

Women's Bible Study – Fall 2008

Overcoming: A Life Well Lived

The Life of Joseph from the book of Genesis

November 19, 2008

Overcoming Dread of Change, Death, and Loss

Genesis 48:1-50:14

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What were your thoughts when you saw the title for this week's lesson? Were you a bit overwhelmed? Did you "dread" to think about these subjects? The word "dread" from the dictionary, means to be very fearful of what may or may not happen in the future---or to fear greatly. I think all of us are fearful of the unknown. We all resist change. We like somewhat of a routine or pattern---to know what to expect and in a sense to be in control of our lives. I experienced a change of plans this past weekend. I was planning to work on this lecture, but instead traveled to Nebraska to attend my 92 year old Aunt Violet's funeral. God always has perfect timing and this "change" helped me see Jacob's death and funeral through the lens of the present day funeral of a godly relative.

CHANGE

First, let's look at change. Our world is in a constant state of change. Nothing remains the same. When God created the universe change was set in motion. Everything is moving, our earth and all the planets. Heat and light are waves that move through space, and they are never still. Our bodies are constantly changing as we age. Millions of dollars are spent in the cosmetic industry to try slow it down and disguise wrinkles, part of the aging process. Change is the most consistent thing in life.

Not all change is negative-----some changes are positive. How many of you were so happy when your new baby grew and changed enough to be able to sleep through the night?? How many of you cried (either with sorrow or joy) when that same baby grew up and left you to go to kindergarten, and then later graduated from high school?

Change is a part of life and God can use it to help us grow and mature in Him. Think of all the "changes" you have experienced in your own lifetime. Some changes were difficult and seemed negative at first but may have turned into real blessings later on.

Before we talk about the negative side of change personally, as well as in our nation and the world, I thought I would give you a few "chuckles". Jann shared some snapshots with you last week of Jacob and the trip to Egypt. Picking up on this theme, I would like to share some snapshots of "change" from my scrapbook that I think you all can relate to. (Pictures on screen)

Here I am as a baby at 7 months; then at 5 yrs; at graduation; My 1st job—Kindergarten teacher with one of my classes; our wedding; our 1st baby; 3 grown children (Bruce, Kris, and Kerri); our 1st grandchild; our family now (7 grandchildren, our children & spouses) All of these represent change, challenges, and adjustments, with positive results.

I experienced a negative change this past Feb. when my mother died. (picture of funeral) But God also changed it into a blessing. I had "dreaded" seeing my Mom in a casket. People almost always never look like themselves. I was so pleasantly surprised when I saw my mother because she looked so good.

She was just a few days short of 99 and looked like she did on her 90th birthday. She looked so lifelike I almost thought she would sit up in the casket to talk to me. I never thought I would ever take a picture like this---but I considered this a blessing from the Lord and wanted to remember her this way which was helpful in the grieving process.

I can relate to Joseph losing his remaining parent. No more would he enjoy that special relationship---it was the end of that generation. It was up to Joseph and his brothers to carry on the family heritage. From birth to death there are many changes and all are part of life.

Changes in our own lives, the death of loved ones, and losses of income or relationships as in divorce, a serious illness or disease can threaten our stability emotionally, physically, and spiritually. How can we stand up under such circumstances?

Change has certainly been on our minds these past few months in our nation with the economic crises, as we have seen mortgage companies, insurance companies and banks fail, the stock market tumble, loss of jobs, and people losing much of their retirement funds. Our very foundation is being shaken. Will we be overcome by fear and anxiety? Where is God in the midst of our changing circumstances?

The Bible tells us that God is unchanging ---or Immutable. He never changes. His Word does not change. His character does not change and His message of love and salvation through His Son Jesus Christ does not change.

Malachi 3:6 “I the Lord do not change.”

Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

God is our anchor in an ever-changing world with all its many problems. None of these circumstances have taken Him by “surprise”. He has promised that “he will never leave us or forsake us” and that he “will supply our needs in Christ Jesus.”

