



Message 12-8-07
Miketz-At the End of
Genesis 41:1-44:17
Zechariah 2:14 (10)-4:7
Colossians 1:10-17

Introduction

Joseph, who once dreamed of glory, gains it by understanding the dreams of others.

Genesis 41:50-52

50 And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him. **51** Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house." **52** And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Joseph is the actual Patriarch of the tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim. In fact when Ephraim is mentioned in Scripture many times he is also described as Joseph or Israel. There was no actual tribe of Joseph per se, but he was represented by Ephraim and Manasseh, who were considered to be half tribes when listed with the other eleven tribes. One of the reasons for this is because Ephraim and Manasseh were the grandsons of Jacob and not his sons, and Jacob had adopted his two grandsons and made them his own sons who would be entitled to a blessing from him before he died.

Genesis 48:1 Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, "Indeed your father is sick"; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. **2** And Jacob was told, "Look, your son Joseph is coming to you"; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed. **3** Then 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 multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.' **5** "And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. **6** "Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

You will notice that Jacob made sure that Joseph would know that his two sons would be counted among the sons of Israel for the purpose of inheritance.

Genesis 48:13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought *them* near him. **14** Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid *it* on Ephraim's head, who *was* the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh *was* the firstborn. **15** And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day, **16** The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." **17** Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. **18** And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for 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; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations." **20** So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!' "And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

In verse twenty this blessing is recited by observant Jews all over the world and now returning Israelites. The Lord brought in the sons of Joseph into Israel and as Ephraim and Manasseh along with the other tribes of the northern kingdom return they too are being added back into the people of Israel. However there are those in Messianic Judah who would deny their brethren a place at the table. It makes no difference as to who they are. If they are part of Ephraim or added into Ephraim what difference does it make if they desire to be part of Israel? Is it some kind of a club that one needs a secret word or a special handshake to be counted among its members?

It should be clear that being of the bloodline of Judah does not ensure one a place at the table with our Lord and Savior Yeshua.

1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us *there* is one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Yeshua the Messiah, through whom *are* all things, and through whom *we live*.

1 Corinthians 10:17 For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yeshua.

Colossians 3:11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Messiah is all and in all.

Our identity is to be found in our relationship with our Messiah Yeshua. The Apostle Shaul saw this early on and dedicated himself to not only bringing the message of salvation found through Yeshua but that it was in Him that we would draw our identity. He stressed the brotherhood of all Believers'. When the brethren in Jerusalem were suffering Shaul took up an offering from his congregation's to help the Believer's in Jerusalem We have lost sight of this goal on both sides of the aisle. Messianic

Jews have lost sight the Biblical truth of Ephraim while Messianic Ephraim is stressing their identity to the exclusion of Messianic Judah in some cases.

This was the purpose of what Jacob did when he made Ephraim and Manasseh the same as his other sons. It would not be through Joseph that the promise would be found it would be through his sons. Yet it is not through Ephraim alone or the ten northern tribes that the promise of unity would be found but with all of the twelve tribes of both the southern and northern kingdoms. Instead of stressing our differences we need to stress the areas where we can work together and reach across the aisle. One group and one group alone do not make up the entity known as Israel the sons and the daughters of our father Abraham. While Jacob carries the name of Israel our father is Abraham through whom the blessings of the nation of Israel would flow to the entire earth. We are all the children of Abraham and the blessing given to him by God and carried by his son Isaac and his son Jacob/Israel.

We must never lose sight of that beginning all the way back in Genesis when the sons of Joseph were born and eventually brought before their grandfather Jacob who brought them into the brotherhood that would one day come to be known as Israel.

Zechariah 2:10-13

10 " Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD. **11** "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. **12** "And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem. **13** "Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!"

This prophecy has not yet come to its fulfillment because the promise is for a united people when the nations become joined to the Messiah and God will once again come and dwell in the midst of His people. This will bring back the Ruach HaKodesh to Israel. The Ruach dwelled for a time in the Tabernacle and then God removed His Spirit because of the sin of Israel. The Ruach dwelled in Temple of Solomon and for a time in the second Temple until once again God's Spirit left. God's Spirit brings to us the presence of God as found in the Shechinah

It was in the Garden that we are first introduced to the Shechinah of God when it covered Adam and Chavah and then departed because of their sin. Under the covering of God Adam and Chavah were innocent, not knowing sin and the separation from God that it brings, but they found out very quickly and through their act of disobedience brought sin to the whole world and the generations who would follow after them.

