get around the Scripture my friends. You can't get over it, you can't get under it, and you can't go around it. Our Father in heaven made a promise to Abraham, and to the seed of Abraham, and our Father in heaven does not make promises that he cannot keep. And to suggest that our Father in heaven does make promises that he cannot keep is blasphemous on its face. And just to anchor this biblical truth in your being further... I want us to turn to Ezekiel chapter 37 versus 15 through 22:

Eze 37:15 The word of the LORD came to me:

Eze 37:16 "Son of man, take a stick and write on it, 'For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.'

Eze 37:17 And join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand.

Eze 37:18 And when your people say to you, 'Will you not tell us what you mean by these?'

Eze 37:19 say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand.

Eze 37:20 When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes,

Eze 37:21 then say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land.

Eze 37:22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.

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Our Messiah, Yeshua Hamashiach Jesus the Christ, came to heal the two sticks of Ezekiel, and to make them one stick in the Father’s hand. Matthew chapter 15 versus 21 through 28:

Mat 15:21 And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

Mat 15:22 And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”

Mat 15:23 But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."

Mat 15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Mat 15:25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

Mat 15:26 And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

Mat 15:27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Mat 15:28 Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Notice here that our Messiah says in his own red-letter words that he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Our Messiah was not sent to the Gentiles in order that they might create a new church, with all kinds of new holidays, festivals and traditions. Our Messiah was originally sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel which were those who belonged to the house of Ephraim, also known as the house of Israel that had split apart from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, and most of the Levites.

We must remember that the house of Israel had a Civil War within its ranks, and that Civil War split the house of Israel into two houses. One was called the house of Ephraim also known as the house of Israel, and the other was called the house of Judah. The northern kingdom called Ephraim or the house of Israel was overrun by the Assyrians, and the Assyrians scattered them to the four corners of the earth, and the northern 10 tribes of Israel never did return to Jerusalem. However... the southern kingdom known as Judah... did return to Jerusalem, and they had rebuilt the temple, and had reestablished the Torah, and the law, and the commandments, and the precepts of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. The only problem is that even Judah herself over time, once again, wound up playing the whore and she began chasing after other pagan gods, and so Yahovah allowed Antiochus Epiphanies to overrun her again. And this is another whole story prophesied about in the book of Daniel that we won't get into here today, but you can take a look at our teaching on the god of Christ-mas vs. The God of Hanukkah if you'd like more information on that.

My point in all of this is that both kingdoms of Israel were overrun by other nations because they had transgressed the law and the Torah of Yahovah. The northern 10 tribes after being overrun by Assyria back in 722BC never did return however, the southern tribe of Judah did return... and that's why we hear so much about the Jews... because they came from the tribe of Judah, that had returned to set up the second temple, and once again, began the daily oblation, and the Temple services. And even to this day, the Jews think that the other 10 tribes of Israel have all been done away with because God divorced the northern kingdom in Jeremiah chapter 3 verse 8, and because they do not believe that their Messiah came. They do not understand that the two sticks of Ezekiel have already been grafted back into the Father's hand as one nation. Our Messiah even tells us in his own red-letter words in Matthew chapter 15 verse 24, that he

came explicitly for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, which was the 10 tribes of the northern kingdom who were at that time still being scattered to the four corners of the earth.

Judah and Ephraim have spiritually been bound together as one stick in the Father's hand. The problem is, that because the Jews don't believe in their Messiah... the Jews have no concept of how it is that they have been saved through the blood of their Messiah, who was a Jew who came from the house of David and the tribe of Judah just as the Torah and the Prophets prophesied that he would.

Knowing this... And knowing that our Messiah came only for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, there should be no doubt in any modern-day Christian's mind, who it is that we have been grafted into through the blood of our very Jewish Messiah. Consider Galatians chapter 3 versus 27 through 29:

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

If we are indeed our Messiah's... then we are indeed all one in the Messiah. And if we are indeed the Messiah's, then we are Abraham's offspring, and heirs according to the promise given to Abraham who is the patriarch of the house of Israel.

Let me ask you this my friends... is Abraham the forefather of the Gentiles? Of course not. Is Abraham the forefather of the Israelites? Yes, indeed he is. Therefore ... if you have been grafted into the seed of Abraham you have been grafted into the house of Israel, and because you have been grafted into the house of Israel through the seed of Abraham, who is our Messiah Yeshua Hamashiach, we also, are now heirs according to the promise that Yahovah made to Abraham. Romans chapter 11 verses 25 through 29:

Rom 11:25 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Rom 11:26 And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";

Rom 11:27 "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

Rom 11:28 As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.