Not only is God unchanging, He is also Sovereign, and in control of all things. This means that God is always working out His will, His plan, His purpose in all the areas of life.

2 Chron 20:6 “O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.”

Acts 17:26 “From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.”

GOD DOES NOT CHANGE --- HE IS IMMUTABLE AND SOVEREIGN

Application Will you hang on to God’s unchanging nature and His sovereign control as you face the present and future changes in your life?

Joseph’s life has been a series of many changes in which he had to adjust---the death of his mother, being sold as a slave, taken to a foreign culture knowing no one, in prison for a number of years, betrayed, elevated to position of ruler, reunited with his father and brothers, caring for his aging father, and now preparing for his death and the loss of a very special relationship.

Through this study of Joseph’s life we have watched him deal with all these various difficult issues that brought great change to his life. He hung on to God and trusted him completely and waited on the guidance and enabling that he would receive. His life illustrated this verse.

Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make direct your paths.”

Today we are going to look at Joseph as he lovingly responds to his dying father's wishes which brought with them “change” for Joseph and his sons.

CHANGE THROUGH ADOPTION

Last week's lesson finished with Jacob speaking to Joseph about his request for burial in Canaan not Egypt, at his death. Since Jacob had rejected Reuben (his first born son by Leah because of his earlier actions I Chron 5:1-2, Joseph was now performing the duties of the firstborn son (he was the firstborn son of Rachel), and would handle the responsibility for his father's request of burial.

This portion of Scripture gives us the opportunity to see a beautiful picture of godly old age. Jacob has not always been a perfect person (we can all relate to that) but as he followed after God and matured in his faith he was able to give a wonderful testimony of unshakable faith at the end of this life. His faith looked upward to his heavenly home (soon to be “gathered to his people”) and he looked back with gratitude to all that God had done in his life. As we see him give blessings and love to his children he is pointing them to look forward to the future with hope and confidence in God.

When Jacob's death is near, Joseph is called and he brings his two sons with him. Jacob has some important last words to share. Jacob is 147 years old (46:28), and at this time Joseph would have been 56 and his sons in their 20's. Open your Bibles to Genesis 48.

Genesis 48:2-4

When Jacob was told, ‘Your son Joseph has come to you’, Israel rallied his strength and sat up on the bed. Jacob said to Joseph, ‘God Almighty appeared to me at Luz (earlier name for Bethel) in the land of Canaan, and there he blessed me and said to me, ‘I am going to make you fruitful and will increase in 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, as Reuben and Simeon are mine. Any children born after to you after that time will be yours; in the territory they inherit they will be reckoned under the names of their brothers.”

With Jacob nearing death, he wanted to be sure to bless Joseph's sons and adopt them so that they would be part of his family and inherit the land God had promised to them. Even though they had been born in Egypt and would live there all their lives, their descendants would be counted as part of Jacob's family ---the 12 tribes who would 400 years later return to live in Canaan---as God had promised.

People today in preparing for their death have a will or legal document written to give their possessions to their relatives and loved ones. Jacob sensed God's direction in taking care of some important details that would affect his family and descendants for generations to come and he musters all his strength to sit up and bless these young men.

He begins by worshipping and praising God ---talking about meeting with God at Bethel, being blessed and given the same promise given to Abraham and Isaac. In vs 11 he thanks God for

being able to see Joseph's children. In vs 15 he speaks of the Triune God in pronouncing his blessing on them.

“May the God (God the Father) before my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd (the Holy Spirit) all my life to this day, the Angel (pre-incarnate Jesus, the Son) 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, may they increase greatly upon the earth.”

Because of his eyes failing in old age, Joseph brings his sons close to Jacob so he can bless them. He kisses them and embraces them. Joseph bows down before his father in honor and respect before he then positions his sons so that the older, Manasseh will be at his right hand and Ephraim on the left. But Jacob with spiritual insight from God reverses his hands and crosses them, putting the right hand of blessing on Ephraim, the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh, the older.

