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# DAILY READING

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Genesis 48:13-22

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### EPHRAIM'S GREATER BLESSING

**48** <sup>13</sup> Then Joseph took them both—with his right hand Ephraim toward Israel's left, and with his left hand Manasseh toward Israel's right—and brought them to Israel. <sup>14</sup> But Israel stretched out his right hand and put it on the head of Ephraim, the younger, and crossing his hands, put his left on Manasseh's head, although Manasseh was the firstborn. <sup>15</sup> Then he blessed Joseph and said:

The God before whom my fathers Abraham and  
Isaac walked,

the God who has been my shepherd all my life to  
this day,

<sup>16</sup> the angel who has redeemed me from all harm—  
may he bless these boys.

And may they be called by my name  
and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac,  
and may they grow to be numerous within the land.

17 When Joseph saw that his father had placed his right hand on Ephraim's head, he thought it was a mistake and took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's. 18 Joseph said to his father, "Not that way, my father! This one is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head."

19 But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know! He too will become a tribe, and he too will be great; nevertheless, his younger brother will be greater than he, and his offspring will become a populous nation." 20 So he blessed them that day, putting Ephraim before Manasseh when he said, "The nation Israel will invoke blessings by you, saying, 'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.' "

21 Israel said to Joseph, "Look, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you back to the land of your fathers. 22 Over and above what I am giving your brothers, I am giving you the one mountain slope that I took from the Amorites with my sword and bow."