

The Prophecy of Jacob

Studies in Bible Prophecy

Outline #3

Genesis 49:1-33

I. Reuben (v.3-4)

- A. His Potential (v.3)
-the firstborn (Deut.21:17; Ps.78:51)
- B. His Problem (v.4) - "unstable as water"
 - 1. Took that which was forbidden (Gen.35:22)
 - 2. Ready to follow Korah (Num.16:1,27,32-33)
 - 3. First to demand inheritance (Num. 32:1-5)
 - 4. Failed to follow Deborah (Judg.5:15-16)
- C. His Portion (v.4) - "thou shalt not excell"
 - 1. Lost birthright to Joseph (I Chron.5:1-2; Gen.48:5)
 - 2. Lost priesthood to Levi (Num.3:6)
 - 3. Lost rulership to Judah (Gen.49:10)
 - 4. Blessing of Moses (Deut.33:6)
- D. His Punishment (v.4)
 - 1. No ruler, prophet, judge or priest ever came from Reuben
 - 2. First to be destroyed (II Kgs. 10:32-33; I Chron.5:26)

II. Simeon and Levi (v.5-7)

- A. Their Joint Sin (Gen.34:25-30)
- B. Simeon's Judgment
 - 1. Becomes smallest tribe (Num.26:14)
 - 2. Only tribe to be ignored in Deuteronomy 33 blessing
 - 3. Scattered throughout Israel (Josh.19:1,9; I Chron.4:39-43; II Chron.15:9)
- C. Levi's Judgment (Num.35:8; Josh 14:4; 21:1-3)

D. Levi's Restitution

1. In supporting Moses (Ex.32:26-28; Deut.33:8-11)
2. In saving Israel from the plague (Num.25:6-13)

III. Judah (v.8-12)

- A. Receiving Praise (v.8) - Judah means "God be praised"
- B. Prevailing Over His Brethren (v.8; I Chron.5:2)
- C. A Lion's Whelp (v.9)
-the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Rev.5:5)
- D. The Faithful Sceptre (v.10)
1. 640 years before David reigns
2. Christ is the Sceptre (Num.24:17)
- E. The Coming of Shiloh (v.10)
1. Shiloh means "peace"
2. Christ is the king of peace (Mic.5:5; Heb.7:2)
- F. The Gathering of the People (v.10)
1. Not burial in the family plot
 a. Use (Gen.25:8,17; 35:29; 49:29)
 b. Meaning (Deut.32:50 w/ 34:5-6)
2. The Old Testament gathering (Luke 16:22; Heb.9:15)
3. The New Testament gathering (Eph.4:8-10; Heb.12:22-24)
- G. The Colt of the Ass (v.11; Zech.9:9; Matt.21:5)
- H. The Blood Stained Clothes (v.11-12; Isa.63:1-3; Rev.14:19-20- 19:11-15)
- I. Moses' Blessing (Deut.33:7)

IV. Zebulun (v.13)

- A. His Place in Jacob's Blessing
1. Went from Judah (4th son) to Zebulun (10th son)
2. Judah is where Christ was born (Bethlehem)
3. Zebulun is where Christ grew up (Nazareth)
 -along with Naphtali called "Galilee of the Gentiles" (Mt.4:15)
4. Eleven of the twelve apostles came from Galilee
5. Much of Christ's greatest ministry was in Galilee
 (Mt.4:14-16; Isa.9:1-2)

- B. His Prominence in History
1. Seldom singled out - a quiet tribe
 2. Supported Deborah (Judg.5:18)
 3. Supported David (I Chron.12:33)
 - a. They could keep rank *-this could be their theme*
 - b. They were not of a double heart
- C. His Portion in the Land
1. The prophecy of Jacob (v.13)
 - a. A haven for ships
 - b. A border unto Zidon
 2. The blessing of Moses (Deut.33:18-19)
 - a. Shall offer sacrifices of righteousness
 - b. Shall enjoy the abundance of the seas
 3. Zebulun's inheritance (Josh.19:10-11)
 - a. Josephus, Ant., V,i,22 - "The tribe of Zebulun's lot included the land which lay as far as the Lake of Genesareth, and that which belonged to Carmel and the sea."
 - b. Modern scholars deny that Zebulun had a sea coast. They are wrong.
 4. Zebulun's border unto Zidon (Sidon)
 - a. Hard to understand historically
 - b. May still be prophetic (Ezek.48:1-7,22-29)
 - (1) Hamath - more than 100 miles north of Damascus
 - (2) Kadesh - parallel with the delta of the Nile

