

Genesis 48

Verses 1- 4

Now it came about after these things that Joseph was told, “Behold, your father is sick.” So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him. ² When it was told to Jacob, “Behold, your son Joseph has come to you,” Israel collected his strength and sat up in 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 He said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and numerous, and I will make you a multitude of peoples, and will give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.’

Now it came about after these things that Joseph was told, “Behold, your father is sick.” So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him.

This is 12 years after the end of the famine and Jacob is sick and will soon die

Manasseh and Ephraim were born during the 7 years of great crops so Joseph’s two sons are now 19 to 25 years old

See chart 4805

Chp	Person	Event	Age	Year
37	Joseph	Sold to Ishmaelites	17	1728
40	Joseph	Cupbearer and Baker	28	1717
35	Isaac	Isaac dies	180	1716
41	Joseph	Pharaoh's dream	30	1715
41	Joseph	Years of plenty	31-37	1714 - 1708
41	Joseph	Manasseh and Ephraim born	31-37	1714 - 1708
41	Joseph	Years of famine	38-44	1707 - 1701
45	Joseph	5 years of famine left	40	1705
46	Benjamin	5 years of famine left	33	1705
47	Jacob	5 years of famine left	131	1705
49	Jacob	Jacob dies	147	1689

Then Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me

This happened 2 times at the same place but separated by 20 years

God appeared to Jacob on his way to Harran when he was 77 years old

The name of the place was Luz, but Jacob changed it to Bethel.

See Genesis 28:19

Jacob returned to this place when he came back from Harran at the age of 97

He named the place Bethel once again

See Genesis 35:15

‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and numerous, and I will make you a multitude of peoples

Jacob became a group of 70 direct descendants during his life time

And we know this group included more than this 70 because only 1 daughter and 1 granddaughter were mentioned in the group of 70

And will give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.

All of the patriarchs realized that the Promised Land had a future fulfillment because God had told Abraham it would be 400 years

Verses 5 - 7

⁵ 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. ⁶ But your children that you have fathered after them shall be yours; they shall be called by the names of their brothers in their inheritance. ⁷ Now as for me, when I came from Paddan, Rachel died, to my sorrow, in the land of Canaan on the journey, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath. I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).”

Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are

By adopting Ephraim and Manasseh, Jacob was giving Joseph the double portion

Instead of one tribe called Joseph, there would now be two tribes named for his 2 sons

However, the 12 tribes of Israel just became 13 tribes

But as we all know, the tribe of Levi will be dispersed among the other 12 tribes, and Israel will return to a nation of 12 tribes once again

Jacob probably wasn't told about this future event; he was simply obeying what God had told him to do

But your offspring that have been born after them shall be yours

The Septuagint says Joseph had 9 sons all together

But the 7 sons that were born after Manasseh and Ephraim would not be part of the 12 patriarchs.

When I came from Paddan, Rachel died, in the land of Canaan on the journey

Rachel died giving birth to Benjamin

Jacob increased her status by making her two grandsons that were born to Joseph part of the 12 patriarchs

This may be why Rachel's death was mentioned in this context.

Verses 8-11

⁸ When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?" ⁹ And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." So he said, "Bring them to me, please, so that I may bless them." ¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were so dim from age *that* he could not see. And Joseph brought them close to him, and he kissed them and embraced them. ¹¹ And Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face, and behold, God has let me see your children as well!"

¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were so dim from age *that* he could not see.

Jacob is blind at this point but God has revealed to him what he is to do

Verses 12-16

¹² Then Joseph took them from his knees, and bowed with his face to the ground.

¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right, and brought them close to him. ¹⁴ But Israel reached out his right hand and placed it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, crossing his hands, although Manasseh was the firstborn. ¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph, and said,

"The God before whom my father's Abraham and Isaac walked,

The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,

¹⁶ The angel who has redeemed me from all evil,

Bless the boys;

And may my name live on in them,

And the names of my father's Abraham and Isaac;

And may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

¹² Then Joseph took them from his knees and bowed with his face to the ground

Despite his high position, Joseph gave his father the respect he deserved

¹⁴ But Israel reached out his right hand and placed it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, crossing his hands, although Manasseh was the firstborn.

