

Why is this place like the book of Genesis ?



Jacob's faith during his closing year(s)

Genesis 47:28-31

A Personal request

Genesis 48

Adopting Manasseh and Ephraim

Genesis 49

Blessing his twelve sons

Jacob lived in Egypt seventeen years, and the years of his life were a hundred and forty-seven. Genesis 47:28



When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called for his son Joseph and said to him, "If I have found favour in your eyes, put your hand under my thigh and promise that you will show me kindness and faithfulness.

A Personal request



Do not bury me in Egypt, but when I rest with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt and bury me where they are buried.



"I will do as you say," he said. "Swear to me," he said. Then Joseph swore to him, and Israel worshipped as he leaned on the top of his staff (bed).



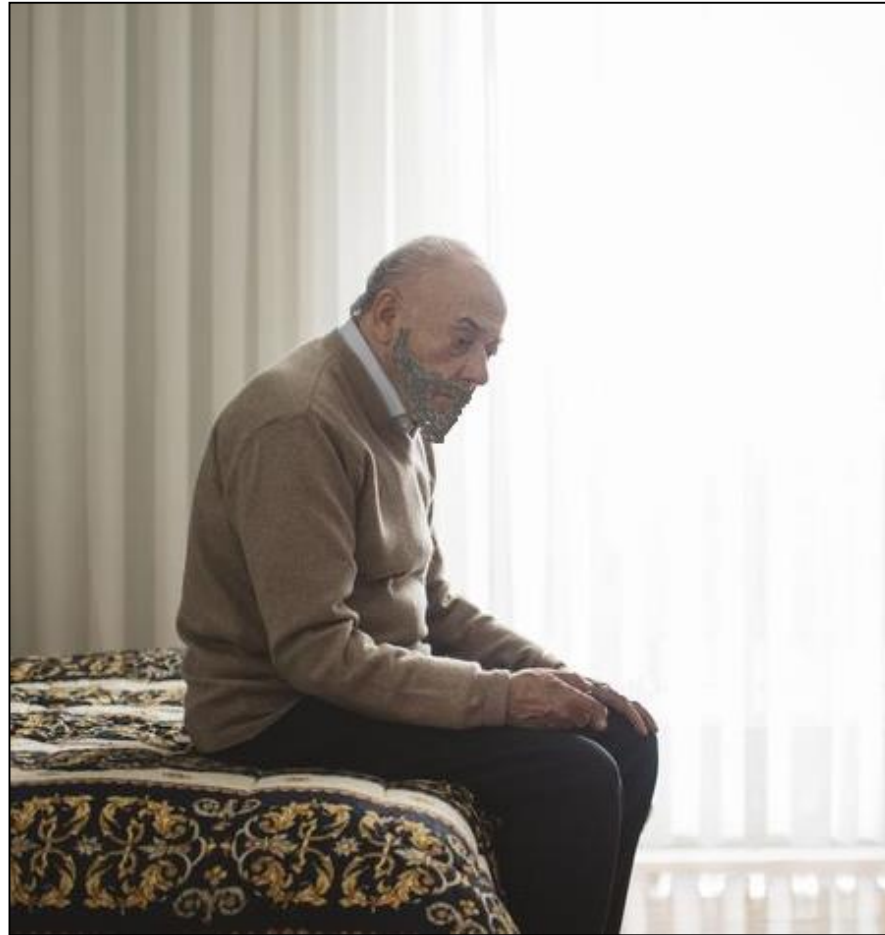
Why did he ask him to swear ?

Some time later Joseph was told, "Your father is ill." So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim along with him.



