

Passage: Genesis 49

Title: The Prophetic Blessings: Jacob's Final Words to His Sons

Summary: There's something profoundly moving about a father's final words to his children. When Jacob gathered his twelve sons around his deathbed in Egypt, he didn't simply say goodbye. He spoke prophetically over each one, revealing their character, their destiny, and the future of the nation that would spring from their lineage.

This moment, recorded in Genesis 49, is far more than an ancient family gathering. It's a window into God's sovereign plan—a plan that stretches from paradise lost to paradise restored, from the garden of Eden to the coming Messiah.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Recap

The children of Israel are settled into the land there in Egypt, specifically in the land of Goshen. Jacob is 147 years old, and he is ready to die so he gathers his boys together to pronounce his blessings upon them.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Genesis 49:1 NKJV) And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

(Genesis 49:2 NKJV) "Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father.

Last Days / Prophetic Picture

Every time this phrase, "in the last days" is used in the Old Testament, it is referring to prophecy. So Jacob here is going to speak prophetically of what is going to come to pass in reference to these sons. We will also see it being a prophetic picture of the nation Israel also.

Future History of Sons / Future History of Nation

This is a key study for Bible prophecy. We will see an overview of the history of these sons. Many Jewish rabbi's believe these verses are also a prophetic picture of the history of the nation Israel. You can see some very clearly, others to be honest, are beyond my understanding at this time. But, maybe you will be inclined to skip through these verses, considering dry or non-applicable for your personal growth, I highly encourage you to study them through. By doing so, hopefully you will notice something totally amazing, and that is that God has never forgot His people, Israel. We read their history then, and we still read their history today. A people that survived 2000 years without a national homeland, are still making history today, and that can only be by the work of God. And as history was, so will it be, that in the last days as God fulfilled every prophetic picture of these people in these passages, so too will He fulfil them in the other passages, specifically Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Revelation.

No Chronological Order

So Jacob starts with Reuben, but he doesn't go in chronological order, or any order for that matter. So lets just do a recap on who was who. Leah was Jacobs's first wife and her handmaiden was Zilpah. Rachael was Jacobs second wife and her handmaiden was Bilhah. Jacob had relations with both handmaidens. Leah had 6 sons, their names are in the order they were birthed by their mother (parenthesis is the order in birthing of the 12): Rueben (1), Simeon (2), Levi (3), Judah (4), Issachar (9), and Zebulun (10). Leah's handmaiden Zilpah had 2 sons: Gad (7), and Asher (8). Rachael had 2 sons: Joseph (11), and Benjamin (12). Rachel's handmaiden Bilhah had 2 sons: Dan (5), and Naphtali (6). So, these are the 12 sons of Jacob (Israel).

Reuben

(Genesis 49:3 NKJV) "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.

(Genesis 49:4 NKJV) Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it; He went up to my couch.

Unstable - Boiling

Unstable as water means "boiling water".

40 Years Earlier w/Bilhah / Potential there – but Unstable / Sowing & Reaping

Jacob is referring to what Reuben did 40 years earlier. Reuben sleeps with Rachel's (his mothers handmaiden - Bilhah), one of Jacobs wife's (Genesis 35:22). 40 years later it comes back upon him, maybe he thought he got away with it, but 40 years later it comes back before him. Jacob is saying you were the first born, you were suppose to be a leader, but you failed to be all that you could have been because your lustful desires. The potential was there, the birthright should have fallen to him; but, his problem was instability. Sin has robbed you of all you could have been, the law of sowing and reaping. God says an unstable person will not prosper:

(Galatians 6:7 NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

(Galatians 6:8 NKJV) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

(Galatians 6:9 NKJV) And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

(James 1:7 NKJV) For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

(James 1:8 NKJV) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Sin Robs / Little Sins we Think no Big Deal / Trinkets

God forgives, but there are consequences for sin as we live in this fallen world. Sin will rob us from being all that we could be. Those little sins in our lives today that we think are no big deal, a look here, a thought there, a partaking here a little there a little, will rob us from being all that we could be. God has destined us for great things, don't trade that for trinkets and bobbles that glisten and sparkle, but have no value.

Never Did Excel / No Single Leader / First Overthrown by Assyrians

Incidentally the tribe of Reuben never did excel. There was not a single leader who came from the tribe of Reuben. It was a nothing tribe. They settled on the East banks of the Jordan River, where the land was rich for pasture, and didn't claim any inheritance within the land, and were the first to be overthrown by the Assyrians.