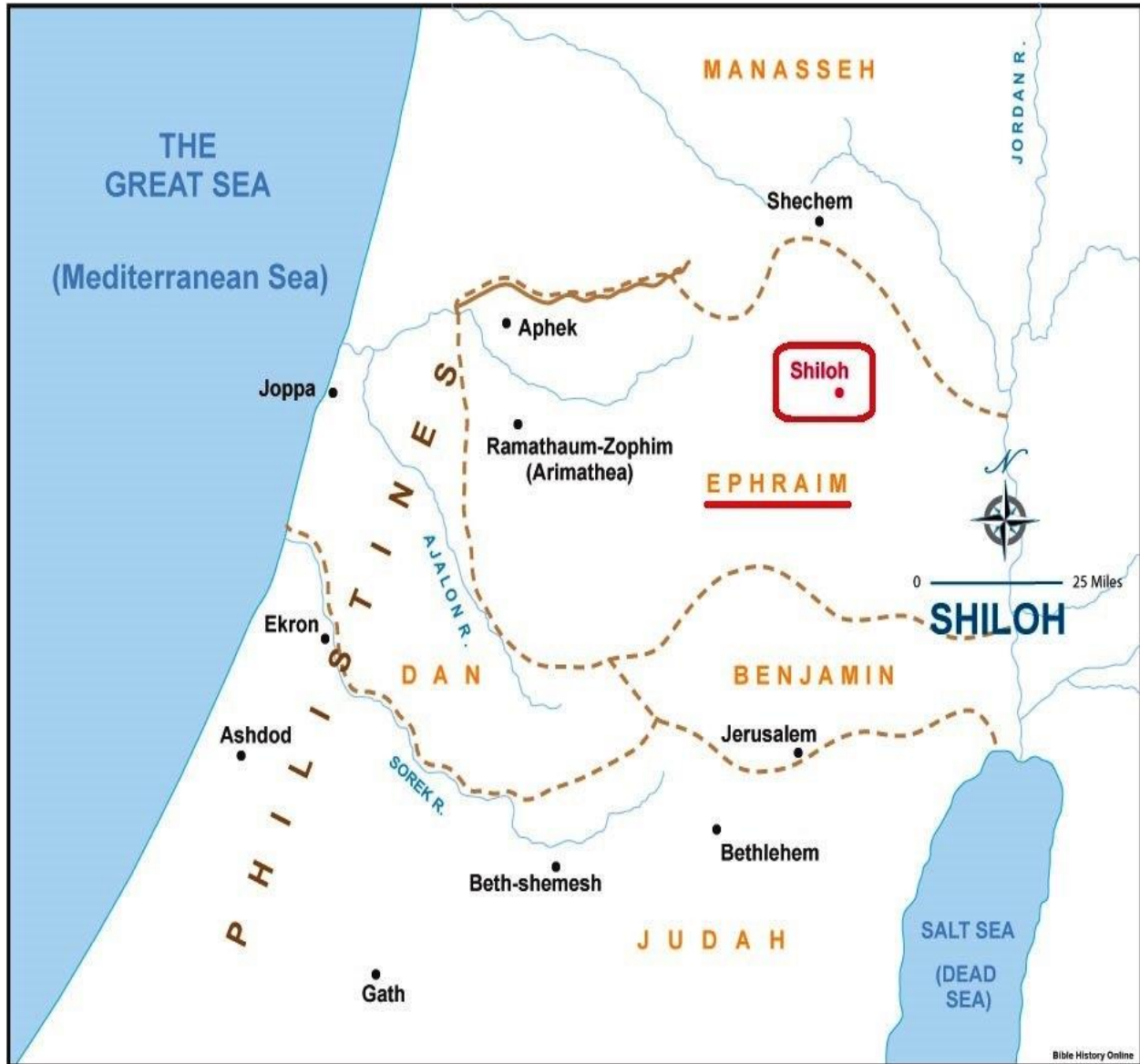
This was contrary to what Joseph expected, but Jacob knew what he was doing

The right hand meant Ephraim got the greater blessing and so he did

The tabernacle was in Shiloh for 300 plus years during the time of the judges

Making Ephraim the place where all the other tribes would come to offer their sacrifices and celebrate the 3 festivals that all males were commanded to attend