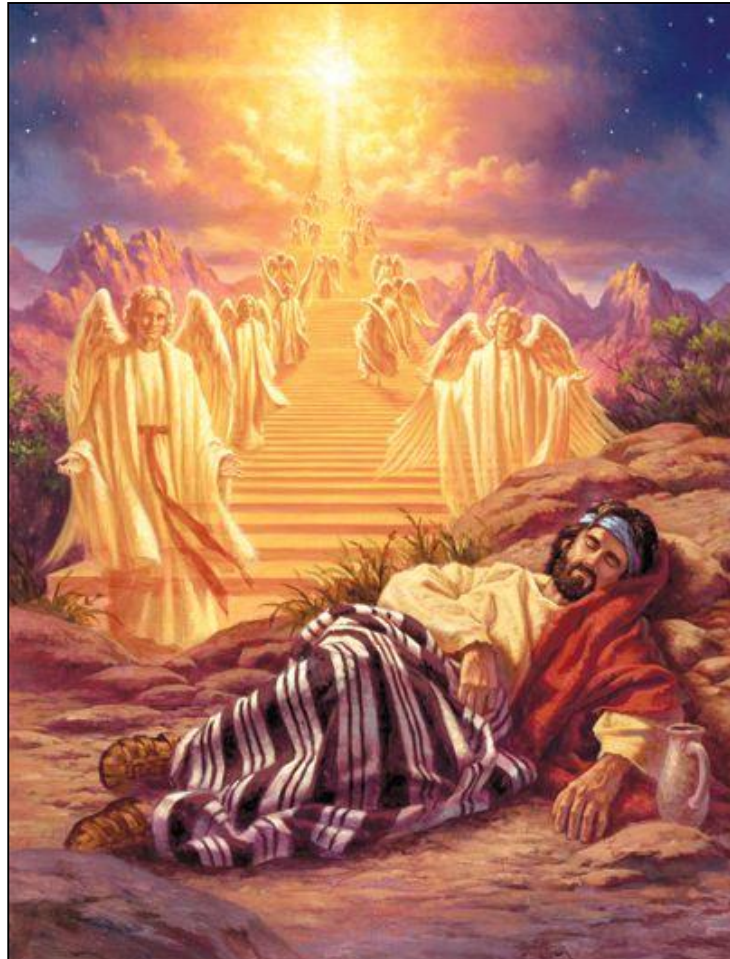
How old would they be by now ?

When Jacob was told, "Your son Joseph has come to you," Israel rallied his strength and sat up on the bed.



Why did he sit up ?

Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and there he blessed me and said to me, `I am going to make you fruitful and will increase your numbers. I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you.` "



Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine.



Adopted !

Any children born to you after them will be yours; in the territory they inherit they will be reckoned under the names of their brothers.