Joseph saw what his father was doing and tried to move his hands and change them in the middle of the blessing, and vs 17 says “Joseph was displeased”. This is the only time we have seen Joseph with a negative reaction. Jacob refused to move his hands and said, “I know, my son, I know. He too will become a great 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.” “He put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.” This was fulfilled in later history as the tribe of Ephraim became a dominant tribe.

(It is interesting to note ---look back at verse 5---it seems Jacob already knew he was going to cross his arms in blessing because he gives Ephraim's name first.)

Jacob went on and blessed Joseph (a double portion), giving him a ridge of land in Canaan where Jesus would later meet the woman of Sychar there and lead her to saving faith. As Jacob blesses the younger over the older ---it is the fifth time in the book of Genesis that we see God reverses the birth order. Abel was chosen over Cain; Isaac over Ishmael; Jacob over Esau; and Joseph over Reuben. God's choice is for spiritual reasons, not chronological.

Our Adoption into God's Family---As Jacob adopted Joseph's sons into his family, so God the Father, invites us to be his children and receive a spiritual inheritance. When we receive Christ as our Savior, we experience a second birth and become members of God's spiritual family --- we are adopted.

John 1:12-13 “...to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God---children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.”

Ephesians 1:5 “...he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.”

In Warren Wiersbe's commentary on Genesis 48, he makes an interesting observation:

“While we have no biblical grounds for doing it, we are tempted to see the cross pictured in the crossing of Jacob's hands. The sinner's birth order is reversed when he or she trusts Jesus Christ, for it's the second born whom God receives, not the firstborn. All of this is made possible because of our Lord's sacrifice on the cross.”

This illustration gives us a good picture of our natural, physical birth with only an earthly inheritance on one side--- (the left side) ---then the Cross of Christ in the middle signifying our salvation -- our spiritual second birth is on the other side (the right side) with a spiritual inheritance from Christ for all eternity.

Romans 8:16-17 “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs ----heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.”

Ephesians 1:3 “...God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

ADOPTION MAKES US CO-HEIRS WITH CHRIST --- WITH AN ETERNAL INHERITANCE

Application Have you been adopted by God through a spiritual second birth so that you have an eternal inheritance ?

Jacob’s Confidence in God

To encourage Joseph and prepare him for his death, Jacob says in vs 21 “I am about to die, but God will be with you and take you back to the land of your fathers(Canaan)”. He is reaffirming a truth that Joseph has experienced many times throughout his life. We have seen that reiterated in Scripture---“the Lord was with him” and Joseph’s life demonstrated his faith and trust in God.

As I was studying this lesson I was impressed with God’s promise, “I will be with you”. Going back to Gen 28:15, Jacob receives that promise from God at Bethel and a reaffirmation of the promise given to Abraham and Isaac. Leaving for Egypt God again gives this promise to Jacob---“I will be with you” (46:28). And now at the end of his life he could pass on this promise to Joseph.

From Genesis to Revelation we often point to the “scarlet thread” ----the verses of prophecy that point to Christ and the redemption he will bring through his death and resurrection. I think this promise “I will be with you” is another thread---of precious gold---from Genesis to Revelation that illustrates God’s great love for us and his desire for a personal relationship with us to be involved in every detail of our lives guiding us moment by moment.

In Genesis God gave that promise to the OT patriarchs---- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. In Exodus 3:12 God gives the same promise to Moses and to Joshua in Joshua 1:9. In the NT in Matt 1:23 God gives us that promise through the birth of Jesus ---Immanuel, which means “God with us”. God was with us in Jesus-- (in the flesh) for 3 years---then that promise continued after Jesus’ resurrection in the form of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16 “...I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever---the Spirit of truth.”

In Revelation God promises to dwell with us forever in heaven.

