



GENESIS

Jacob's Last Words to His Sons **Genesis 49:1-28**

1. Read Genesis 49:1-28; we see Jacob give his children blessings, identities, and promises for the future. Read 1 John 3:1, Ephesians 1:1-10, Psalm 32:1-2, Matthew 5:3-11, Romans 8:28-30, Titus 1:1-3, Luke 18:7, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:10. As believers who are adopted as children of God, what blessings, identities, and promises for the future do we have? Judah, who committed great sin like his older brothers, received a kingly blessing. What does this tell us about God that can comfort us in our sin?
2. Read Genesis 34:25-end. How did Simeon and Levi's sin have consequences later in their life? What is their blessing (or rather curse) from Jacob in Gen. 49? Were there any notable people from their tribes in Israel? Read 2 Samuel 11, 12:15-19, Psalm 51. What were some consequences of David's sin? What is his heart posture when he gets convicted of this sin? What should be our heart posture when we are confronted with the consequences of our own sin?
3. Read Genesis 37:26-27; 38; 44:18-34. How does Judah change from the beginning of the Joseph story to the end? What sin does he commit, how does God change his heart? What does he propose to his brother Joseph that shows the condition of his heart? Re-read Gen 49: 9-12. How is Judah's sanctification shown in the blessing he receives from Jacob? Did Judah play any role in his sanctification, or was it God's grace to him? How does this teach us how we are to be sanctified in Christ?
4. Read Matthew 1:1-17. Judah was a part of the lineage to Christ. How does Jacob's blessing hint at the coming of Christ through his lineage? Verse 11 hints at wine being so abundant that people will tie their donkeys to the vine and wash their garments in wine. How does this picture relate to Christ's first miracle? Think about a powerful lion that could easily destroy its prey; the lion is sleeping quietly in its den. How does the picture of a sleeping lion represent the humility and meekness of Christ?
5. In verses Genesis 49:24-25 we see Jacob attribute multiple names to God based on how he has seen God work in his life. How does your understanding of God's character continue to grow through different life experiences?
6. Just as Reuben had the advantage of being a firstborn before he was disqualified because of his sin, evaluate where you lead (business, home, ministry). Are you guarding your heart? Is it stable, controlled, or disciplined? His descendants faced the consequences of his sin. What sin consequences are you facing?

Jacob's Last Words to His Sons

49 Then Jacob called together all his sons and said, "Gather around me, and I will tell you what will happen to each of you in the days to come. "Come and listen, you sons of Jacob; listen to Israel, your father. "Reuben, you are my firstborn, my strength, the child of my vigorous youth. You are first in rank and first in power. But you are as unruly as a flood, and you will be first no longer. For you went to bed with my wife; you defiled my marriage couch. "Simeon and Levi are two of a kind; their weapons are instruments of violence. May I never join in their meetings; may I never be a party to their plans. For in their anger they murdered men, and they crippled oxen just for sport. A curse on their anger, for it is fierce; a curse on their wrath, for it is cruel. I will scatter them among the descendants of Jacob; I will disperse them throughout Israel. "Judah, your brothers will praise you. You will grasp your enemies by the neck. All your relatives will bow before you. Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants,[a] until the coming of the one to whom it belongs,[b] the one whom all nations will honor. He ties his foal to a grapevine, the colt of his donkey to a choice vine. He washes his clothes in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk. "Zebulun will settle by the seashore and will be a harbor for ships; his borders will extend to Sidon. "Issachar is a sturdy donkey, resting between two saddlepacks.[c] When he sees how good the countryside is and how pleasant the land, he will bend his shoulder to the load and submit himself to hard labor. "Dan will govern his people, like any other tribe in Israel. Dan will be a snake beside the road, a poisonous viper along the path that bites the horse's hooves so its rider is thrown off. I trust in you for salvation, O Lord! "Gad will be attacked by marauding bands, but he will attack them when they retreat. "Asher will dine on rich foods and produce food fit for kings. "Naphtali is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns. "Joseph is the foal of a wild donkey, the foal of a wild donkey at a spring—one of the wild donkeys on the ridge.[d] Archers attacked him savagely; they shot at him and harassed him. But his bow remained taut, and his arms were strengthened by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob, by the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel. May the God of your father help you; may the Almighty bless you with the blessings of the heavens above, and blessings of the watery depths below, and blessings of the breasts and womb. May my fatherly blessings on you surpass the blessings of my ancestors,[e] reaching to the heights of the eternal hills. May these blessings rest on the head of Joseph, who is a prince among his brothers. "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, devouring his enemies in the morning and dividing his plunder in the evening." 28 These are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said as he told his sons good-bye. He blessed each one with an appropriate message.

Messiah

By: John Needham 1789 d.

1 Glory to God! who reigns above,
Who dwells in light, whose name is love
Ye saints and angels, if ye can,
Declare the love of God to man.

2 O what can more his love commend,
His dear, his only Son to send!
That man, condemn'd to die, might live,
And God be glorious to forgive!

3 Messiah's come--with joy behold
The days by prophets long foretold:
Judah, thy royal sceptre's broke;
And time still proves what Jacob spoke.

4 Daniel, thy weeks are all expir'd,--
The time prophetic seals requir'd;
Cut off for sins, but not his own,
Thy Prince, Messiah, did atone.

5 We see the prophecies fulfill'd
In Jesus, that most wondrous child:
His birth, his life, his death, combine
To prove his character divine.

Descendants of each tribe of Israel

Reuben:

- Dathan
- Abiram

Simeon:

- Zimri

Levi:

- Moses
- Aaron
- Miriam
- Samuel
- Korah
- Phinehas
- Ezra
- John the Baptist
- Eli
- Aristobulus I
- Alexander Jannaeus
- Salome Alexandra
- Hyrcanus II
- Aristobulus II
- Antigonus II Mattathias

Judah:

- Caleb
- Boaz
- David
- Solomon
- Jesus
- Rehoboam
- Abija
- Asa
- Jehoshaphat
- Jehoram
- Ahaziah
- Joash
- Amaziah
- Uzziah
- Jotham
- Ahaz
- Hezekiah
- Manassah
- Amon
- Josiah
- Jehoahaz
- Jehoiakim
- Jehoiachin
- Zedekiah
- Isaiah
- Amos
- Micah
- Zephaniah
- Daniel

Zebulun:

- Elon
- Eliab
- Gaddiel

Issachar:

- Baasha
- Elah
- Tola
- Hosea

Dan:

- Samson
- Oholiab

Gad:

- Jephthah
- Barzilli

Asher:

- Anna the prophetess
- Serah (Serach)

Naphtali:

- Barak
- Nahbi
- Hiram

Joseph:

- Ephraim
 - Joshua
 - Deborah
- **Manassah**
 - Elijah
 - Gideon
 - Abimelech
- Jeroboam I
- Baasha
- Jehu
- Pekah

Benjamin:

- Saul
- Jonathan
- Mordecai
- Esther
- Jeremiah
- Ehud
- Paul