Simeon and Levi

(Genesis 49:5 NKJV) "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place.

(Genesis 49:6 NKJV) Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.

(Genesis 49:7 NKJV) Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.

Rape of Dinah / Plan in the Flesh – No Seek the Lord – Self-willed

It was Simeon and Levi who hatched the plan to kill the Shechemites after they had raped their sister Dinah (Gen 34:25). They didn't seek the Lord, they seek their father, they hatched a plan in the flesh. They were self-willed and it will cause them to be scattered.

Watch out for your Anger / Give no Place for the Devil

God gives us a word here about letting our anger control our actions. We do stupid things when we are angry, and we give place for the devil to work. Once anger is unleashed there is no getting it back, the effects will be felt, no matter how many times you may say you are sorry. There are things we are to be angry about, but never to the point of causing us to sin. Yes I should be angry if a child molester tries to enter my home, I should be angry about sin that is trying to destroy my family and country, but never to the point that it cause me to sin:

(Ephesians 4:26 NKJV) "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

(Ephesians 4:27 NKJV) nor give place to the devil.

Promise Land – Scattered / Simeon no Leader / Levi were Priests

When they came into the land there was no inheritance for the tribe of Levi, but they were given cities throughout the entire land, so Levi was scattered in the land. Simeon settled in the area, to the south of Judah, which today is the area of Beersheba. The tribe of Simeon never, again, produced leadership. The tribe of Levi produced Moses and Aaron and their descendants and God chose the Levites for the priesthood. This was certainly a demonstration of the grace of God. It wasn't because of the righteousness of the fathers, that this tribe was chosen for priesthood, but God's sovereign grace.

Israel History / Captivity 722BC Assyrians – 586BC Babylonians

In the nation of Israel 2 times would they be dispersed and scattered for being self-willed, not willing to seek after the things of the Lord. First the Assyrians 722BC and the Babylonians in 586BC. The made alliances, they made their own plan, being self-willed God dispersed them. Each time, and over and over again, we read of God warning them for their spiritual adultery.

But good news

Judah

(Genesis 49:8 NKJV) "Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you.

(Genesis 49:9 NKJV) Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?

(Genesis 49:10 NKJV) The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

(Genesis 49:11 NKJV) Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

(Genesis 49:12 NKJV) His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.

Judah means Praise / Brothers Praise for King David

The name Judah means, "praise". This is a beautiful prophecy concerning Judah. This is the tribe that the brothers will praise. This did not happen for several hundred years, until David ascended the throne; then Judah became a dominant tribe and remained dominant, especially in the southern kingdom.

History of Israel / Judah Praises for Messiah Comes

After being a disappointed people, and a dispersed people, now they can be a delivered people, this prophecy is speaking none other than of Jesus Christ the coming Messiah. Jesus is from the tribe of Judah.

(Revelation 5:5 NKJV) But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Neck of Enemies / Lion of Judah / Shiloh – Prince of Peace

Verse 8 - Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies – Jesus is seen as a leader who will lead victory over the enemy

Verse 9 - Judah is a lion's whelp – Jesus is seen as the Lion of Judah. Jesus "roars" in victory over the enemy of sin, death, the flesh, the world, and the devil!

Verse 10 - Until Shiloh comes – Jesus is seen as the Lord. Shiloh is a name for Jesus and the root of Shiloh is "Shalom" which means peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Shiloh is another name for the Messiah.

*(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.*

(Isaiah 9:7 NKJV) Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The Scepter - Track the Lineage / 70AD Titus – No idea who Messiah will Be

Verse 10 - The scepter shall not depart from Judah....until Shiloh comes - The "scepter – the "tribal staff" means the identity of the 12 tribes of Israel. The Jewish people took great pains to track the lineage of where every person came from. They did so because they knew that the Messiah had to come through the lineage of Judah which eventually became the lineage of David. This passage says the Messiah will come before they lose the ability to track the lineage of which tribe the person comes from. In 70AD after the Titus Roman destruction of Jerusalem, the people were dispersed for 2000 years, and ask a Jewish person today, and they cannot tell you which tribe they are from. Jesus came in 1BC, before the Scepter departed. If someone came today and said they are the Messiah, the Jewish people would have no proof of his lineage.

