

bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."

Time passed on and these heirs of the covenants were in ignorance as to how God should fulfil his promises and regarded the going down into Egypt, which was one great step in the divine plan, as a great calamity. But in that land God multiplied the chosen seed so that the land was too small for them. At length Jacob is about to die and calls his posterity about his bed to tell them what shall befall them in the last days. We now come to the place where the covenants are explained to us and the terms of the covenant made specific. Those who were to inherit the various provisions of the covenant are pointed out clearly.

1st. They were to go up out of Egypt and settle in the land of Canaan. Gen. 28:3-4:

"And Jacob said unto Joseph, God almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, and said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession."

2nd. The promise of a multitudinous seed and great temporal prosperity, embracing especially a great *confederacy of nations*, was made to Ephraim the son of Joseph. Gen. 48:14-19: "And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the first-born. And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers, Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, the Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth. And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the first-born; put thy right hand upon his head. And his father refused and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations." The fact that the birthright was transferred to the house of Joseph is acknowledged afterward.

1 Chron. 5:1-2: "Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, for he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. For Judah prevailed above his brethren,