

# The Blessing by Jacob

## *Genesis 49:1-33*

- I. THE SUMMONS FOR THE BLESSINGS (Genesis 49:1-2)
  - A. The Explanation for the Summons (Genesis 49:1)
    - 1. Jacob called his sons unto him.
    - 2. To tell them what would happen to them in the last days.
      - a. Some of the sons received good news, while others heard of loss and coming condemnation.
      - b. These prophecies will cover a wide range of areas.
      - c. The coverage of these prophecies includes the tribes and their initial dwelling in the land and in the Millennial Kingdom.
  - B. The Exhortation in the Summons (Genesis 49:2)
    - 1. To be sure to gather themselves together unto him.
    - 2. To hearken unto him.
- II. THE SPECIFICS OF THE BLESSINGS (Genesis 49:3-28)
  - A. The Prophecy Concerning Reuben (Genesis 49:3-4)
    - 1. His Potential (Genesis 49:3) – the firstborn (Deuteronomy 21:17; Psalm 78:51)
    - 2. His Problem (Genesis 49:4) – “*unstable as water*”
      - a. Taking that which was forbidden (Genesis 35:22)
      - b. Ready to follow Korah (Numbers 16:1, 27, 32-33)
      - c. First to demand an inheritance (Numbers 32:1-5)
      - d. Failed to follow Deborah (Judges 5:15-16)
    - 3. His Portion (Genesis 49:4) – “*thou shalt not excel*”
      - a. Lost his birthright to Joseph (1 Chronicles 5:1-2; Genesis 48:5)
      - b. Lost his priesthood to Levi (Numbers 3:6)
      - c. Lost his rule (kingdom) to Judah (Genesis 49:10)
    - 4. His Punishment (Genesis 49:4) – “*he went up to my couch*” (note: Genesis 35:22)
      - a. No ruler, prophet, judge, or priest ever would come from Reuben.
      - b. First to be destroyed (2 Kings 10:32-33; 1 Chronicles 5:26)

- c. The tribe of Reuben would decrease in strength in the wilderness wanderings despite Moses' prayers (Deuteronomy 33:6; Numbers 1:21; Numbers 26:7).
- B. The Prophecy Concerning Simeon and Levi (Genesis 49:5-7)
1. Their Problem (Genesis 34:25-30)
  2. The Punishment of Simeon
    - a. Simeon was the only one kept in an Egyptian prison (Genesis 42:24), possibly because he was responsible for conspiring to kill Joseph.
    - b. Would become the smallest tribe (Numbers 26:14)
    - c. Only tribe to be ignored in Deuteronomy 33 blessing.
    - d. Would be scattered throughout Israel (Joshua 19:1, 9; 1 Chronicles 4:39-43; 2 Chronicles 15:9)
  3. The Punishment of Levi (Numbers 35:8; Joshua 14:4; Joshua 21:1-3)
  4. The Restitution by Levi
    - a. Supporting the leadership of Moses (Exodus 32:26-28; Deuteronomy 33:8-11)
    - b. Saving the nation of Israel from the plague (Numbers 25:6-13)
- C. The Prophecy Concerning Judah (Genesis 49:8-12)
1. The Receiving of Praise (Genesis 49:8)
    - a. Judah means "God be Praised"
    - b. Prophetically, this points to the praise due to Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18).
  2. The Prevailing Over All (Genesis 49:8)
    - a. Judah's hand would be in the neck of his enemies. Prophetically, this points to the power given to Christ (Matthew 28:18). He conquered sin, death, the flesh, and the grave and triumphed over the Devil (1 Corinthians 15:57).
    - b. His brethren would bow before him (1 Chronicles 5:2).
  3. A Lion's Whelp (Genesis 49:9)—The Lion of Judah's tribe (Revelation 5:5)
  4. The Faithful Ruler (*Sceptre*) (Genesis 49:10)
    - a. The Lord promised the kingly line would spring from Judah.
    - b. This was done 640 years before David reigned.
    - c. In the end, this pointed to Christ (Hebrews 7:14).

5. The Two Shilohs (Genesis 49:10)
  - a. The place
    - (1) The place where God set the tabernacle (Psalm 78:60; Joshua 18:1).
    - (2) The place where God first set His name (Jeremiah 7:12).
    - (3) The place where Eli and Samuel worked together (1 Samuel 1:1-24).
  - b. The person
    - (1) Is a man (Genesis 49:10)
    - (2) He comes through Judah (Genesis 49:10)
    - (3) He comes to the Earth (Genesis 49:10)
  
6. The Coming of Shiloh (Genesis 49:10)
  - a. Shiloh means “*the giver of the peace.*” This specifically pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ who is the King of peace (Micah 5:5; Hebrews 7:2).
  - b. Unto Him (Jesus) would be the gathering of the people.
    - (1) Old Testament saints who died were said to be gathered unto their fathers (Genesis 25:8, 17; Genesis 35:29; Genesis 49:33; Numbers 20:24; Deuteronomy 32:50; Judges 2:10; 2 Kings 22:20).
    - (2) People who died in the Old Testament had two possible destinations.
      - (a) Abraham’s bosom (Luke 16:19-22) or paradise (Luke 23:39-43)
      - (b) Hell (Luke 16:22-23)
    - (3) The gathering unto the fathers served as an Old Testament assurance of salvation.
    - (4) When Shiloh came
      - (a) Those who died in the Lord arose (Matthew 27:51-53).
      - (b) Paradise was taken to heaven (2 Corinthians 12:1-4).
  