Lawgiver / Capital Punishment / Ask Pilate for Permission

Verse 10 - Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes - But the scepter also it speaks of a lawgiver. This speaks of the ability for the Jewish people to perform Capital Punishment upon anybody who breaks the Law of Moses, the 10 commandments. Remember when the Jews wanted to kill Jesus they had to get approval from Pilate to do so:

(John 18:31 NKJV) Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,"

30AD / 40 yrs Before Destruction of Temple / They didn't Study their Scriptures

The Jewish writings (the Talmud) says that it was 40 years before the Destruction of the temple that the Roman Empire ceased allowing them to carry out capital punishment upon a person 70AD minus 40 equal 30AD. Jesus came in 1BC/AD. He came 30 years before they lost this right.

According to Roman historian Josephus, writes and confirms that Rome took away the right to capital punishment.

Various "traditions" say, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh come" was the phrase that caused the rabbis to run through the streets of Jerusalem screaming in anguish in the year A.D. 12. You see, it was in that year that the Romans—who were occupying the land of Israel—withdrew the ability of the Sanhedrin to mete out capital punishment. Having taught that the mark of a nation's sovereignty resided in its ability to execute capital punishment, when this power was taken from them, the Jews thought the scepter had indeed departed from Judah—that God had broken His promise to them. After all, Shiloh, Messiah, had not yet come. Oh, but He had. For right in their midst sat Shiloh, Messiah, Jesus as a twelve-year-old boy, astounding the teachers and rabbis with His wisdom (Luke 2:46).

*Luke 2:41–50 (NKJV)*⁴¹ His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. ⁴³ When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; ⁴⁴ but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among *their* relatives and acquaintances. ⁴⁵ So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. ⁴⁶ Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. ⁴⁸ So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." ⁴⁹ And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

If Jesus is not the promised Messiah of Israel, there is none. There is to be none, because here God's word plainly declares that the scepter will not depart from Judah nor a lawgiver from between his feet until the Messiah, the Shiloh, the peace has come. They didn't study their own Scriptures which they were so diligent to preserve

Picture of Vineyard owner

Verse 11 - Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, - Verse 11-12 is a picture of being a landowner, and we know Jesus purchased the world with His own blood. He is our ga'al, our kinsman redeemer, and He rode into Jerusalem lowly and riding on a donkey.

(Matthew 21:33 NKJV) "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.

*Matthew 13:44 (NKJV)*⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

(John 12:14 NKJV) Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

(John 12:15 NKJV) "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt."

Verse 11 - He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes. — Jesus washed His robe in wine:

(Isaiah 63:1 NKJV) Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?; "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

(Isaiah 63:2 NKJV) Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

(Isaiah 63:3 NKJV) "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.

Beautiful Prophecy of Jesus

Jacob's prophecy of Judah is a beautiful prophecy about Jesus. We could study this even deeper and you will see deeper and deeper meanings behind every word as they relate to Jesus.

Zebulun

(Genesis 49:13 NKJV) "Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon.

Not a Sea Port – Benefit from Trade Route

Zebulun settled in the northern part of the land which today is called the Galilee region. Although Zebulun's territory did not border the Mediterranean or the Sea of Galilee, the tribe was situated to benefit from the important trade route, the Via Maris, travelled by sea traders moving through out the territory.

Issachar

(Genesis 49:14 NKJV) "Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens;

(Genesis 49:15 NKJV) He saw that rest was good, And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves.

Valley Meggido – Rich & Fertile - Breadbasket

He is going to be a lazy fellow. Issachar inherited the area that is known as the valley of Megiddo. That is, probably, some of the most fertile area in the land and they didn't have to do much work. Throw out your seed and it just grew. He became prosperous and lazy. That area is called the breadbasket of Israel and produces, even to the present day, an abundance of beautiful crops. It is in the area of Mt. Gilboa.

Wealthy People / Knew the Times

They became a wealthy people (1 Chronicles 7:1-5, 12:32). But what I love about them, and apply to myself and us, is that they knew the times they lived (12:32), and how they ought to live. The reference is when the divided kingdom (Saul and David), became a kingdom under one king (David), the sons of Issachar knew the times before them and rallied around David to unite the kingdom. And so too the application for us today who know the times we live in, the last days, the King of Kings is coming, and we need to rally people to Jesus, around Jesus, as we watch biblical prophecy unfolding before our very eyes.

(1 Chronicles 7:1 NKJV) The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron; four in all.

(1 Chronicles 7:2 NKJV) The sons of Tola were Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Jibsam, and Shemuel, heads of their father's house. The sons of Tola were mighty men of valor in their generations; their number in the days of David was twenty-two thousand six hundred.

(1 Chronicles 7:3 NKJV) The son of Uzzi was Izrahiah, and the sons of Izrahiah were Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Ishiah. All five of them were chief men.

