

## **The joy of a surprise**

We have all had our share of bad dreams. The Book of Genesis reminds us that God's people also had their share of 'bad dreams'. Jacob's words in Genesis 48 remind us of the sense of hopelessness than can enter our experiences. Jacob had never thought he would see his favourite son again; he believed he was dead! That is what Jacob means, amongst other things, when he says in Genesis 47 that his days had been 'evil'! But such a 'nightmare' was to vanish in the 'twinkling of an eye'.

### **JOY**

Jacob says in Genesis 48:11 to Joseph, the son he had thought for so many years was long dead, "I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too." Jacob express his incredible and inexpressibly wonderful surprise! The surprise is enlarged/enhanced!

Jacob meets Joseph's two sons! Double surprise! There is something incredibly touching about the way God gives 'surprises' to Abraham, Sarah and Jacob in this Book.

But it does appear that many of God's surprises come after long periods of suffering and heartache; when the human spirit has given up and the pain seems incapable of being relieved! Have you wondered if God was ever going to hear your prayers and heal you infinite sorrows? Abraham, Sarah and Jacob must all have felt like that, but God had some surprises! I cannot see into the future, either my own, or yours, but I do know that His 'spoken word' clearly reveals that He did have 'surprises' in store for those who lives are presented in these chapters in Genesis. There is certainly no biblical reason why we cannot assume that God may well have some 'surprises' in store for us! What joy may yet await us!

Pastor J Lowe