Rom 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

The apostle Paul clearly tells us that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of Gentiles comes in. What does that mean, “until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in?”

It means that until every single solitary Gentile who would turn to Yahovah and except his only begotten son who came to offer them the free gift of salvation.... does finally come.... that partial hardening upon Israel will remain. Once every Gentile that is going to come finally does come,... the partial hardening that has come upon Israel will finally be lifted, and in this way all Israel will indeed be saved.

Paul tells us that as regards the gospel the Jews are our enemies for our sake, but... as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. And get this my friends... according to Scripture... the gifts, and the calling of our Elohim... are irrevocable... which means that they cannot be removed, or disregarded by any man, or any council of men, or any denominational charter of men. The gifts, and the calling of our Father in heaven to Abraham and his seed are and I quote, “irrevocable”. And that’s a blessing for you and I who have been grafted into that seed of Abraham, who is our beloved Messiah Yeshua Hamashiach.

What we must understand as modern-day Christians, is that the house of Israel consists of both Jew and Gentiles who believe, and have faith in, and follow after our Messiah who is Yeshua Hamashiach. Not everybody who is an Israelite through flesh and blood belongs to the house of Israel. In other words... just because you’re a Jew by blood, or just because you are part of one of the other 11 tribes of Israel by blood... does not mean that you belong to the house of Israel.

It is not the children of the flesh who are the children of Yahovah, it’s the children of the promise that are counted as offspring. And who are the children of the promise? Galatians chapter 3 verse 29:

Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

And so, we must understand that there is a spiritual aspect of the house of Israel, as well as a fleshly aspect to the house of Israel. Many flesh and blood Jews who believe in their Messiah will indeed be grafted back into their original family tree. And the Believing Gentiles will also be grafted into the original family tree of the Jews who are part of the house of Israel. Thereby all Israel will indeed be saved just as it is written in Romans chapter 11.

Our very Jewish Messiah, who came from the house of David and the tribe of Judah now embodies the Torah of his Father, and the precepts, and the appointments, and the commandments of his Father that are expressed primarily in his Father’s Torah.

Originally (before creation), the Torah, and the precepts, and the appointments, and the commandments of Yahovah only existed in heaven, and were essentially contained in an attribute, or essence of God called “the word” of God. In Hebrew this essence of our Father in

heaven is called “Mamre”, in Greek it’s called the “Logos” of God.

The Torah was introduced in physical form at mount Sinai, and given to Moses as the Constitution of Israel written on parchment. Later... the word himself (which was the “Logos” or “essence” of God (which could also be called the unfolding plan of God)) would be created by God, in the flesh to become the Son of God, created through the body of his servant David, just as God promised in second Samuel chapter 7.

And so, it is... that now “the man” Yeshua Hamashiach is the one and only mediator between God and man. First Timothy chapter 2 versus five and six:

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

1Ti 2:6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

We can also take a look at Jeremiah chapter 33 versus 17 and 18:

Jer 33:17 “For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel,

Jer 33:18 and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”

And so it is... that the man, Yeshua Hamashiach now sits at the right hand of his Father and is indeed the mediator between God and man. And the man, Yeshua Hamashiach does... right now... sit on the throne of the house of Israel that his Father gave him. And the Levitical priests, along with the rest of the house of Israel, will never lack a man in the presence of our Father in heaven to offer burnt offerings and to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever. We must remember that our Messiah is our high priest in the order of Melkesedek according to Hebrews chapter 5 versus eight through 10:

Heb 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Heb 5:10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Now... what does this all have to do with Genesis chapter 48? I want us to remember that the central theme of Genesis chapter 48 is the cross handed blessing of the last patriarch Jacob (also known as Israel), that he gave to Joseph’s two Egyptian born son’s Ephraim and Manasseh. Jacob blessed the two boys with an extremely important blessing, especially the blessing that he gave to Ephraim who was the younger of the two brothers.

In Genesis chapter 48 verse 19 we see that Ephraim is going to be greater than his brother Manasseh, and that the offspring of Ephraim will become a multitude of nations. Genesis chapter 48 verse 19

Gen 48:19 *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.”*

Now... getting back to the promised land that Yahovah had promised Abraham... I want us to understand that the Israelites would not actually be given the land of Canaan for about another 450 years after this blessing that Jacob gives to Ephraim and Manasseh in Genesis chapter 48 takes place. And so almost 5 centuries later, the Israelites finally enter into, and take possession of, the land promised to their forefather Abraham, and we can find that in numbers chapter 34 versus one through three:

Num 34:1 *The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,*

Num 34:2 *“Command the people of Israel, and say to them, When you enter the land of Canaan (this is the land that shall fall to you for an inheritance, the land of Canaan as defined by its borders),*

Num 34:3 *your south side shall be from the wilderness of Zin alongside Edom, and your southern border shall run from the end of the Salt Sea on the east.*

Here, in the book of numbers chapter 34, we can see very clearly that Yahovah relinquishes the promised land into the hands of the Israelites for an inheritance. And I want to stop right here for just a moment and I want you to know where it says in your Bible that God gave the Israelites this promised land. If anyone ever asks you where it says that the promised land was actually given to Israel?... the ownership of the land was given to the house of Israel right here in numbers chapter 34. And I want us to understand that it's not a matter of who was their first, or what's fair according to man's point of view.