(1 Chronicles 7:4 NKJV) And with them, by their generations, according to their fathers' houses, were thirty-six thousand troops ready for war; for they had many wives and sons.

(1 Chronicles 7:5 NKJV) Now their brethren among all the families of Issachar were mighty men of valor, listed by their genealogies, eighty-seven thousand in all.

(1 Chronicles 12:32 NKJV) of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

Dan

(Genesis 49:16 NKJV) "Dan shall judge his people As one of the tribes of Israel.

(Genesis 49:17 NKJV) Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path, That bites the horse's heels So that its rider shall fall backward.

Dan – to Judge / Samson a Judge

Dan means to judge, and during the period of the judges a judge arose from the tribe of Dan, his name was Samson (Judges 13).

Introduced Idolatry to Israel

Verse 17 - Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path - The tribe of Dan introduced idolatry to the children of Israel. In the later years, when there was a division of the kingdom, Jeroboam set up one of the golden calves in Dan (Judges 18 / 1 Kings 12:28-30 / 2 Kings 10:22):

(Judges 18:30 NKJV) Then the children of Dan set up for themselves the carved image; and Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.

Left out of 144,000

Dan would be left out of the listing of the tribes of Israel in Revelation when the 144,000 are named, probably because of their idol worship:

(Revelation 7:4 NKJV) And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

*(Revelation 7:5 NKJV) of the tribe of **Judah** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Reuben** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Gad** twelve thousand were sealed;*

*(Revelation 7:6 NKJV) of the tribe of **Asher** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Naphtali** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Manasseh** twelve thousand were sealed;*

*(Revelation 7:7 NKJV) of the tribe of **Simeon** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Levi** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Issachar** twelve thousand were sealed;*

*(Revelation 7:8 NKJV) of the tribe of **Zebulun** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Joseph** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Benjamin** twelve thousand were sealed.*

But in the Kingdom age, be restored and given an inheritance of the land. Wow what a God of Grace and forgiveness.

Ezekiel 48:1–2 (NKJV)¹ "Now these *are* the names of the tribes: From the northern border along the road to Hethlon at the entrance of Hamath, to Hazar Enan, the border of Damascus northward, in the direction of Hamath, *there shall be one section for Dan* from its east to its west side; ² by the border of Dan, from the east side to the west, *one section for Asher*;

Jewish Rabbis say Anti-Messiah Come

Verse 17 - Dan shall be a serpent by the way - Some Jewish rabbi believe also that an anti-messiah will come upon the world scene, and they believe he will arise from the tribe of Dan (take that for what it is worth).

(Genesis 49:18 NKJV) I have waited for your salvation, O LORD!

Maybe After Thought / Salvation – Yeshua - Jesus

"I have waited for your salvation, O LORD," seems to be thrown in without any reference to Dan. It is sort of a little after thought. The word salvation in Hebrew, as used here, is "Yeshua." Literally, Jacob said, "I have waited for Yeshua or Jesus." Maybe Jacob is praying for the tribe of Dan, or grieving over all his sons as he sees some headed for destruction.

Jacob waited on the Lord..... and God fulfilled. Just think if he had quit. Christian, don't quit, don't listen to the lies of the serpent who says it is not worth it, just give up, just quit. Jacob is in glory, and the 147 years was but a scratch of the thousands of years of being in glory with the Lord in His presence.

Psalms 16:10–11 (NKJV)¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

Gad

(Genesis 49:19 NKJV) "Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, But he shall triumph at last.

Gad – A Troop / Mighty Warriors

The name Gad means "troop." A troop shall tramp upon him, meaning his land was most vulnerable to the invaders to the east. Gad became mighty and valiant warriors with many great victories (1 Chronicles 5:18-22, 12:8-15):

(1 Chronicles 5:18 NKJV) The sons of Reuben, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh had forty-four thousand seven hundred and sixty valiant men, men able to bear shield and sword, to shoot with the bow, and skillful in war, who went to war.

Beloved, stay in the fight..... and if you are not in the fight, get it.

2 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV)³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

Asher

(Genesis 49:20 NKJV) "Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties.

Bakers – Rich Cookies

Asher's descendants will be bakers and provide the land with rich bread and cookies, they were situated in the area of Mount Carmel, and had easy access to the palace. (Joshua 19:24-31).

Naphtali

(Genesis 49:21 NKJV) "Naphtali is a deer let loose; He uses beautiful words.

