¹ And it came to pass after these things / now, what is the setting? Joseph is in Egypt; and he has distinguished himself and risen to the highest level of government. He rules under the pharaoh. And his very old father -- the scripture says he was 147 years old… and he's lived in Egypt for 17 years. He was 100 years old when his name was changed. He was 130 when he first came to Egypt.

So we read…

that someone told Joseph, Behold your father is sick: / upon hearing that news we read,

and Joseph took with him his two sons, Manasseh / the older… **and Ephraim** / the younger. How old were they? We don't know**.**

² And someone told Jacob / who is the father of Joseph… as in Abraham who blessed Isaac, and Isaac blessed Jacob**,**

and said, Behold, your son Joseph comes to you: and Israel strengthened himself / so what is going on? Israel? Yes! Jacob was 100 years old before his name was changed to Israel.

For 100 years, Jacob had been known as a scoundrel -- as a cheat; as a liar; as a heel-chasing good-for-nothing! One night, having wrestled with the Lord, God forced him to face himself. From that day forward, he was known as Israel: **Isra = governed + El = GOD**.

摩西五经第一卷

Jacob's Pillar - The Stone of Scone

¹ 这事以后，/ 现在情况如何？约瑟在埃及;他表现出色，并升任政府最高层。他在法老手下统治。他年迈的父亲——经文上说他 147 岁，他在埃及住了 17 年。他 100 岁时改名了。他第一次来到埃及时已经 130 岁了。
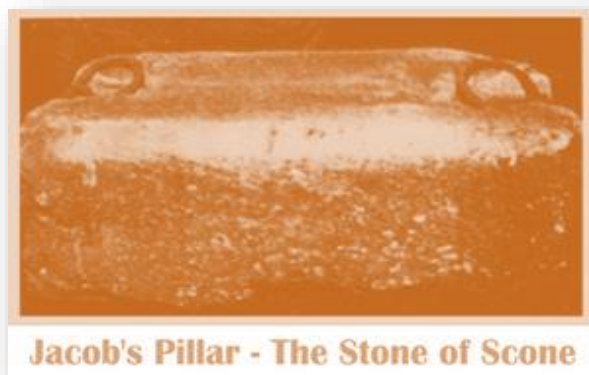
所以我们读到…

有人告诉约瑟说，你的父亲病了。/ 听到这个消息，我们读到，

他就带着两个儿子玛拿西/ 大儿子，以法莲同去/ 小儿子. 他们多大了？我们不得而知。

² 有人告诉雅各/ 亚伯拉罕给以撒祝福，以撒给雅各祝福，

说，请看，你儿子约瑟到你这里来了。以色列就勉强在 / 那么到底发生了什么?以色列?是的!雅各 100 岁的时候，名字改名为以色列。

100 年来，雅各一直被认为是一个恶棍——一个骗子;作为一个骗子;像个废物!一天晚上，在与上帝搏斗之后，上帝强迫他面对自己。从那天起，他被称为以色列:Isra =治理+ El =上帝。

Isn't it interesting how God has allowed his name to be interchanged from Jacob to Israel? from a scoundrel going his own way... to someone ruled by God; skillfully interchanged throughout scripture. Doesn't that sound a lot like Paul's **old man** that we put off... and **new man** that we put on? God expects us to pay attention to His word. We read about the same person, Joseph's father...

and Israel strengthened himself, and sat up on the bed.

³ And Jacob / same person, Joseph's father... **said to Joseph, God Almighty** / **EL**... the Name we find in Isra**el**; that GOD almighty;

HE... **appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me** / better known to us as: Beth**el**; you can read about this place of blessing at Bethel... which means: **Beth = house + El = GOD**... where Jacob the cheat... laid his head and rested upon this pillar of Jacob; this rock for a pillow. You know, God has some unusual places where He feels free to live, right? Read about this house of God in Genesis 28. When you have time check out the Pillar of Jacob. Or better, just ask Prince Charles. He'll tell you about it. But back to Genesis 48...

God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me,

⁴ and said to me,

Behold, I will make you fruitful, and multiply you / God is adding to the blessing He first promised to Abraham and Isaac. Listen to this, the Lord is speaking,

and I will make of you a multitude of people / literally, a community of nations...

a common-wealth of nations – plural, many nations;

神让他的名从雅各换成了以色列，这不是很有趣吗?从一个自行其是的恶棍到一个被上帝掌管的人;巧妙地在圣经中互换。这听起来是不是很像保罗的老头子，我们把他丢掉，换上了新人?神期望我们注意他的话语。我们读到的是同一个人，约瑟的父亲…

以色列就勉强在床上坐起来。

³ 雅各/ 同一个人，约瑟的父亲…对约瑟说，全能的神/ EL…以色列的名字;全能的上帝;

曾在迦南地的路斯向我显现，赐福与我 / 我们更熟悉的是:伯特利;你可以在伯特利读到这个祝福的地方，它的意思是:Beth = house + El = 神，骗子雅各…把头靠在雅各的柱子上;这石头当枕头。你知道，上帝总有他觉得可以自由生活的地方，对吧?在创世纪 28 章中，我们可以读到神的殿。有时间看看《雅各之柱》。或者最好问问查尔斯王子。他会告诉你的。但是回到创世纪 48 章…

全能的神曾在迦南地的路斯向我显现，赐福与我，

⁴ 对我说，

我必使你生养众多， / 神是在先前应许亚伯拉罕和以撒的恩典上加添的。你们要听这话，耶和华说，

成为多民， / 毫不夸张地说，一个国际社区…

一个财富平等的国家——多元的，众多的国家;

and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession / this land of Luz, of Bethel… and that is a long time; but who's going to argue? It is what God promised Jacob.