There's been all kinds of books and articles and debates about Israel, and whether or not the land of Israel belongs to the Jews. Many people, even professing Christians, have decided in their own minds that parts of the promise land should be given to the Palestinians because of their own sense of fairness, or in order to simply give the land away in exchange for peace. But I would submit to you my friends... that that's not the issue. The issue is not whether the land belongs to the Jews or not, it's not about giving the land away to the Palestinians because somebody thinks it's the fair thing to do. It's not about giving away their land in exchange for peace. It's about the fact that this land was given to the Jews by the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, and no man standing upon this earth has the right to take away.

The only question that should matter in the mind of anyone... and especially a Christian... is whether or not God gave this land to the house of Israel or not? And that question is clearly

answered right here in numbers chapter 34. Not only did Yahovah give this land to them, but the house of Israel actually took physical possession of the land around 1300 BC.

And so, I don't want us falling into the trap of debating someone over the issue of Israel's legitimacy on the basis of man's modern-day sense of fair play, or political maneuvering. And I want us to realize that even though we may hear some reasonable sounding argument as to whether or not Israel should give up their land or not... Yahovah is not the least bit impressed by these man-made arguments.

All that should matter in our minds and in our hearts, is that God declared that land to belong to his people, the house of Israel and that's a fact according to our God breathed Scripture. In these last days that we're living in, we're going to have to make a choice concerning whether or not we are going to stand with the house of Israel, or whether we're going to kowtow and bow the knee to the wisdom of men. Are we going to stand with the house of Israel knowing that that land belongs exclusively to the house of Israel without compromise, or are we going to bow the knee to international and political nonsense, and the idea that the house of Israel should give up that land in order to have peace so that they'll stop blowing us up?

What the house of Israel needs to understand, is that it's not about the United Nations or the United States, or the EU, or the Palestinians, or the terrorists. The problem is that the nation of Israel still wrongly believes that these are the people that they need to fear. The nation of Israel does not need to turn to the Palestinians and ask for peace... they need to turn to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and ask for peace. They don't need to fear the terrorist, they need to fear the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. They don't need to cut a deal with United Nations, or with the Vatican, or with the EU, or even with the United States. They need to understand the deal that they already have with the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. They need to turn and to seek his face, and to repent from the wickedness that they're allowing to happen in that land of Israel, and if they would do that... they would have peace.

What we as Christians need to understand is that we have an obligation to follow our Messiah, and to believe the truth of God's word that he came proclaiming. And we need to realize that the path to peace is not found in the Oslo accords, it's not found in the United Nations resolution, it's not found in a man-made treaty, or an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. These are not the answers to the problems that the nation of Israel faces today, and we as Christians need to understand that. We as Christians should not be praying for the United Nations to step in, or for a United States Pres. to cut a deal between the Palestinians and the Jews. We as Christians should be praying for the Repentance of the Jew to turn back to their God breathed scriptures, and to Yahovah, and to accept his only begotten Son Yahshua Hamashiach, as their Messiah. Because once that happens... there is no nation on the face of the earth that will ever touch the promised land that belongs to you and I, and our brothers and sisters in Israel today.

Next week as we move into Genesis chapter 49, we're gong to see Jacob (also known as Israel) bless his other 12 sons, and the blessings that we'll see next week will help us understand even

more about how the unfolding plan of our Father in heaven has played out over the centuries, and even on into our time today. And so, we invite you to be with us as we close out the next couple of chapters of the book of Genesis that both tie in with what you've learned here today.

In the meantime... I would like to ask you... as I always do... to take what you've heard here today to your prayer closet, and to bow your head, and bend your knee, and ask in the name of Yahshua Hamashiach, if what you've heard here today be true... or not?

Ask, seek, and knock, and the door will be opened to you. And if you'll do that... you and I will walk hand in hand through the gates of his soon coming kingdom.

I'm Pastor Scott Velain with Holy Impact Ministries, and I'd like to thank you for sharing your time with me here today, and I pray that the rest of your week would be a blessed one.