

Day 30 of “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

Jan. 30, 2016

- Genesis 47-48 – Jacob settles in Goshen (47); Jacob adopts his grandsons (48).
- Hebrews 11 – Life of heroes of the faith.
- Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 – Old age.

Reflections:

1. Genesis 47-48. In chapter 48 we see Jacob with his sight failing and realizing the end is near. However, he is able to summon enough strength to sit up on the side of his bed and talk with his son about matters that were too important to delay. Notice, he is not feeling sorry for himself. He didn't talk about the difficulties of his life; rather, he spoke about God Almighty. Note the focus on the Lord in verses 3, 11, 15, 20-21 and what He had done for His servant. He finally realized that God is in faithful control of *all* of His life.
2. Hebrews 11. This is one of the most powerful chapters in the Word of God on the importance of a life of faith and trust in God and His Word. It is also a chapter that stands as a sharp rebuke against the “Word of Faith” prosperity movement, which is without a doubt a cult filled with demonic doctrines covered in Christian and biblical terminology, which is what makes it so dangerously deceptive. Where in chapter 11 do we find any emphasis or promise on earthly material riches for those who live by faith? This chapter is also a condemnation of the idea that once one reaches “supergrace,” his life will be fantastic as far as temporal issues. Is this not just another form of “prosperity” gospel? Take a good look at this chapter and see the *continued* struggles of the heroes of the faith to the very end.



3. Ecclesiastes 12:1-8. What a ghastly depiction of the earthly miseries associated with old age: e.g., strong men stoop (legs grow bent and feeble); grinders cease (fewer teeth), looking dimly through the windows (failing eyesight); closed doors to the street (lips sinking in, due to the loss of teeth); rising up at the sound of birds (old people get up

early because of their inability to sleep); songs growing faint (impaired hearing); fear of heights and of dangers in the streets (lack of vigor and the fear that makes older people afraid to venture out); almond tree blossoming (hair turning gray and white); grasshopper dragging himself along (body being bent and one's walk being slowed), lack of desire (diminished appetites), and the decline of physical powers that eventually culminates in death, which is followed by man going to his eternal home, and people grieving his loss. Such is all part of the curse. However, there is good news, but only for the believers. First, even though we decay physically, we can be renewed inwardly through the spiritual life. Second, our bodies will one day be completely restored.

2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.

1 Corinthians 15:42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸ As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. ⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*. ⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don