Genesis 3:9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?" **10** So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." **11** And He said, "Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" **12** Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to *be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." **13** And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." **14** So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you *are* cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. **15** And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed;

He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." **16** To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire *shall be* for your husband, and he shall rule over you." **17** Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. **18** Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. **19** In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return." **20** And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. **21** Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. **22** Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" -- **23** therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. **24** So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

It was through this act of disobedience that our parents paved the way for a Messiah, a Savior, Who would set things right and brings God's creation back into the proper balance. We are part this work of the Son of God and we go forth, hand in hand, with Him working our way towards the goal that we have been seeking even before our parents sinned against God. God knew what we would do even before He created us because He knows all things. We did not surprise Him by our parent's actions in the Garden. They planted the seed of disobedience within us the same as we have the seed of obedience to God planted within us. I can this with some certainty because haven't you ever had that moment when you realized that you yearned for something more than what you have? Didn't you begin to think that there was more to your life than living so many years upon the earth and one day passing away and there was nothing more?

I cannot accept that we are born, we live and we die. Is that all there is my friends? I don't think so, but you each have to make your own decisions about this. Either there is a God who created all that there is including us and He has a Son who is our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. Then there is the Spirit of God that moves throughout the world in the past, present and future. To God these are all the same because He is beyond time. When Yeshua died it was in the past and in the beginning because it happened before Creation came about. This is that part of God that we fail to understand fully because it simply boggles the mind to even consider this truth.

Exodus 3:14 God said to Moshe, "*Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh* [I am/will be what I am/will be]," and added, "Here is what to say to the people of Isra'el: '*Ehyeh* [I Am or I Will Be] has sent me to you."

Mark 14:60 The high priest stood up *and came* forward and questioned Yeshua, saying, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" **61** But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed *One*?" **62** And Yeshua said, "**I am**; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN." [Daniel 7:13] **63** Tearing his clothes, the high priest said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? **64** "You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.

God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and now Yeshua stood before the Sanhedrin waiting for the words that would propel Him into the final fulfillment of this part of His Father's plan. In Exodus before Moses He is the I AM and in Mark 14:62 He is the I Am who is the Son of man – the Messiah – the Son of the Most High.

Colossians 1:10-17

10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; **11** strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; **12** giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. **13** He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **14** in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. **15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

In Colossians 1:10-17 we are told by Shaul that Yeshua is the image of the invisible God. He is the firstborn who has dominion over all of creation. Everything that is, was created by Him, and for Him. He was not created He was, He is, and He will be. He is the only Son of God the Father; therefore He is the firstborn of His Father and the Son to whom all authority has been given. He is over us, we who were created by Him. He is not a created being as many think. He was the Creator as the living Word of the Father. When the Lord first spoke to bring about creation His word became form and His Son appeared from within Him.

The power of our God is beyond us and we attempt to understand the little bit He has chosen to reveal to us. Look what we have done with the small bit of Himself He has shared with us? We have fractured the Body of Messiah and hurt the One from whom we all came. The Body of Messiah is divided into many groups, beliefs and a good deal of misunderstanding.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

Notice that Shaul says spirit, soul, and body. The spirit and soul are not one and the same; they are different parts of who we are. The spirit is given through the Ruach of God – His Spirit. The soul is the *nefesh* that part that might be the driving force that courses through our body. The body is the *basar* the flesh and bone that forms the outline the Lord God filled in as He brought life to that which He had formed from the dust of the ground.

Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return."

In the end we will return to the earth from which we were created. There we will remain for all of eternity unless we know and believe in the Son of God Yeshua. He is the firstborn from the dead and master of death. Death must give way to Yeshua and it is from death that He redeems us before His Father when we come to faith in Yeshua and hold fast to that faith. There are many twists and turns in this life and sometimes we never know what the future may hold for us but if we have Yeshua as our Redeemer we have life everlasting. ***You can take that to the bank and it will keep its value no matter what!***

Aryeh ben Pinhas took his little granddaughter into the synagogue. They walked down its center aisle hand in hand. They walked up the steps of the Bimah, and stood in front of the Holy Ark. The grandfather opened the doors of the Ark, to show her the Torah Scrolls, clad in their velvet mantles. The little girl looked at them raptly, and then exclaimed: "I want to go still higher!" Her grandfather bent down and kissed her, and said: "May you always want to go higher."...Chassidic

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May the Lord bless you and yours... *Mordecai Silver*

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