V. Issachar (v.14-15)

- A. His Strength (v.14) "a strong ass"
1. In war
 - a. 64,300 men (Num.26:25) - 3rd to Judah & Dan
 - b. 87,000 men (I Chron.7:5)
 2. In wisdom (I Chron.12:32)
 3. In work - "between two burdens"
- B. His Satisfaction (v.15a) "saw that rest was good"
- C. His Servitude (v.15b) "became a servant unto tribute"
 -example of tribute (II Kings 15:19-20)

VI. Dan (v.16-18)

- A. His Position (v.16)
1. As a judge -Samson from Dan (Judg.13:2)
 2. As one of the tribes
 - a. Last mentioned: Num.10:25; I Chron.27:16-22
 - b. Last inheritance: Josh.19:48-49
 - c. No geneology in I Chronicles 2-10
 - d. Not sealed in Revelation 7:4-8
- NOTE: the judging tribe is judged (Deut.29:16-21)
- B. His Poison (v.17) "a serpent by the way, an adder in the path"
1. Attacking a peaceful people (Deut.33:22 with Judg.18:26-29)
 2. Introducing idolatry to Israel (Judg.18; esp. v. 30-31)
 - a. Graven images (v.18)
 - b. A priest called father (v.19)
 3. The golden cal in Dan (I Kings 12:25-31; II Kings 10:29)
- C. His Pardon - (Ezek.48:1) "a portion for Dan"

VII. Gad, Asher & Naphtali (v.19-21)

-along with Dan, the children born to handmaids

- A. Gad (v.19)
1. Overcome at first
 2. Overcomer at last (I Chron.12:8; 5:18-22)
- B. Asher (v.20)
1. A blessing-receiver (see Deut.33:24-25)
 2. A blessing-giver - "royal dainties"
- C. Naphtali (v.21)
1. A hind let loose - as a captured deer released in the woods; energetic, wild
 2. Giving goodly words
 - a. The tribe of Barak (Judg.4:6) who sang a song (Judg.5:1)
 - b. The tribe of Jonah (II Kings 14:25) who wrote a book
 - c. The tribe where Christ preached the word (Matt.4:13-17)

VIII. Joseph (v.22-26) --The Fruitful Tribe

- A. Joseph's Provision of Fruit (Deut.33:13-17)
1. A fruitful bough (v.22; Josh.17:14-18)
 2. A firstborn's portion (Deut.21:17; I Chron.5:1-2; Gen.48:3-6; Ezek.47:13)

- B. Joseph's Preparation for Fruit
1. His planting (v.22; Ps.1:3; John 15:1-5)
 2. His persecution (v.23; Ps.105:17-21; Rom.5:3-5; I Pet.1:6-7)
 3. His persistence (v.24a; II Cor.4:1,15-18; Gal.6:9)
 4. His Provider (v.24b-25; II Cor.12:9-10)
 - a. The Shepherd (John 10:10-16; Heb.13:20; I Pet.5:4)
 - b. The Stone (Dan.2:35,44-45; Matt.21:42-44)
 5. His prevailing (v.26; I Cor.15:58; II Cor.2:14)

IX. Benjamin (v.27) --The Warrior Tribe

- A. A Tribe of Generals
1. Ehud (Judg.3:15-22)
 2. King Saul (I Sam.22:17-20)
 3. Saul of Tarsus (Rom.11:1; II Tim.2:3-4)
- B. A Tribe of Soldiers (Judg.20:14-25; I Chron.8:40; 12:1-2)

X. The Final Charge of Jacob (v.28-33)