

### **Addendum - Rules of Seniority**

As humans we give serious weight to seniority. We determine that those who possess it are to get a special treatment, preference if you will. Perhaps we perceive that the rules of seniority, as we interpret them, are in fact written in stone. We may even assume that God views seniority in like perspective as we do. Not so. God is into salvation. Salvation is over and above seniority. That is why some first borns were bypassed, because God's purpose supersedes seniority. Jesus clearly affirmed God's divine concept of seniority in the parable of the laborers, for those who started working at day break received no bonus over the late comers. (Matthew 20:1-16)

Of Judah's twin sons, though Zarah's hand appeared first, Pharez became the patriarch. Esau was the oldest twin, yet Jacob received the special blessing. Likewise, Ruben was the eldest of Israel's sons, yet the priesthood went to Levi, the patriarchship to Judah, and the double inheritance to Joseph in his two sons. Even though Ephraim was the youngest of Joseph's two sons, Israel did not bestow the special blessing of the first born upon Manasseh, though Joseph tried to stop him. "And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations." (Genesis 48:17-19)