

Genesis 48-50

Pastor Jim Thomas

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SERMON NOTES

Genesis

In the beginning...

Genesis 48-50

The End of the Beginnings and the Beginning of the Rest of the Story

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- Where did everything come from?
 - Why is there something rather than nothing?
 - Why is there THIS something rather than another kind of something?
 - Why do we perceive immaterial things like order, beauty, love, mercy, injustice, forgiveness and honor?
 - Does human life have any meaning or purpose?
 - What has gone wrong with the world?
 - How can we know right from wrong?
 - What has God done about what is wrong in this world?
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Genesis is...

1. A book of beginnings
2. A book of real life stories
3. A book about God's redeeming love

Genesis 48-50 reminds us...

1. Humanity needs the redeeming love of God.
2. We must leave all the righting of wrongs to God.
3. Receiving and reflecting God's redeeming love looks like repaying evil and unkindness with forgiveness and generosity.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus."

- *Romans 3:23-24*

“There's one kind of person who should feel uncomfortable in our churches and that's self-righteous people. Jesus didn't come for the righteous, but for sinners. Let's make sure we don't let people get confused on that.”

- Rebecca McLaughlin

“History is not a random series of meaningless events. It is rather a succession of periods and happenings which are under the sovereign rule of God, who is the God of history.”

- John Stott

“Language matters. Today's familiar locution 'live into' is misbegotten. We live out of - or out from - our baptism, our redemption, our callings. God is out ahead of us... before us, behind us, over us - not waiting for us to 'live into' Him. He is the originator and the completer.”

- Fleming Rutledge

“It is the cross that allows us, no, demands of us, that we put down our weapons and let go of our anger. There God's righteous anger against us was appeased. Now He calls us to the same forgiveness, so that our relationships are ruled by grace and kindness rather than bitterness and revenge.”

- Richard Gibson, *The Consolations of Theology*