

January 31 Answers

- 1) Before Jacob died, he **blessed** his sons and made a **prediction** about each one's future. Reuben, Simeon and Levi were all disqualified from **leadership**, and that privilege was given to **Judah**, the son who had responded with humility to God's discipline. From his descendants would come a **king** who would rule the nations (Gen 49:10). This was fulfilled, first by **David** and ultimately by **Jesus**. Jacob also granted a double portion to **Joseph**, the son who had remained faithful and true his entire life. Jacob's blessing reveals how much our **character** determines our choices, and how much our choices determine our **future**. Jacob died, and his sons kept their word by burying him in the cave of Machpelah. Joseph died 54 years later, having lived to see his children's children. He died "in **faith**," for he was so sure that God would keep His promise that he made his brothers swear to carry his **bones** with them when they left Egypt. Time passed and that entire generation died. Many years later, a king arose over Egypt who did not respect or honor Joseph's memory. He saw the thriving Israelite population as a threat, and he **enslaved** and oppressed the people. But the more Israel was oppressed, the more they **multiplied**. Eventually, a Pharaoh came to power who gave the order to kill all the baby **boys**. Moses was born during this time of terror, but his life was saved because his parents feared God **more** than they feared Pharaoh (Heb 11:23). They hid him as long as they could, and then God rescued him by using the king's own **daughter**! We show whom we fear most by whom we choose to **obey** (Matt 10:28). Moses' parents are excellent examples of what it means to live "by faith."