

## Faith That Lives On

*Genesis 27; 28:8-22; 50:22-26*

*By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.*

*By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.*

*By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.*  
(Hebrews 11:20-22, NASB)

God was faithful, not only to Abraham, but to his descendants. He personally revealed Himself to at least the next three generations of Abraham's family. Abraham's faith in the Living God became a heritage that lived far beyond his lifetime.

When Isaac, Abraham's son, was nearing death, he blessed his two sons, Jacob and Esau (Genesis 27). Isaac believed that the blessings he spoke were God's blessings and thus would come true. They did come true. His faith in God reached beyond his own years and helped shape his sons' lives.

As Jacob approached his own death, he did the same. He blessed not only his own sons (Genesis 49) but Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh (Genesis 48:8-22). He believed the promise that God had spoken to Abraham, Isaac, and himself, that He would make their family a great nation. Jacob faithfully passed on that undying promise.

Throughout Joseph's eventful life, he held to the same promise. He knew that God would lead their family out of Egypt and give them the land of Canaan (Genesis 50:22-26). Nearing death, as an act of faith Joseph made his family swear that when they left Egypt, they would bring his bones with them. Though it took four hundred years of waiting and hardship, the prophecy was fulfilled. As Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, he took with them Joseph's bones to be re-buried in the promised land (Exodus 13:19).

All these generations of Abraham's family believed that God was the sovereign Lord of all. They believed that He had spoken to them, and that He would keep His promises, no matter how long it took. Each generation acted on that trust in its own way. God then used their living faith to bless those that followed them. Their example has spread around the world and continues to speak today.

*Father, help me to lift my eyes  
above today's ups and downs and  
see You,  
my God,*

*my Eternal Confidence,  
my Very Great Reward!*

**Hymns:**  
**You Are the Same**  
**Great Lord of All Reality**

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