Deer Like Agility – Military Prowess

Deer-like speed and agility marked Naphtali's military prowess (Judges 4:6, 5:18).

(Judges 4:6 NKJV) Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, 'Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;

(Judges 5:18 NKJV) Zebulun is a people who jeopardized their lives to the point of death, Naphtali also, on the heights of the battlefield.

Poets & Speechmakers

The tribe of Naphtali will be the poets and speech makers. The song of Deborah and Barak (as Barak who hailed from Naphtali) represent the eloquence of their words (Judges 4:6, Judges 5).

Joseph

(Genesis 49:22 NKJV) "Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall.

NIV - (Genesis 49:22 NIV) "Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall.

Greatness from Ephraim/Manasseh

Great Leaders Ephraim:

- Joshua, Deborah, Samuel

Great Leaders Manasseh

- Gideon, Japheth

Hebrews 11:32 (NKJV)³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

These things of the great leaders did not come to pass for several hundred years, not until after 400 years of slavery, but in perfect accordance to the prophecy of God, they did! Christian, don't give up, don't quit, don't say what's the use; stay in the Word, and let the Word do what it is designed to do, as it will not return void.

Isaiah 55:10–11 (NKJV)¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Joseph picture Psalm 1

Verse 22 - A bough by a well - Even in a time of famine Joseph is fruitful, a source of refreshment, a well from which others can drink from. Joseph is a picture of Psalm 1.

(Psalms 1:1 NKJV) Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

(Psalms 1:2 NKJV) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

(Psalms 1:3 NKJV) He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

We Need Living Water

A picture for us, to be like a Joseph we need to be planted by the rivers of living water:

(John 4:10 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

(John 4:11 NKJV) The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"

(John 4:12 NKJV) "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

(John 4:13 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,

(John 4:14 NKJV) "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

(Genesis 49:23 NKJV) The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him.
(Genesis 49:24 NKJV) But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

Satan Attacks

Know this that when you start to bear fruit the devil is going to attack you and shoot his fiery darts at you.\n[Ephesians 6:16 \(NKJV\)](#)¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Joseph was Hated

Verse 23 -The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him - Though he was prospered abundantly, though he had the great wealth of Egypt at his fingertips, he had gone through some really heavy trials. Life was not always easy for Joseph. The archers had sorely grieved him. He had experienced a lot of grief in having them plot together to kill him. The grief of being sold by his brothers as a slave. The grief of being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, of rape, and spending years in prison because of the false charges. There was a deep hatred in the brothers hearts concerning Joseph. It says that they hated him and when he told the dreams that he had, they hated him all the more. Hatred so great that they actually conspired to kill him, then opted later to just sell him as a slave. Jacob recognizes and acknowledges before the other sons of what they did.

Didn't Retaliate / Joseph Abided

Verse 24 - And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob - Many arrows had gone his way; but, his bough (vine) remained in strength. That is, he did not retaliate though it was in his power to do so. Joseph doesn't try to get even, his bough (vine) abides in strength. He could have destroyed those that sought to destroy him, but he didn't. The secret of that strength was the arms of his hands were made strong by Almighty God, because Joseph was attached to the vine:

[\(John 15:4 KJV\)](#) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

[\(John 15:5 KJV\)](#) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

God was Restraining Power

God was the one that was the restraining power in Joseph's life. He is a restraining power in our lives and is able to help us if we have that habit of just sort of flying off in a fit of temper. You can know the power of God. He will hold the arms of your hands so that you will not strike back.

God the Rock / Symbolizes Strength – Protection - Safety

Verse 24 - (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel) - Then the stone and this is the first reference to God as the "rock" or God as a "stone." Through the Psalms, this symbolism for God is used over and over. The Lord is "my rock" or "my strong defence." Even in the Song of Moses, Deuteronomy thirty-two, "their rock is not as our rock" and many other references to God as a rock in the Song of Moses. The rock was a symbol of strength, the symbol of protection. "Hide me in the rock that is higher than I." The place of defence, the place of protection, the place of safety and that is what God becomes to us.

[\(Psalms 18:2 NIV\)](#) The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Jacob points to Joseph's Strength / Never too Late to Start Doing Right

Jacob is pointing to the brothers, all the things you want to accomplish in the flesh, you didn't and couldn't. All the things you wanted, Joseph got. Why, because you put your trust in yourselves, but Joseph in all his doings, sought and trusted after the Lord. If you want blessings in your life, Joseph shows the way how. Son's it is never too late to start doing things right.

(Genesis 49:25 NKJV) By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

(Genesis 49:26 NKJV) The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.