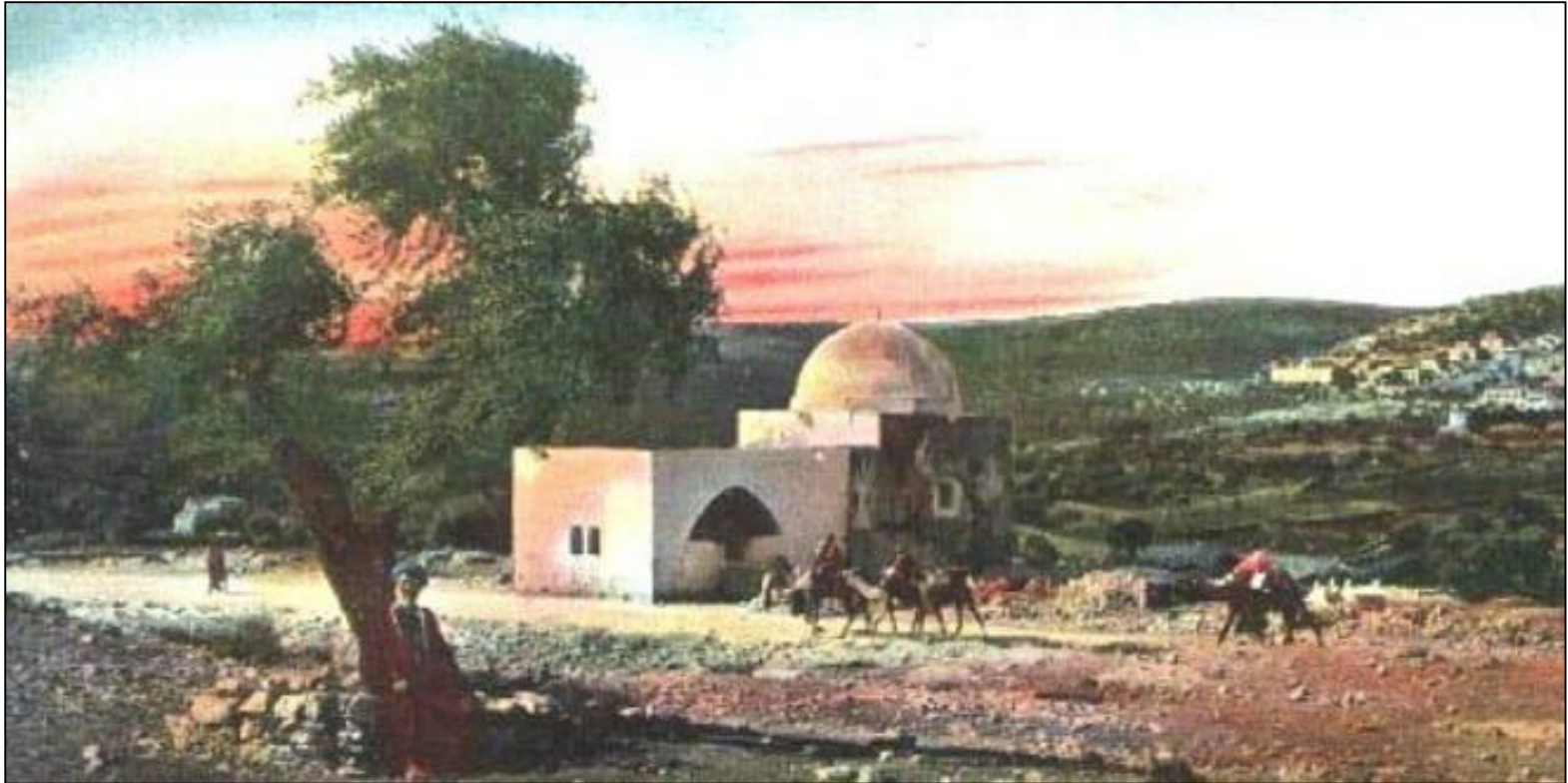
Ephraim



Manasseh

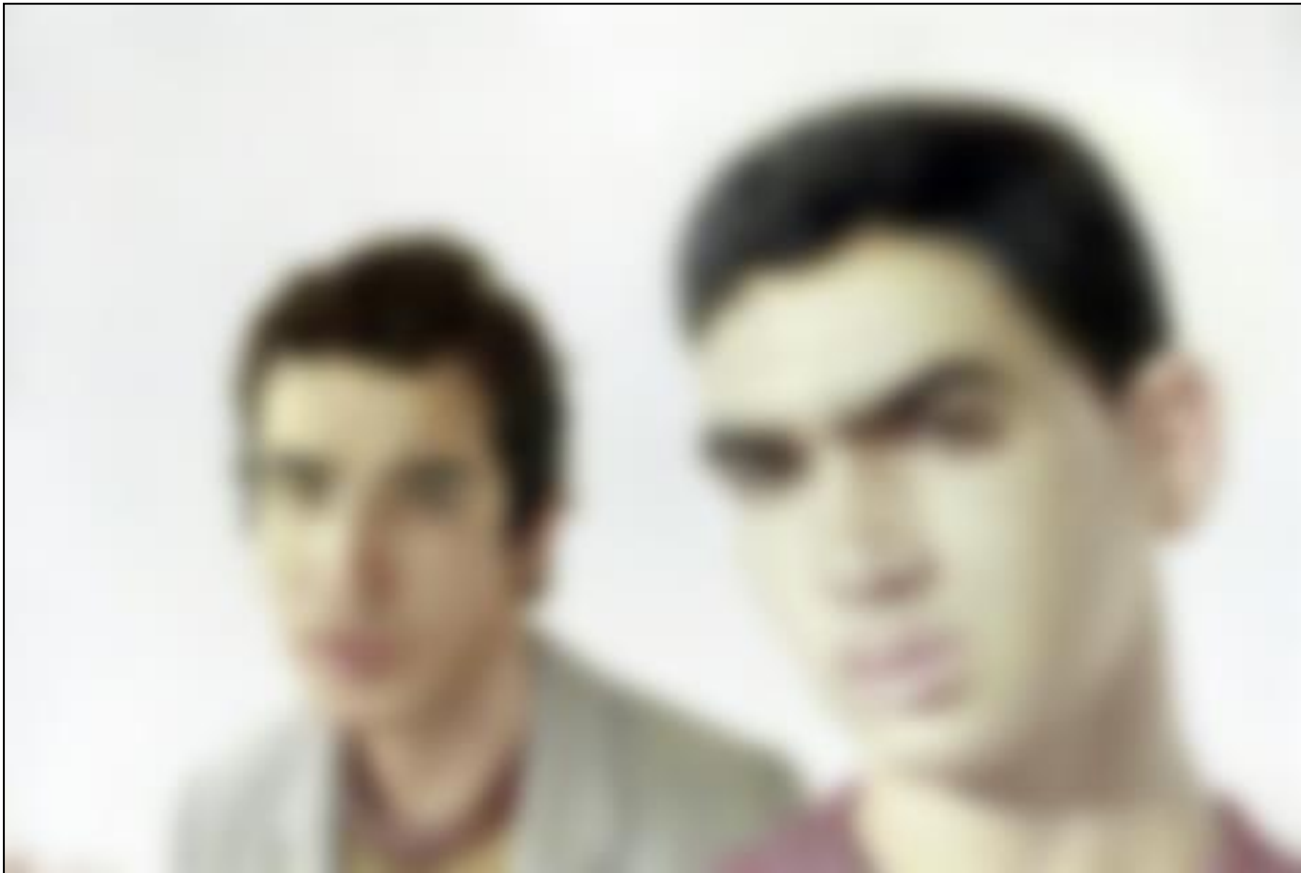


As I was returning from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan while we were still on the way, a little distance from Ephrath. So I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).



Joseph was born in the promised land.

When Israel saw the sons of Joseph, he asked, "Who are these?" "They are the sons God has given me here," Joseph said to his father. Then Israel said, "Bring them to me so I may bless them." Now Israel's eyes were failing because of old age, and he could hardly see.



So Joseph brought his sons close to him, and his father kissed them and embraced them. Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too."



So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth.



And Joseph took both of them, Ephraim on his right toward Israel`s left hand and Manasseh on his left toward Israel`s right hand, and brought them close to him.