7. The Colt of an Ass (Genesis 49:11; Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:5)
  
8. The Blood-Stained Clothes (Genesis 49:11; Isaiah 63:1-3; Revelation 14:19-20; Revelation 19:11-15)
  
9. The Eyes and Teeth of Shiloh (Genesis 49:12)
  - a. His eyes
    - (1) Eyes as a flame of fire (Revelation 1:14; Revelation 2:18; Revelation 19:12)
    - (2) His eyes red with wine (Genesis 49:12)
  - b. His teeth
    - (1) The first occurrence of the word *teeth* in the Bible.
    - (2) Teeth are often associated with judgment, specifically the judgment of God.
    - (3) Consider the following.

- (a) His teeth shall be white with milk. Note: Solomon's teeth are said to be as the sheep on two different occasions (Song of Solomon 4:2; Song of Solomon 6:6).
- (b) The teeth of His enemies will be broken (Psalm 3:7; Psalm 58:6).

10. The Blessing of Moses (Deuteronomy 33:7)

D. The Prophecy Concerning Zebulun (Genesis 49:13)

- 1. The Placement in Jacob's Blessing
  - a. Surprisingly, he goes from Judah (4<sup>th</sup> son) to Zebulun (10<sup>th</sup> son).
  - b. Judah (Bethlehem) is where the Saviour would be born, but Zebulun would be where Christ grew up (Nazareth)—along with Naphtali "*Galilee of the Gentiles*" (Matthew 4:15).
- 2. The Prominence of Him in History
  - a. Eleven of the twelve apostles came from Galilee.
  - b. Rarely singled out—a quiet tribe.
  - c. Supported Deborah (Judges 5:18)
  - d. Supported David (1 Chronicles 12:33)
    - (1) They could keep rank—this could be their theme.
    - (2) They were not of a double heart (James 1:8; James 4:8).
- 3. The Portion Given to Him in the Land
  - a. The prophecy of Jacob (Genesis 49:13)
  - b. A haven for ships
  - c. A border unto Zidon
  - d. Zebulun's inheritance (Joshua 19:10-11)
  - e. Zebulun's border unto Zidon (Sidon); may still be prophetic (Ezekiel 48:1-7, 22-29)
- 4. The blessing of Moses (Deuteronomy 33:18-19)
  - a. Shall offer sacrifices of righteousness
  - b. Shall enjoy the abundance of the seas

E. The Prophecy Concerning Issachar (Genesis 49:14-15)

- 1. The Strength of Him (Genesis 49:14)— "*a strong ass*"
  - a. Up to Solomon's day, there were no horses in Israel and the ass was an honourable beast of burden ridden by all ranks of men.
  - b. Issachar's strength considered in three ways:
    - (1) In war
      - (a) 64,000 men (Numbers 26:25)—3<sup>rd</sup> to Judah and Dan

- (b) 87,000 men (1 Chronicles 7:5)
- (2) In wisdom for knowing the times (1 Chronicles 12:32)
- (3) In work—“*between two burdens*”
- 2. The Satisfaction for Him (Genesis 49:15a)— “*saw that rest was good*”
- 3. The Servitude by Him (Genesis 49:15b)— “*became a servant unto tribute*”
- F. The Prophecy Concerning Dan (Genesis 49:16-18)
  - 1. The Position of Dan (Genesis 49:16)
    - a. As a judge—Samson was from Dan (Judges 13:2)
    - b. “*As one of the tribes*” (peculiar wording: “as”)
      - (1) No genealogy listed for Dan in First Chronicles chapters 2 through 10
      - (2) Dan was not among the tribes sealed in Revelation 7:4-8.
      - (3) Dan was the rereward (last) of the encamped tribes (Numbers 10:25).
      - (4) Dan was listed last in the division of the land in Joshua 19:48.
      - (5) Dan was last in a listing of the tribal histories (1 Chronicles 27:16, 22).
      - (6) Note: The judging tribe is judged (Deuteronomy 29:16-21).
  - 2. The Poison of Dan (Genesis 49:17)
    - a. Attacking a peaceful people (cp. Deuteronomy 33:22 with Judges 18:26-29)
    - b. Introducing idolatry to Israel (Judges 18:30-31)
      - (1) Included graven images and religious garb (Judges 18:14)
      - (2) Included a priest addressed as “father” (Judges 18:19)
    - c. The golden calf in Dan (1 Kings 12:25-31; 2 Kings 10:29)
  - 3. The Pardon for Dan (Ezekiel 48:1)
- G. The Prophecies Concerning Gad, Asher and Naphtali (Genesis 49:19-21)
  - 1. The Tribe of Gad
    - a. Overcome at first, but an overcomer at last (Deuteronomy 33:20-21; 1 Chronicles 5:18-22; 1 Chronicles 12:8). Elijah, who will reappear in the last days, is from the tribe of Gad.
    - b. In the end, the Ammonites who have the land belonging to Gad will be destroyed (Jeremiah 49:1; Zephaniah 2:8-9).

