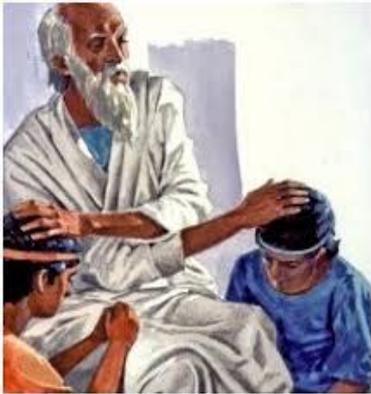


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The Blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh 48: 1-22



After receiving the oath from **Joseph** that **he** would be carried **out of Egypt and** buried with **Abraham** and **Isaac**, **Jacob** continued to be bedridden with a lot of time on **his** hands. Alone on **his** bed, **he** must have frequently reminisced, recalling the amazing events of **his** long walk with **the LORD**. One day, when **Yosef** came to visit **him** with **his two** Egyptian **sons**, **God** inspired **Ya'akov** to prophesy over **them**. This resulted in **Jacob** adopting **Ephraim and Manasseh** and elevating **them** to the status of full Israelite tribes along with **Joseph's** other brothers. Therefore, there were fourteen tribes of **Isra'el**, although no more than twelve are listed at any one time in the Bible. As we shall see, **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** has a specific reason for choosing some and omitting others, but many times **Ephraim and Manasseh** are included in the place of **Joseph**.

The passing over of the firstborn is one of the most striking features of **Genesis**. Seven times this happened: (1) with **Seth** being chosen over Cain, (2) **Shem** being chosen over Japheth, (3) **Abraham** being chosen over Haran, (4) **Isaac** being chosen over Ishmael, (5) **Jacob** being chosen over Esau, (6) **Joseph** being chosen over **Reuben**, and now (7) **Ephraim** over **Manasseh**. **Ya'akov** gave the birthright to **Yosef** by changing the status of **Ephraim and Manasseh** from grandsons to sons.⁷⁴² In this way, **Joseph** inherited a double portion of the inheritance because **his sons** would then be included as equals among the brothers.