Joseph's right hand

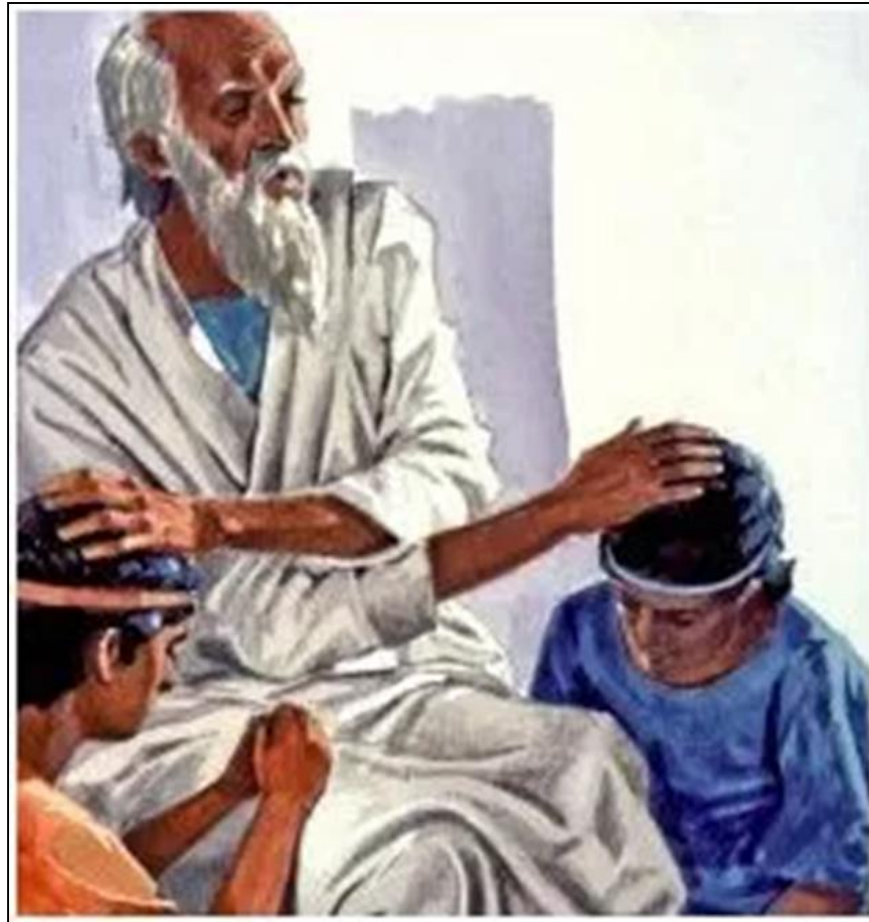
left hand



younger

older

But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim`s head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his left hand on Manasseh`s head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn.

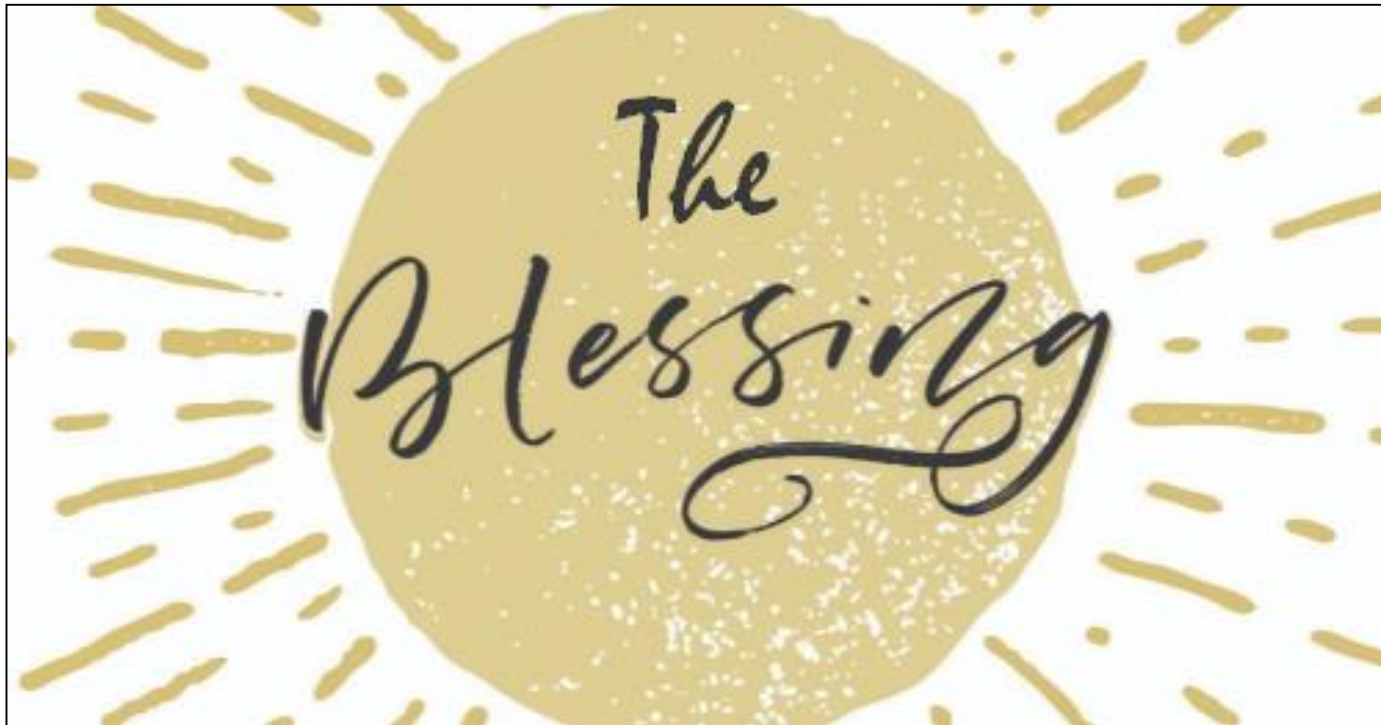


Then he blessed **Joseph** and said,



The sons represent their father Joseph

"May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel who has delivered me from all harm --may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly upon the earth."