Revelation 21:3 “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”

This promise is found over and over again throughout the Scriptures because He knows how easily we forget and have to be reminded. In fact, God used this verse to encourage me when my mother died last Feb (Ex 33:14) and also Isaiah 41:10 “....do not fear, I am with you.....I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

GENESIS TO REVELATION GOD PROMISES ----“I WILL BE WITH YOU”

Application Does this promise give you confidence in God? What have you experienced in your lifetime that helps you to trust God when difficulties arise? How have you expressed your confidence in God to your family?

Legacy of Faith---Before we go on to Jacob blessing his sons, let's consider what we are passing down to our children---our faith our experiences, and our possessions. Many of you in this room are very young, in the prime of life and are not thinking about dying. However, no one is guaranteed tomorrow and we want to live each day as a testimony to God's grace in our lives. You have parents that are aging and sometime in the future you will experience their deaths.

When my Mom was in her early 90's she wanted us to have her history---not a genealogy---but a record of her life experiences. She made a cassette tape recording that we reproduced for the family. However, when she went to the nursing home at 95 and her health was not good I felt impressed by God to transcribe this tape and make it into a little booklet that she could hold and pick up and read when she wanted to. I made many copies and gave to all her family. I didn't realize the blessing this booklet would be to both of us the last 6-8 months of her life. When I called her almost daily there wasn't much to talk about so I began reading a page or two out of her history---“Reflections of 95 years”. She loved to talk about the things she had done and she would add bits that were not on the page. It was much like the book/movie by Nicolas Sparks, “The Notebook”, when the husband read back to his wife their courtship days and their family experiences when her memory had gone.

How will you make a record for your children and loved ones of the special times in your life, and the experiences of God's direction, intervention, and blessing? With all our modern technology there are numerous ways for you to do that. Your children will be blessed in the future if you do.

At my Aunt's funeral this weekend, the pastor read the Scripture from her Bible---which he said was a story in itself. It was held together with duck tape and packing tape (my Aunt was very frugal and did not throw perfectly good things away!) He noted all the markings in the various places and how they must have spoken to her needs. Someone has said, “A Bible that is falling apart reveals the life of someone who is not.”

What would your family find in your Bible? My Bible is my “portable filing system”---it holds a multitude of things inside this zipper. My family will have fun reading all that I have underlined and all the dates---trying to figure out what was happening at that particular time.

I'm encouraging you to begin now to record your history and experiences----your legacy of faith to pass on to the next generation.

Jacob Blesses His Sons ---Genesis 49:1-28

Jacob calls his sons to come to the bedside and says, “Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come.” Even though Jacob is 147 years old and has some infirmities, his mind is alert and he has a mission to give his last words to his sons.

He wanted to prepare them emotionally and spiritually for his death. He could name each one of the boys, and describe their individual natures, and recall details of the lives they had lived.

Can you imagine the atmosphere of this encounter as they listened to the last words of their father? They probably had mixed feelings of joy in hearing him speak, sadness knowing he was about to die, and anxiety and guilt in knowing their actions had caused him pain. For some, their behavior in the past would change their future.

The Lord blessed Jacob with spiritual insight to pronounce prophetic blessings for the immediate present and for the future when the tribes of Israel would go back to Canaan and claim their land. Don't you wonder if someone wrote this all down? Or did they have to depend entirely on the "oral" tradition of repeating the events and God's words to each other for the next generation? They would have to remember this and pass it on for over 400 years.

Each prophecy is written in the form of very poetic symbolic poetry and not easy to understand. That same poetic symbolism is seen in almost all prophecy---such as Moses in Deuteronomy 32, and David in many of the Psalms, and Revelation. Judah and Joseph had the longest blessings.

Judah---Gen 49:8-12---Judah's name means "praise" and he was given power over his enemies in vs 8. The lion was his symbol and represents leadership and the scepter, rulership. His tribe is also linked with the whole nation of Israel as the vine to be inseparably connected. Today we speak of the Jews---the "Judahites". It is from the line of Judah that Jesus Christ will come---the "lion of Judah" and "vine" from which we are the branches.

