



Jacob Blesses His Twelve Sons

Genesis 49

Presented by Bob DeWaay
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Jacob's Oracle Extends to the Near and Distance Future

- **Genesis 49:1, 2**

Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what shall befall you in the days to come. Gather together and hear, O sons of Jacob; And listen to Israel your father."



Reuben is Deprived of Status Because of Misconduct

- **Genesis 49:3, 4**

"Reuben, you are my first-born; My might and the beginning of my strength, Preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. Uncontrolled as water, you shall not have preeminence, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it - he went up to my couch."

Simeon and Levi Practiced Ruthless Vengeance in Sacking Shechem

■ **Genesis 49:5, 6**

“Simeon and Levi are brothers; Their swords are implements of violence. Let my soul not enter into their council; Let not my glory be united with their assembly; Because in their anger they slew men, And in their self-will they lamed oxen.”

Simeon and Levi End up with No Land

■ **Genesis 49:7**

“Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel. I will disperse them in Jacob, And scatter them in Israel.”

Judah Means “Praise”

■ **Genesis 49:8**

“Judah, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons shall bow down to you.”

The Lion of Judah

■ **Genesis 49:9**

“Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him up?”

A Descendant of Judah Will be Ruler and Lawgiver -- Messiah

■ **Genesis 49:10**

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.”

The Messianic Kingdom Means Abundant Prosperity

■ **Genesis 49:11, 12**

“He ties his foal to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine; He washes his garments in wine, And his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes are dull from wine, And his teeth white from milk.”

Zebulun

■ **Genesis 49:13**

Zebulun shall dwell at the seashore; And he shall be a haven for ships, And his flank shall be toward Sidon.

Issachar

■ **Genesis 49:14, 15**

“Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between the sheepfolds. When he saw that a resting place was good And that the land was pleasant, He bowed his shoulder to bear burdens, And became a slave at forced labor.”

Small Dan Will Topple Larger Enemies

■ **Genesis 49:16 - 18**

“Dan shall judge his people, As one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent in the way, A horned snake in the path, That bites the horse's heels, So that his rider falls backward. For Thy salvation I wait, O Lord.”

Gad, Asher and Naphtali

■ **Genesis 49:19 - 21**

“As for Gad, raiders shall raid him, But he shall raid at their heels. As for Asher, his food shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties. Naphtali is a doe let loose, He gives beautiful words.”

God’s Blessing On Joseph

■ **Genesis 49:22 - 24**

“Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a spring; Its branches run over a wall. The archers bitterly attacked him, And shot at him and harassed him; But his bow remained firm, And his arms were agile, From the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel)”

A Crescendo of Blessings

■ **Genesis 49:25, 26**

From the God of your father who helps you, And by the Almighty who blesses you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father Have surpassed the blessings of my ancestors Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills; May they be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of the one distinguished among his brothers.

Benjamin

■ **Genesis 49:27**

Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he devours the prey, And in the evening he divides the spoil."

The First Mention of "Twelve Tribes of Israel" -- Blessing

■ **Genesis 49:28**

All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them. He blessed them, every one with the blessing appropriate to him.

Jacob Wants to be Buried in Canaan

■ **Genesis 49:29, 30**

Then he charged them and said to them, "I am about to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought along with the field from Ephron the Hittite for a burial site."

Jacob is Looking to the Land Promised to Abraham As He Dies

■ **Genesis 49:31, 32**

“There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah -- the field and the cave that is in it, purchased from the sons of Heth.”

Jacob's Death

■ **Genesis 49:33**

When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

Applications

- Understanding the Importance of God's Blessing
- Actions Today Have Future Consequences
- Knowing the Lion of Judah

God's Blessings

- God blessed Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:28)
- God blessed Noah (Genesis 9:1)
- God blessed Abraham (Genesis 12:2, 3)
- Abraham's Blessings are passed on by the Patriarchs to their descendants (Genesis 26 – 49)
- Israel as the 12 Tribes is blessed (Genesis 49:28)

Actions Have Consequences

■ **2Corinthians 5:9, 10**

Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Actions Have Consequences

■ **Colossians 3:23 - 24**

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

Knowing the Lion of Judah

■ **Revelation 5:4, 5**

And I began to weep greatly, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look into it; and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."