May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,



Continuity

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



This is the first time God is called a shepherd.

the Angel who has delivered me from all harm --may he bless these boys.

Blessing

1



Technical point !

Note the singular verb 'bless' used with 'God' AND 'the Angel'.

May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers
Abraham and Isaac,

Blessing

2

Abraham



Isaac



Jacob



The Sons of Israel

and may they increase greatly upon the earth.

Blessing

3



may they increase like fish !

When Joseph saw his father placing his right hand on Ephraim's head he was displeased; so he took hold of his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. Joseph said to him, "No, my father, this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."

This is the only occasion where Joseph is 'criticized'



How do you react when things don't go according to your plan ?

**We can eventually see that God's chosen way
is the way to fulfilling His good purposes**



“Not my will but yours”

But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know.

Who has the best 'eyesight' ?

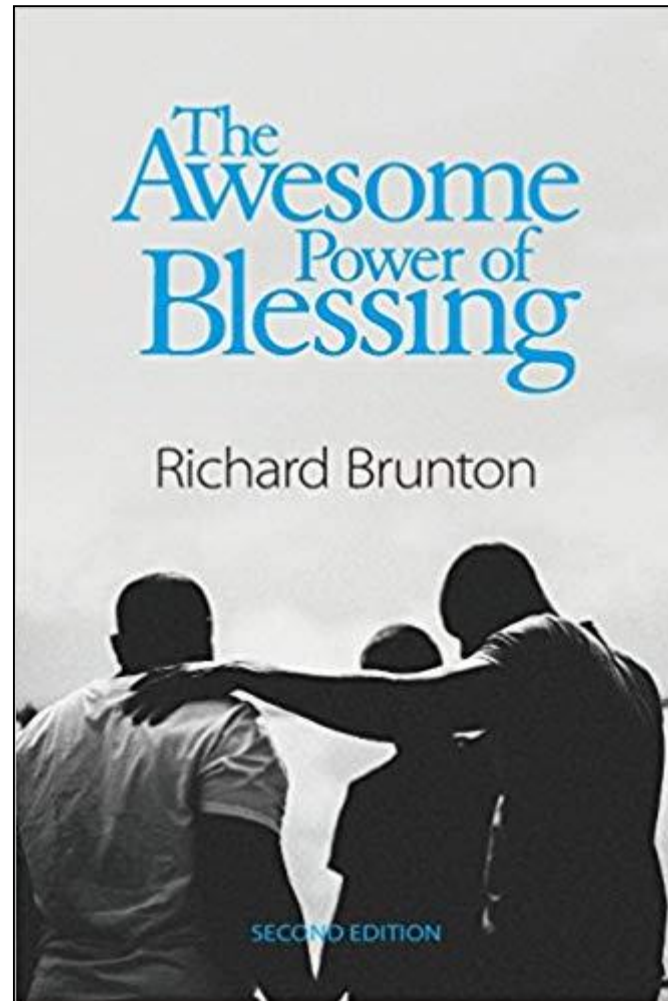


He too will become a people, and he too will become great.
Nevertheless, his younger brother will be greater than he, and his
descendants will become a group of nations.



The Lord has revealed their future to Jacob

He blessed them that day and said, "In your name will Israel pronounce this blessing.. `May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.`"



So he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

Manasseh

Ephraim



Then Israel said to Joseph, "I am about to die, but God will be with you and take you back to the land of your fathers.



It is **your** promised land too !

And to you, as one who is over your brothers,

What happened with Ephraim
is like what has happened with Joseph (and others)

Hosah the Merarite had sons:
Shimri the first (although he was
not the firstborn, his father had
appointed him the first),

1 Chronicles 26:10

I give the ridge(*shechem*) of land I took from the Amorites with my sword and my bow.