Many Blessings for Joseph / Ephraim – Manasseh Large Tribes

Many blessings were to come upon Joseph. Those blessings of heaven, the rain that shall come down; blessings of the water that lies beneath, referring to the well of water; and the blessings of the breasts and of the womb or the multiplying of the tribe. Ephraim and Manasseh became large tribes and Ephraim became a dominant tribe. The blessings pronounced to Joseph were applicable for his 2 sons based on our study in chapter 48.

Joseph gets more than Jacob

Jacob is saying all the blessings that were pronounced upon me, I am pronouncing more upon you.

Benjamin

(Genesis 49:27 NKJV) "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil."

Tough Fellows / Fierce Fighters

The tribe of Benjamin produced the tough fellows. History tells how fierce the Benjamites were in battle.. There were a group of Benjamites who fought with David and they were skillful with the sling (left or right handed). They could split a hair at a hundred yards it was said. The warlike nature of the small tribe of Benjamin became well known, as exhibited in their archers and slingers (Judges 20:16, 1 Chronicles 8:40, 12:2, 2 Chronicles 14:8, 17:17, Judges 19&20):

(1 Chronicles 8:40 NIV) The sons of Ulam were brave warriors who could handle the bow. They had many sons and grandsons-- 150 in all. All these were the descendants of Benjamin.

(1 Chronicles 12:1 NIV) These were the men who came to David at Ziklag, while he was banished from the presence of Saul son of Kish (they were among the warriors who helped him in battle;

(1 Chronicles 12:2 NIV) they were armed with bows and were able to shoot arrows or to sling stones right-handed or left-handed; they were kinsmen of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin):

(2 Chronicles 14:8 NIV) Asa had an army of three hundred thousand men from Judah, equipped with large shields and with spears, and two hundred and eighty thousand from Benjamin, armed with small shields and with bows. All these were brave fighting men.

Saul & Paul

The first king of Israel, Saul, came from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Samuel 9), and so did the Apostle Paul (Philippians 3:5)

(Genesis 49:28 NKJV) All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

Good Examples / Worth Meditating Over Again

Good words and examples for our lives today. It would be worth going back and meditating over each of these 12 and allow the Lord to speak to our hearts about each thing that was spoken of these boys.

(Genesis 49:28 NKJV) All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

(Genesis 49:29 NKJV) Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

(Genesis 49:30 NKJV) "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.

(Genesis 49:31 NKJV) "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

(Genesis 49:32 NKJV) "The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the sons of Heth."

(Genesis 49:33 NKJV) And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

I am Dying

Says, must die, and that is a truth, a fact, for every last person, we must die. We will die, barring the event of the rapture, we must die, and even in the event of the rapture, there is a death that comes before that, and that is, that we die to ourselves, stating and knowing and declaring that we cannot cleanse ourselves from our unrighteousness. And then we need a god who will come down and trade places with us and take our sin and our shame so that we can take places as sons and daughters to the Father God in heaven. And that is what we call the substitutionary attainment, where Jesus, the lamb of God, becomes the one who the punishment for sin comes upon, so that we may be. Atoned, which means at one meant with God.

Believers need not fear death

49:29 – Bury Me in the Land

I absolutely love this, that Jacob says, don't bury me in Egypt because you know what, it would have been nothing for them to build a monument for Joseph, a burial place in Memorial Monument for Jacob, the father of Joseph. They could have been immortalized before man on earth. But both of them will say, don't bury me here. Take me to the promised land, fence word, I want my identity to be, that I want to be known for the man of faith, who believed that God would fulfill his promise to Israel and make us a great nation in this very land on this very soil. And then ultimately, that I will have a home in heaven, who's built, not by hands of man, but by God himself. And if you wonder why Satan wants to wipe Israel off the map, because he wants this promise, he wants these pictures erased that we would go. There is no promise of God that is sure and true. But when we look at Israel today, and we see a nation in the land, and the Messiah came through, not just the build, a house in heaven, but for us to be, the body of Christ himself that God would dwell in. Of course, the devil wants to steal, kill, and destroy that picture.

Genesis 49:29–33 (NKJV)

²⁹ Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that *is* in the field of Ephron the Hittite, ³⁰ in the cave that *is* in the field of Machpelah, which *is* before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place. ³¹ There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah. ³² The field and the cave that *is* there *were* purchased from the sons of Heth." ³³ And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

(Numbers 6:23 NKJV) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;

(Numbers 6:25 NKJV) The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."