

- now the writer shifts from Abraham to the next 3 generations of Israel's patriarchs
(Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph)

*notice that the mention of all 3 are in relation to their times near their deaths
(All 3 trusted God in the face of death- their faith never waivers)

- Isaac's faith was focused with the future on an individual level (blessing of Jacob)

- Jacob's faith was focused with the future on a tribal level

- Joseph's faith was focused with the future on a national level

vs.20- "blessed"- this blessing was the formal transfer of the covenant as the one to continue
on in the Lord (this included promised land, descendants, and Divine favor)

- typically, the father would bestow this upon his eldest son

(Jacob and Esau were twins but Esau was the first one to be born)

- the account of this story is found in Gen.27- 28:5

- in their home, Isaac favored Esau while Rebekah favored Jacob

Truth- this story seems to have more deceit than faith but one must remember a few things

1- God told Rebekah in Gen.25:23 that the "older would serve the younger"

2- Esau did relinquish his birthright for a bowl of stew

3- Esau had grievous marriages (Gen.26:35) to Canaanite women

(Esau ignored the standard set by Abraham to Isaac in not marrying these women- Gen.24:3)

*So where does faith come in in the midst of all the deception?

(In the fact that Isaac didn't attempt to reverse the decree and give the blessing to Esau)

Truth- faith acts on what God says and not what the eyes see

- "Esau"- Isaac did bless him (Gen.27:39-40) but it was a lesser blessing with no heirship

vs.21- this account is found in Gen.47-49

- "sons of Joseph"- this would be Ephraim and Manasseh

*in the blessing of the 2 sons, it would cause 2 tribes to come from Joseph whereas only
1 tribe would come from each of Jacob's other sons

*the 12 tribes that received inheritance was Asher, Benjamin, Dan, Ephraim, Gad, Issachar,
Judah, Manasseh, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, and Zebulun

(The Levites' inheritance was the Lord Himself as they were never given land)

-when Jacob laid his right hand on Ephraim's head, Joseph sought to correct him as Manasseh
was Joseph's first born

(In Gen.38:19, Jacob told Joseph that the younger brother would be greater)

Truth- if you've noticed, many times in God's economy, the second takes precedent over
the first (Ex.- Jacob, Ephraim, second birth, second Adam- I Cor.15:45-47)

- "his staff"- his staff was a reminder of his surrendered life

*he always used this as when he was in Penuel (Gen.32), he wrestled with God

(God touched him and permanently put his thigh out of joint)

-the staff was a daily reminder of God's promise and a testimony that he'd been touched by God

vs.22- Joseph spent his entire adult life in Egypt

*one could say it's a miracle that Joseph even had faith given how others treated him

(He was betrayed, thrown in a pit, sold, lied about, mistreated, abused, forgotten and lived in
a pagan land)

- How did he have faith then? Gen.39:2, 21 says that God was with him

(Joseph's trials didn't make him bitter, they made him better)

- even though he was a 4th generation heir of the promise, he never got to return to Canaan alive
(Yet he still had faith that God would fulfill His promise)

- he demonstrated that confidence by making his brothers take his bones back to Canaan to bury

- he would be embalmed in Egypt and placed in a coffin (Gen.50:26) and be carried out during
the exodus (Ex.13:19) and would be buried in Shechem (Josh.24:32) near Jacob's well