A Bible Mystery

When did this happen ?



I give the ridge of land

How can you give what you don't possess ?

It's called



FAITH

Romans 4:17 God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

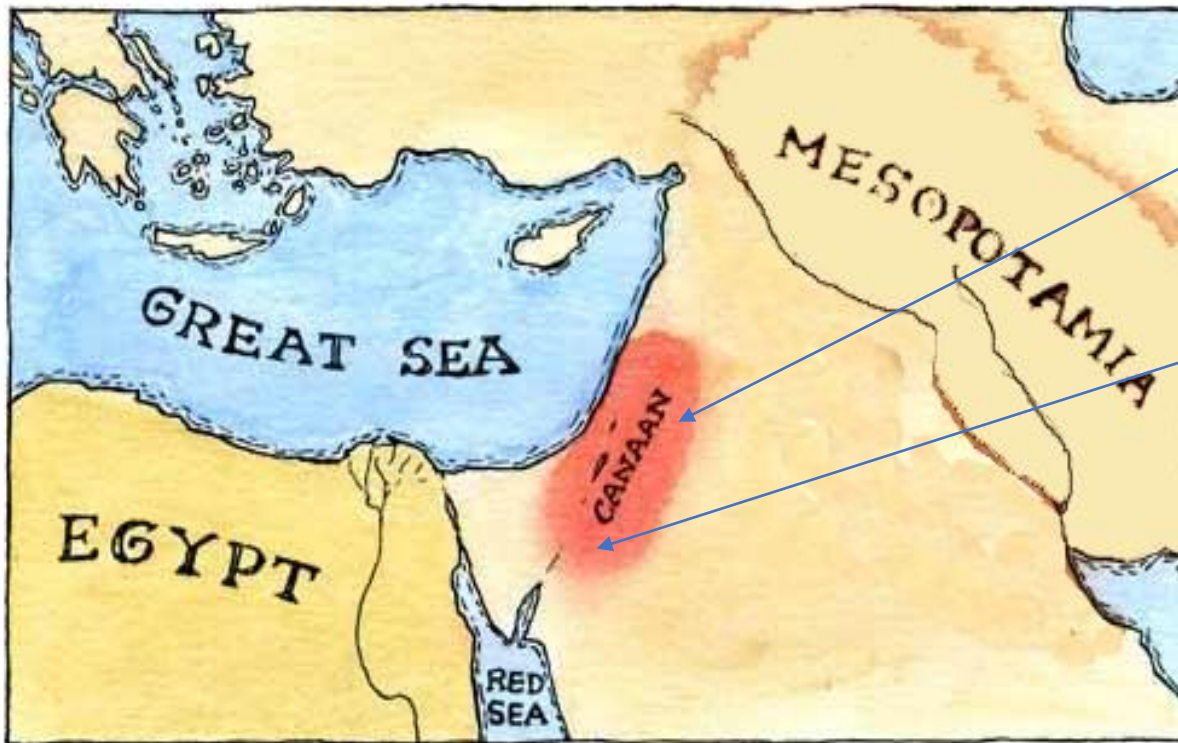
Exodus 13:19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here."

Joshua 24:32 As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money. It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph.

Jacob's faith during his closing year(s)

Jacob believed God's promises (*How do we know ?*)

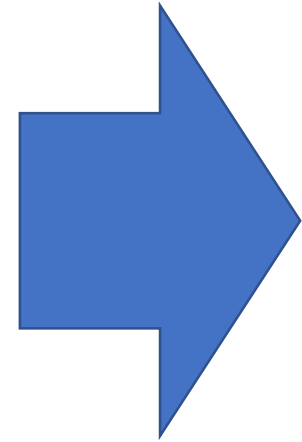
For Jacob and his fathers the land became
Sites of Special Spiritual Interest