2. The Tribe of Asher
  - a. A blessing-receiver—“*his bread shall be fat*” (see Deuteronomy 33:24-25).
    - (1) A woman from Zarephath of Zidon provided bread for the sustenance of Elijah’s physical life (1 Kings 17:16).
    - (2) Anna was from the tribe of Asur. She told about Jesus, the Bread of Life, to everyone looking for redemption in Israel (Luke 2:36-38).
  - b. A blessing-giver—“*royal dainties*”
    - (1) Provided the labour for building David a house (2 Samuel 5:11)
    - (2) Provided materials to Solomon for the house of God (1 Kings 5:1-10)
  
3. The Tribe of Naphtali
  - a. A hind let loose—as a captured deer released in the woods; energetic, wild
  - b. Giving goodly words
    - (1) The tribe of Barak (Judges 4:6) who sang a song (Judges 5:1)
    - (2) The tribe of Jonah (2 Kings 14:25) who wrote a book
    - (3) The tribe where Christ preached in the extreme northern Palestine region (Tyre and Sidon)—“*Galilee of the Gentiles*” (Matthew 4:13-17)
  
- H. The Prophecy Concerning Joseph (Genesis 49:22-26)
  1. Joseph’s Provision of Fruit (Deuteronomy 33:13-17)
    - a. A fruitful bough (Genesis 49:22; Joshua 17:14-18)
    - b. A firstborn’s portion (double portion split between Ephraim and Manasseh) (Deuteronomy 21:17; 1 Chronicles 5:1-2; Genesis 48:3-6; Ezekiel 47:13)
  2. Joseph’s Preparation for Fruit
    - a. His planting (Genesis 49:22; Psalm 1:3; John 15:1-5)
    - b. His persecution (Genesis 49:23; Psalm 105:17-21; Romans 5:3-5; 1 Peter 5:4)
    - c. His persistence (Genesis 49:24; 2 Corinthians 4:1, 15-18; Galatians 6:9)
    - d. His Provider (Genesis 49:24-25; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
    - e. His prevailing (Genesis 49:26; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 2:14)
    - f. Note the past tense in verses 22-24 up until the parenthesis moving over to the future tense in verses 24-26. The “*shepherd*” refers to the First Advent and the “*stone of Israel*” refers to the Second Advent.
  
- I. The Prophecy Concerning Benjamin (Genesis 49:27)
  1. A Tribe of Generals
    - a. Ehud (Judges 3:15-22)

- b. King Saul (1 Samuel 22:17-20)
- c. Saul of Tarsus (Romans 11:1; 2 Timothy 2:3-4)
- 2. A Tribe of Soldiers (Judges 20:14-25; 1 Chronicles 8:40; 1 Chronicles 12:1-2)

### III. THE SEPULCHER AFTER THE BLESSINGS (Genesis 49:29-33)

- A. Jacob's Request to Be Buried in Canaan (Genesis 49:29-32)
  - 1. In the cave of Machpelah (Genesis 49:29-30)
  - 2. Purchased by Abraham as a burying place (Genesis 49:31-32; Genesis 23)
- B. Jacob Yielded Up the Ghost (Genesis 49:33)
  - 1. He made an end of commanding his sons.
  - 2. He gathered his feet into the bed.
  - 3. He yielded up the ghost (Genesis 35:18; Matthew 27:50).
  - 4. He was gathered to his people.
    - a. Obviously, this was not identical to his burial since they did not even begin the trip to Canaan for seventy days (Genesis 50:3).
    - b. Neither was it a burial in the family plot alongside a person's relatives. Moses, who was gathered unto his people (Deuteronomy 32:50), was not buried next to any relatives. In fact, no one knew the location of his burial (Deuteronomy 34:5-6).
    - c. Consider those who were gathered unto their people or the fathers.
      - (1) Abraham (Genesis 25:8)
      - (2) Ishmael (Genesis 25:17)
      - (3) Isaac (Genesis 35:29)
      - (4) Jacob (Genesis 49:33)
      - (5) Aaron (Numbers 20:24)
      - (6) Moses (Deuteronomy 32:50)
      - (7) People who served the Lord during Joshua's days (Judges 2:10)
      - (8) Josiah (2 Kings 22:20)
    - d. This gathering spoke of the death of Old Testament saints and their dwelling in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22) until their gathering unto Shiloh, the Messiah (Genesis 49:10). The souls of these saints were taken up by Christ at His resurrection and ascension (Psalm 68:18; Ephesians 4:8).