Main Thought  Jacob gives Joseph a double portion by adopting his two sons, by blessing them, and by ceding land to Ephraim and Manasseh.

SETTING (1-2).
• Near the end of Jacob's life and seventeen years in Egypt, Jacob becomes ILL (1st mention in the Bible) and is ready to settle his estate.
• Joseph's sons – now twenty years old – were given Hebrew names though their mother was Egyptian – Manasseh (forget) and Ephraim (fruitful). Joseph expected the custom of primogeniture to prevail.
• Jacob, whose spirit had died hearing of Joseph's death (37:35), now rallied as it did hearing that Joseph was alive (45:27).

ADOPTION (3-11).
• There is a precise order and legality to this adoption ceremony.
• ABILITY (3-4). Jacob could bless for God had blessed him through Abraham (12:1) and Isaac at Luz (BETHEL – 28:12-15).
• CLARITY (5-7). Out of 52 grandsons, Jacob chooses Joseph's twin sons for adoption giving Joseph a double blessing. The first born of Rachel (Joseph) will supplant the first born of Leah (Reuben and Simeon) against the law of primogeniture (Isa. 58:8-9). Since Levi received no land, the number of tribes is still twelve.
• IDENTITY (8-11). He examined their identity as did Isaac (27:21-24). God will examine your identity in the Lamb's book of life (Rev. 21:27). The custom of placing them on or between his knees (12) shows that he gave birth to them, not his Egyptian mother. The Lord will DANDLE us on his knee (Isa. 66:12-13).
• We too are ADOPTED as God’s sons (Rom. 8:25-26, 23; Gal. 4:5-7; Eph. 1:5).

BLESSING (12-20).
• Joseph positions his boys so that the oldest Manasseh is on Jacob’s right hand. But Israel crosses his arms and blesses Ephraim the second born (Cain/Abel; Ishmael/Isaac; Esau/Jacob; Reuben/Joseph; Manasseh/Ephraim). God honors second birth (Isa. 55:8-9; 1 Cor. 1:26-29) over first birth (primogeniture). You must be born again (John 3:7).
• He then blesses them with the blessing of God who has been his SHEPHERD (49:24; Psa. 23:1) and ANGEL (16:7; 32:25-26; Hos. 12:4-5).
• Jesus blessed his own before he left this world (Luke 24:50-51; Rom. 10:12).
• He promised INCREASE (Deut. 33:17; 72,700 [Num. 1:33-34] to 85,200 in 40 years [Num. 26:34, 37] compared to Reuben and Simeon's decreases [105,800 to 65,930]).

LAND (21-22).
• GOD WILL BE WITH YOU (Josh 1:5; Isa. 43:2; John 13:33; Matt. 28:20; Phil. 4:9).
• Joseph was given SHECHEM for his burial place (Josh. 24:32; John 4:5).