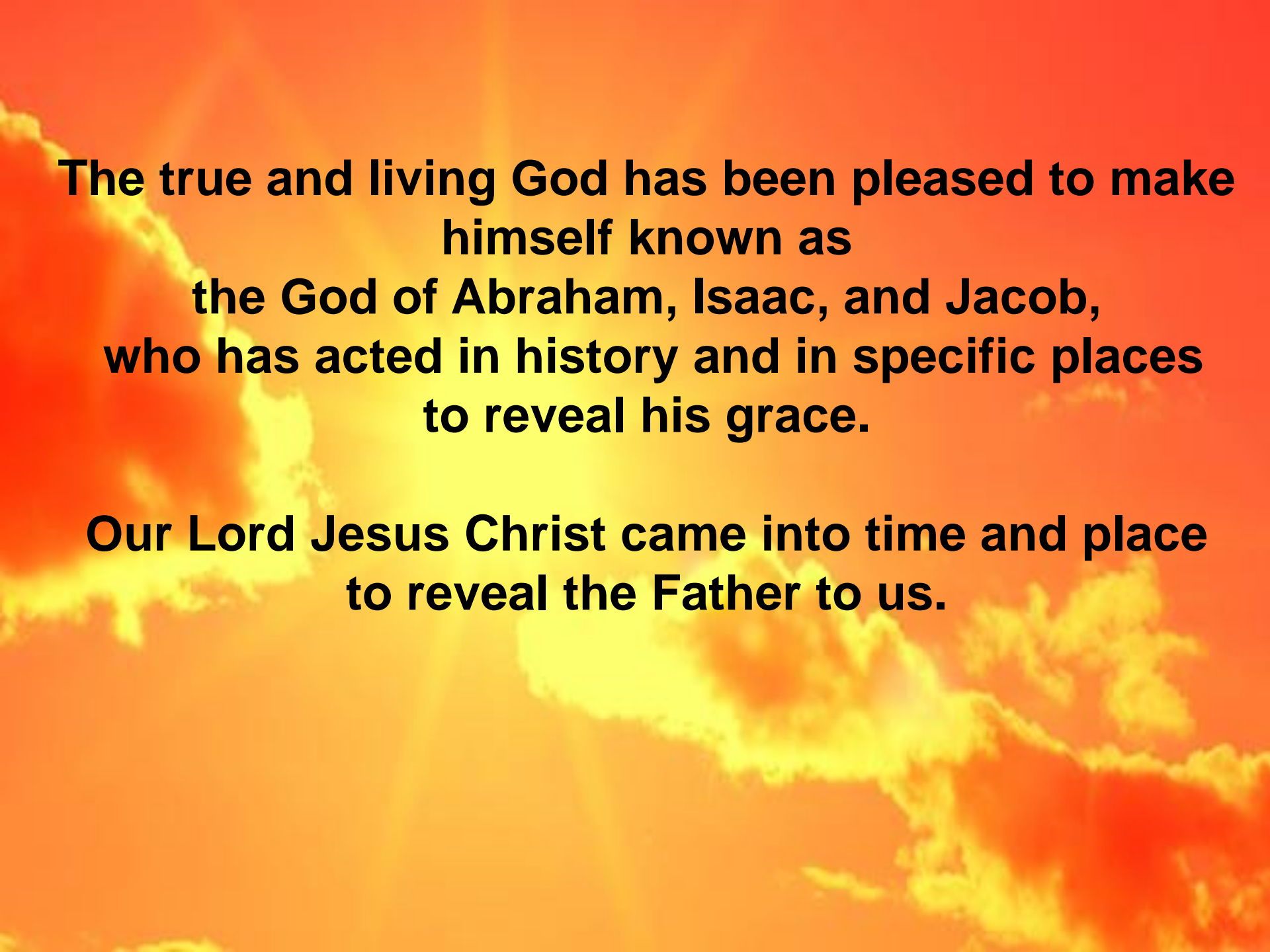


Eg.
Peniel
Bethel
Mount Moriah
Beersheba

Jacob's faith during his closing year(s)

Jacob believed he was chosen and blessed by God not only for his own benefit but to be a rich blessing to others.





**The true and living God has been pleased to make
himself known as
the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
who has acted in history and in specific places
to reveal his grace.**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ came into time and place
to reveal the Father to us.**