See map 4810 below



Manasseh was also blessed but in a much different way than Ephraim

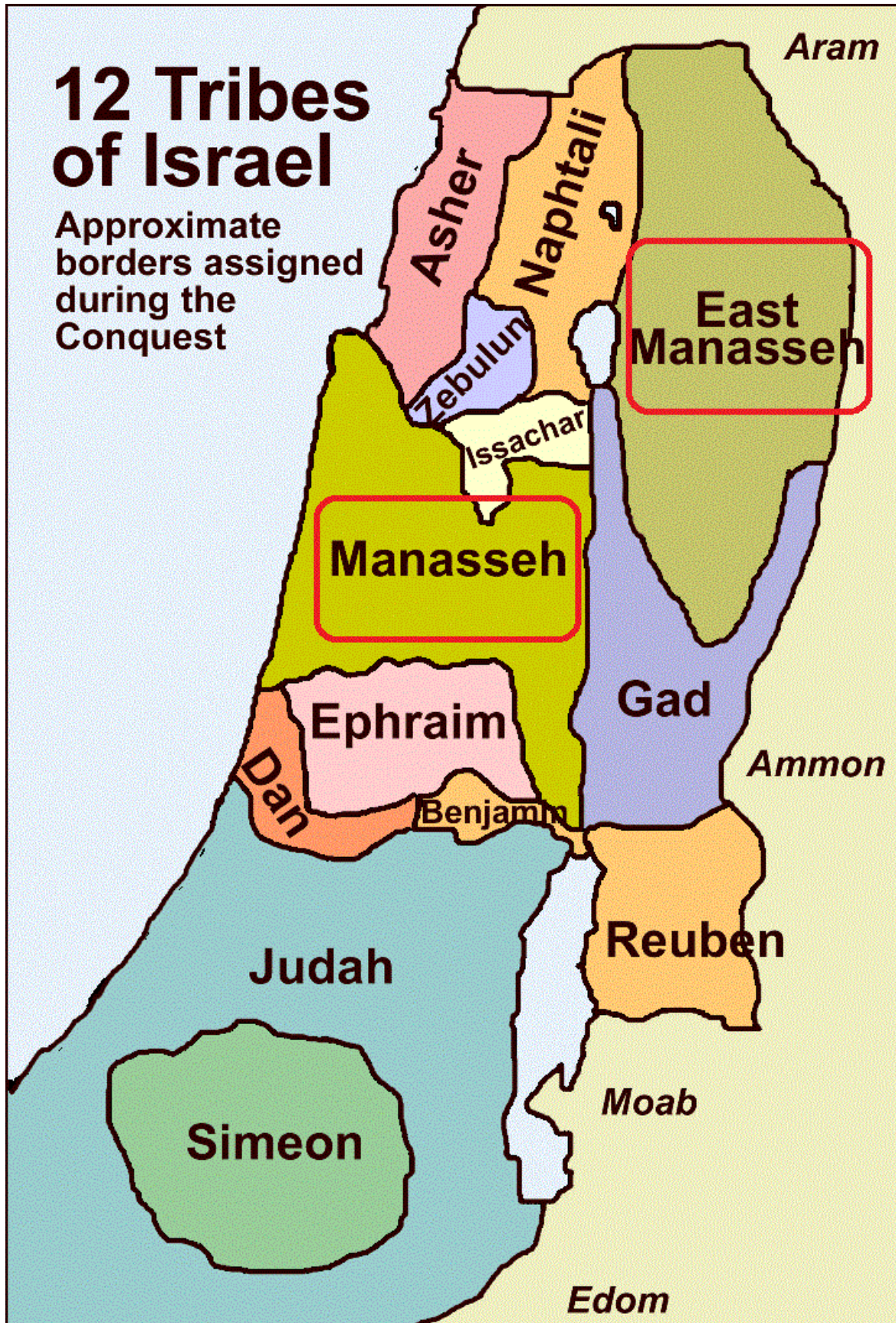
Manasseh received land on both sides of the Jordan River and the land area of these two half tribes was much larger than any of the other tribes

Their land area covered about 1/3 of the total land given to the 12 tribes

See map 4815 below

12 Tribes of Israel

Approximate borders assigned during the Conquest



Verses 17-22

17 When Joseph saw that his father placed his right hand on Ephraim's head, it displeased him; and he grasped his father's hand to move 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. Place your right hand on his head." 19 But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know; he also will become a people and he also will be great. However, 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 pronounce blessing, saying,
'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh!'"**

And so he put Ephraim before Manasseh. 21 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you, and bring you back to the land of your fathers. 22 And I give you one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."

And Joseph said to his father, not so my father; for this is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.

Joseph thought Jacob was about to made a mistake because Manasseh was the 1st born, not Ephraim

But God must have revealed to Jacob what he was to do here

However, his younger brother shall be greater than he

Someone's order of birth did not determine who got the birthright, but rather the sovereign will and purpose of God

Isaac the younger had been chosen over Ishmael,

Jacob the younger had been chosen over Esau,

Joseph the younger had been chosen over Reuben;

And now Ephraim the younger had been chosen instead of Manasseh

And his descendants shall become a multitude of nations

In 930 BC **the tribe of Ephraim** led the 10 northern tribes in a successful revolt against the south and established the Kingdom of Israel, with Jeroboam I as king.

He was from the tribe of Ephraim and the 10 Northern tribes were called by his name in scripture

See Hosea 10:11

And I give you one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow.”

This event is not spoken of anywhere else in scripture.

This may be a prophecy that the children of Joseph would inherit the area around Shechem when the inheritance would be divided among the sons of Jacob