

Yisra'el Comes To Mitsrayim & Blesses Ephrayim & Menashsheh

Genesis 45:22-49:2

Reading Questions

1. Is it acceptable to bow before people?

Reading Answers

1. It appears to be acceptable in certain situations as bowing to the King anointed by **יהוה** or even our father in the flesh. In Genesis 48:12 it literally says in the Hebrew that Yoseph put his nose to the land. This appears to be bowing before his father. The place where we see bowing to the King anointed by **יהוה** as acceptable is 1 Kings 1:23 where Nathan the Prophet of **יהוה** bowed down to King Dawiyd. Although some teach that we should not or do not “worship” **יהושע**, we can see very clearly that worship simply means to bow if we research the words in these verses. The word for bow is the same word as for worship in the Hebrew. If it is okay to bow before our earthly father, and if it is okay for a prophet of **יהוה** to bow before the King anointed by **יהוה**, then certainly we too can and should bow before the King **יהושע** who is anointed by **יהוה**. This means, therefore, that Yes – we DO worship **יהושע**; but in doing so we are not violating any of **יהוה**'s commands. Worship simply means to bow.

We can see further confirmation that bowing is acceptable when Mosheh himself bowed before his father-in-law Yithro in Exodus 18:7. If anyone should know the Laws of **יהוה**, wouldn't it have been Mosheh? It is clear that under certain circumstances bowing is permissible. That doesn't mean bowing is **always** permissible, but we can't say that it is **always** forbidden either.

One clear place where bowing is forbidden is in Exodus 20:5 – it is forbidden to bow down to carved images, idols, etc.. We see believers refusing to bow down in Daniel 3. Daniel 3 is a clear example where a person should **NOT** bow down.

Reading Notes

- We can see the mercy of **יהוה** who provided the wagons for the women and the little ones, and their old father Ya'aqov (Yisra'el) to make their journey an ease and bring them in with blessing and provisions. **יהוה** does such amazing things in our lives!

- We see in Genesis 48:22 Yisra'el says to Yoseph he gave him one portion above his brothers. This appears to be related to "The Right of The First-Born". In Genesis 35:22, Re'uven, the real first-born, profaned his father's bed. In 1 Chronicles 5:1, we are told specifically that because he did this his birthright was given to the Sons of Yoseph. Based upon Deuteronomy 21:17, it appears that "The Right of The First-Born" is to receive a double portion. Since the birthright went to the Sons of Yoseph, this appears to be why Yisra'el said to Yoseph he gave him one portion above his brothers. So it appears the right of the first-born is to have an inheritance equal to at least double of whatever any of his brothers receive. Daughters can receive an inheritance also, but whatever any siblings whether brothers or sisters receive, the first-born male should be given double of any of his brothers or sisters. The first-born, as I understand it, can only be a male. So even if a girl is born first, and then a boy afterwards, the first male born would be considered the first-born. If there are no sons, then there would be no "first-born" and the inheritance would simply be split evenly among the daughters. I take part of this understanding from the example of the daughters of Tselophchad and the related ruling given in Numbers 27:8.

Related Verses

Shiloh: Joshua 18:1, 1 Samuel 1:3, 1 Kings 14:4, Psalms 78:60, Jeremiah 7:12, 26:6

Lion of Yehudah: Revelation 5:5

Sons of Yisra'el, Yehudah, & Perets: 1 Chronicles 2:1-5

Sons of Re'uven: Numbers 26:5-6, 1 Chronicles 5:1-3

Sons of Shim'on: Numbers 26:12-13, 1 Chronicles 4:24

Sons of Lewi: Numbers 3:17, 26:57, 1 Chronicles 6:1, 16, 23:6

Sons of Yissaskhar: 1 Chronicles 7:1

Sons of Asher: 1 Chronicles 7:30-31

Sons of Naphtali: 1 Chronicles 7:13

Yoseph Sends For Yisra'el: Psalms 105:23, Acts 7:14-15

Genealogy Ya'aqov To Chetsron: Luke 3:33-34

Yoseph's One Portion Above Brothers: Ezekiel 47:13

The Right of The First-Born: Deuteronomy 21:17