

8.3 Genesis 47-49

Use in conjunction with the Student Manual

Student Name:

1. Write what you would like to accomplish in your life in each of the following categories:

a. Education or training

b. Occupation

c. Achievements

d. Family

e. Church

If you were to choose between your plan for your life and what Heavenly Father might have planned for your life, which would you choose? Why?

In what ways do you think Joseph's life may have gone differently than he had planned?

Read Genesis 47:8–9, and notice how Jacob answered a question Pharaoh asked him.

Read Genesis 48:8–9, looking for what Jacob wanted to do for Manasseh and Ephraim.

Read Genesis 48:13–14, looking for what happened when Jacob laid his hands on Joseph's sons.

Read Genesis 48:17–20, looking for how Joseph reacted to the placement of Jacob's hands.

Why did Jacob place his right hand on Ephraim?

How do you think Jacob knew that Ephraim was to receive the birthright blessing?

Read Genesis 49:1–2, looking for what Jacob was planning to tell his sons as he blessed them.

Read Judah's blessing in Genesis 49:8–10, looking for the blessings and prophecies that were given to the tribe of Judah.

Now read Joseph's blessing in Genesis 49:22–26, and search for blessings and prophecies given to Joseph and his posterity.

Consider how your faith in priesthood blessings is affected as you realize that hundreds of years before Lehi and his family left Jerusalem to travel to the Americas, the prophet Jacob promised in a blessing that this would happen. How does the fulfillment of this promise influence your faith in the promises included in patriarchal blessings?

2. What could you say to someone who was worried that a promise in his or her patriarchal blessing might not be fulfilled?

What do you think it means to have your lineage in the house of Israel declared?

3. Complete one or more of the following assignments:

a. If you have one, write how your patriarchal blessing has helped guide you in your life. (You do not need to write any details contained in your blessing.)

b. If there are members of your family who have received their patriarchal blessing, ask them to share how it has helped them make correct decisions and how it has been a guide throughout their life. Write what you learned.

c. If you have not received your patriarchal blessing, you can prepare to receive it by studying about patriarchal blessings in True to the Faith (see True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference [2004], 111–13). Find out why patriarchal blessings are given and who can give them. Then discuss with a parent or Church leader how you can prepare to receive a patriarchal blessing. Write about what you did and learned.

4. Additional questions, thoughts, and insights I would like to share with my teacher:
