

SERMON NOTES – Genesis 48:1-49:31

Finding meaning in the mess

God's promise...

...makes sense of the past

...gives certainty to the future

This is our family history!

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think enables Jacob to be so positive and confident at the end of his life?
2. To what extent do you think of human history as the story of God working out his promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? What other narratives tend to take over?
3. In what ways do you find it encouraging to read Genesis as "our family history"?

By faith, we see the hand of God

In the light of creation's grand design,
In the lives of
Those who prove His faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight

2. By faith, our fathers roamed the earth
With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand,
A place where peace and justice reign

*We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight*

I cannot tell why He, Whom angels worship,

Should set His love upon the sons of men,
Nor why, as Shepherd,
He should seek the wand'rers,
To bring them back,
They know not how nor when

But this I know – that He was born of Mary
When Bethl'em's manger was His only home,
And that He lived at Nazareth and laboured
And so,
The Saviour, Saviour of the World, has come

2. I cannot tell how silently He suffered,
As, with His peace,
He graced this place of tears,
Nor how His heart,
Upon the cross, was broken,
The crown of pain, to three and thirty years

But this I know – He heals the brokenhearted
And stays our sin and calms our lurking fear
And lifts the burden from the heavy laden
For, still,
The Saviour, Saviour of the World, is here

3. By faith, the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the pow'r to
Break the chains of sin and death,
And rise triumphant from the grave

4. By faith, the church was called to go
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth

5. By faith, this mountain shall be moved
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail
For we know, in Christ, all things are possible
For all who call upon His name

* Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend
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3. I cannot tell how He will win the nations,
How He will claim His earthly heritage,
How, satisfy the needs and aspirations
Of east and west, of sinner and of sage

But this I know – all flesh shall see His glory,
And He shall reap the harvest He has sown,
And some glad day
His sun shall shine in splendour
When He,
The Saviour, Saviour of the World, is known

4. I cannot tell
how all the lands shall worship,
When, at His bidding, every storm is stilled
Or, who can say how great the jubilation
When all our hearts,
with love for Him, are filled?

But this I know –
The skies will thrill with rapture,
And myriad, myriad human voices sing,
And earth to heav'n,
And heav'n to earth, will answer,
'At last,
The Saviour, Saviour of the World, is King'
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When I fear my faith will fail

Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast

I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

*He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast*

2. Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in you alone.
And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*

He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

3. For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast

Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When he comes at last

*Matthew Marker © 2013 Getty Music

2. He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.

3. And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

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