Joseph ---Gen 49:22-26 is described as a fruitful vine drawing water from a spring, "whose branches climb over the wall. His was a fulfilled life both in his relationship with God as he lived daily so that he bore much fruit and it was "so abundant that it went over the wall" in blessing to his own family and other nations, including the Egyptians. Joseph's archers referred to his suffering at the hands of his brothers and his master in Egypt.

In Joseph's blessing Jacob uses three more special names of the Lord ---the Mighty One of Jacob, the Shepherd, and the Rock of Israel who would continue to bless his life in the future. These names are found in many other places in both the Old and New Testaments to encourage us in God's loving care and his mighty power. Jacob also spoke of temporal blessing for Joseph---blessings of heaven (rain), blessings of the deep (springs of water), blessings of the breasts and womb (marriage and children).

As Jacob spoke prophetic blessing over the rest of his sons each contained a word picture to describe that person's present personality or of that to come.

Symbolic pictures of the brothers---

Reuben ----Couch

Judah----Lion cub & Scepter

Issachar---Donkey

Gad----Foot with heel raised

Naphtali---Doe and fawns

Benjamin---Ravenous Wolf

Simeon & Levi---Swords

Zebulun---Sailboat

Dan ----Serpent

Asher----Food-- fertile land

Joseph---Fruitful vine

If Jacob could pronounce a blessing and symbol over your life what would it be? Because I love roses, I would like mine to be a rosebush full of blossoms symbolic of bearing fruit. (picture of rosebush)

What blessings or words of encouragement do you give to your children or loved ones? Do you give them words of encouragement that might help them overcome a weakness they have? Or praise them for ways they use their abilities to serve and help others?

Illustration This lesson has given me an idea to write a blessing for each of our children and grandchildren---something like Pastor Steer does for baby dedications. I would put it into a frame or card and give it to them for a birthday or Christmas present.

God, our heavenly Father, pronounces wonderful blessings for us through His Son, Jesus.

Ephesians 1:3-8 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with his pleasure and will---to the praise of his glorious grace which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”

Notice how we are blessed---we are chosen, adopted, accepted through his grace, redeemed and forgiven. Romans 4:7-8 our sins are forgiven and the Lord will never count them against us. James 1:12 we will receive the crown of life. Revelation 1:3 we are blessed as we read, hear, and obey the words of Scripture. We have the blessing of a future home reserved in heaven ---- Philipians 3:20 “...our citizenship is in heaven.”

IN CHRIST WE HAVE EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING

Application How does the knowledge of your spiritual blessings and future inheritance affect your life today? Do you thank God for the grace He has “lavished” upon you?

Jacob’s Death and Funeral

Jacob finishes the blessings, gives some final instructions about his burial and then in verse 33, “he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last and was gathered to his people.” 50:1, Joseph throws himself upon his father and wept and kissed him. Joseph directs the physicians in his service to embalm him. This took 40 days and the mourning period was 70 days ---the periods probably overlapped. When you lose someone you love there is a grieving process you go through which helps in healing. God expects us to weep and that’s why he gave us the ability to shed tears. Death for a believer is the doorway into heaven and joy in meeting Jesus face to face. Those that remain behind, weep for their loss.

Psalm 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

Joseph obtains permission from Pharaoh to take Jacob’s body back to Canaan for burial. Notice what it says about the funeral procession.

Gen 50:7 “So Joseph went up to bury his father. All Pharaoh’s officials accompanied him---the dignitaries of his court and all the dignitaries of Egypt---besides all the members of Joseph’s household and his brothers and those belonging to his father’s household. Only their children and their flocks and herds were left in Goshen. Chariots and horsemen also went up with him. It was a very large company. When they reached the threshing floor of Atad, near the Jordan, they lamented loudly and bitterly; and there Joseph observed a seven-day period of mourning for his father.

