

Today I'd like to speak to you a little about worship. It is a word we use a great deal but we commonly do not give it a great deal of thought. This particular word worship. We speak about a worship service. We speak about a house of worship. But just what do we mean by that. As we start I'd like to turn to Hebrews ch. 11 and look at one verse there. You are all familiar with this chapter, I trust. This wonderful chapter of the heroes of faith, and there in v. 21 we read: "By faith Jacob when he was dying blessed each of Joseph's sons and worshipped as he leaned upon the top of his staff." Now why should it say that? Why in the list of the wonderful heroes of faith should this be precisely what this says about Jacob? We remember many other things about Jacob's life. We have many S.S. lessons about Jacob's life, but how oft does anyone have a S.S. lesson about the fact that he worshipped as he leaned upon the top of his staff.

This is stated in Genesis where it tells about his blessing each of Joseph's sons. Why do we have these two thoughts put together here as it describes this great hero's faith, Jacob? He was dying and he blessed each of Joseph's sons and he worshipped as he leaned upon the top of his staff. Of course we know that Jacob could not have blessed Joseph's sons in the sense of bestowing on them something, some blessing that he could give that they would miss if he did not give it to them. Human beings do not have that sort of a power. We cannot bless someone, we can pray that the Lord will bless them. When Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph, and then when he blessed the rest of his own sons in chs. 48 and 49 of Genesis, he described the future of their tribes. He gave a number of predictions that we can see were definitely fulfilled in Scripture.