5 And now your two sons / who, by the way, for any and all who are racial purists… those 2 sons were half-Egyptian. And I know there are many theories, but can you tell me why in America do we have an Egyptian pyramid on our 1-dollar bill? What's that all about? That's an entirely different story.

And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh / and did you see what happened? Joseph had brought Manasseh, the older… and Ephraim, the younger… but God's ways are not our ways; and Israel, the father of Joseph… is ruled by God.

Israel says…

And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt / they are ½ Egyptian**,**

your two sons… will be mine; as Reuben and Simeon / just like Reuben and Simeon were sons of Jacob; so also these two sons in other words, **these 2 sons**… **½ Egyptian** will have full birthrights… equal to any of Israel's children.

6 And your matter, which you beget after them / all the other children Joseph was going to have**,**

they will be yours, and will be called after the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

7 And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died at my side in the land of Canaan along the way / where Joseph's mother last lived with Jacob as we were journeying**,**

when there was just a little way to come to Ephrath: and I buried her there in the way / along the route.

又要把这地赐给你的后裔，永远为业。 / 就是路斯，伯特利之地…那是长久的事。但谁会去争辩呢?这是神应许雅各的。

5这两个儿子/ 顺便说一句，对于所有种族纯粹主义者来说，这两个儿子有一半埃及血统。我知道有很多理论，但是你能告诉我为什么美国的 1 美元纸币上会有埃及金字塔吗?这到底是怎么回事?那是一个完全不同的故事。

以法莲和玛拿西这两个儿子 / 你知道发生了什么吗?约瑟带来了长子玛拿西，次子以法莲，只是神的道与我们不同。以色列，约瑟的父亲，是上帝的子民。

以色列说…

我未到埃及见你之先，你在埃及地所生的以法莲和玛拿西这两个儿子是我的/ 他们有一半的埃及人血统，
正如流便和西缅是我的一样。/ 雅各的儿子是流便，西缅。所以这两个儿子，换句话说，这两个埃及人的儿子，和以色列人的孩子一样，有完全平等的出生权利。

6 你在他们以后所生的 / 约瑟将要生的其他孩子，
就是你的，他们可以归于他们弟兄的名下得产业。

7 至于我，我从巴旦来的时候，拉结死在我眼前，在迦南地的路上， / 我们远行的时候，约瑟的母亲和雅各住在那里，

离以法他还有一段路程，我就把她葬在以法他的路上。/沿着路线

Ephrath; Bethlehem, they are the same.

And is this chapter, likely to be a composite of several conversations Joseph in his busy schedule had with his father? Jacob had reminisced to Joseph about God's mighty appearance… and His great promise to shepherd him all his days; and his mother's last days; and perhaps father Jacob was declining rapidly.

8 And Israel beheld the sons of Joseph, and said / he is advanced in age; and his eye-sight is poor; and he asked Joseph whom he has always greatly loved**,**

Who are these?

9 And Joseph said to his father, They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place.

And he said, Bring them, please, to me, and I will bless them.

10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see.

And Joseph brought them near to him; and he kissed them, and embraced them.

11 And Israel said to Joseph,

I had not thought I would see your face / I never imagined I would see you again**:**

and lo, God also showed me… your offspring / mark this… take note of this moment God himself, permitted me not only to see you, but also your children; and being moved by all his father said, we read…

12 And Joseph brought them from sitting at his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the ground. / Joseph this powerful leader in Egypt… disturbing the casual family gathering… took his 2 sons; and in great thanksgiving… worshiped the almighty God…
Don't forget to read the rest of the chapter!!

以法他就是伯利恒。

这一章可能是约瑟在繁忙的日程中和他父亲的几次谈话的合成?雅各向约瑟追忆神的荣光，他应许要终身牧养他。和他母亲临终的日子;也许父亲雅各正在迅速地衰老。

8 以色列看见约瑟的两个儿子，就说，/ 他已经上了年纪;他的眼目昏花。他问约瑟，他一直深爱着谁，

这是谁?

9 约瑟对他父亲说，这是神在这里赐给我的儿子。
以色列说，请你领他们到我跟前，我要给他们祝福。

10 以色列年纪老迈，眼睛昏花，不能看见。

约瑟领他们到他跟前，他就和他们亲嘴，抱着他们。
11 以色列对约瑟说，

我想不到得见你的面，/ 我从没想过还能再见到你:

不料，神又使我得见你的儿子。/ 请记住这一刻，上帝不仅让我看见你，也让我看见你的孩子;被他父亲的话所感动，我们读到…

12 约瑟把两个儿子从以色列两膝中领出来，自己就脸伏于地下拜。/ 埃及有权势的领袖约瑟…扰乱了随意的家庭聚会…带走了他的两个儿子;在伟大的感恩中…崇拜全能的上帝…
别忘了阅读这一章的其余部分!!