When the Canaanites who lived there saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “The Egyptians are holding a solemn ceremony of mourning.”

This must have been quite an entourage. Can you just picture all of these important dignitaries with their chariots and all of Joseph's brothers and their families. This was not a short trip---they would have been traveling for many days as well as observing the 7 day mourning period and then traveling all the way back. All of these people showed a great respect for Joseph and his father. This great procession also made an impression on the people along the way as they traveled. Joseph selected a threshing floor for the 7 days of mourning because threshing floors were outside the city, elevated, and offered a large clear space for many people to gather at one time.

Having just come from a funeral I wonder what they did these 7 days. Did they talk about Jacob and his life? Did they sing songs?

At our funerals we share experiences about the person, special music and hymns. I thought of 3 hymns that would have been a testimony to honor God through Jacob's life----"Great is Thy Faithfulness", "I Love to Tell the Story", and "To God Be The Glory".

The funeral of a believer can be a real witness to point relatives and friends to Jesus. We never know how God can use our lives as well as our deaths to draw others to Himself.

Joseph and his brothers take their father's body to the "cave of Machpelah", where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, and Leah were buried. "Jacob was gathered to his people." Then Joseph and all that were with him returned to Egypt.

GODLY RESPONSE TO CHANGE, DEATH, AND LOSS

What do we need to remember when we are faced with change in our lives; the death of a loved one; or the loss of health, a job, a relationship, loss of your possessions or savings?

Remember---God is Sovereign (controls all things), is Holy and Perfect, is Omniscient (knows all things), and is Unchanging

Remember --God's faithfulness and His unfailing love for you---his help to you in the past and other Bible examples. He is Faithful to all his promises--answers to prayer

Remember—To have a grateful heart

1 Thess 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

God wants us to thank him IN all our circumstances. When we can offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving in our difficult circumstances ----it's an act of submission, dependence, and trust in His grace and goodness to work for our good for His glory.

I don't know what difficulties and heartaches you may be going through today, but I want to share some of my favorite verses that encourage and strengthen me in the Lord and give me hope.

Isaiah 46:9-11

Isaiah 54:10

Romans 11:33-36

Psalm 71:14-16

Psalm 18:1-3, 30-33,46

Hebrews 12:1-3

Psalm 23:4

Psalm 145:13

Isaiah 49:15-16

Isaiah 55:8-11

Hebrews 13:5,6,8

Romans 15:13

Psalm 68:1,4

2 Cor 5:7

Psalm 150

Isaiah 50:10

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Psalm 139:1-18

Psalm 20:7-8

Psalm 125:1-2

Phil 4:6-7

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO ALL HIS PROMISES

At this Thanksgiving season our country finds itself in the midst of turmoil. As Christians we must hang on to the truths of God's Word, keep our focus on the Lord and pray without ceasing as Paul says in 1 Thess 5:17.

Reflect on God's goodness this past year and all you have to be grateful for. Think of the "thorns" in your life that God has transformed into blessings, and proved that "my grace is sufficient". Thank Him for the present "thorns. When you gather with your family and loved ones around your Thanksgiving table make it a "memorable" time of praise that will bless God's heart----and yours!

Whatever unique challenges you or your family is facing, they can best be met by following Joseph's example---in the presence and power of God the Father. He has given you and me this promise---"I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous."

In closing, here is one of my favorite passages so appropriate for our times.

Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, through the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

Resources

Genesis—Vol 3—Living by Faith—James Montgomery Boice—Zondervan, 1998
Be Authentic—Genesis Commentary—Warren Wiersbe—Victor—1997
Bad Beginnings to Happy Endings—Ed Young—Nelson---1994
The Pentateuch—W.H. Griffith Thomas---Kriegel—1985
The Genesis Record---Henry M. Morris—Bak