

The Book of Genesis

Chapter Forty Nine

Jacob's Prophecies

Lesson Verse:

I. Lesson Introduction

- A. *Genesis 49* is a chapter filled with blessings, some good and some not so good. Each of the 12 sons of Israel were blessed by their father as he sat upon his death bed. Some of them received a blessing based upon their past actions while others were promised to receive a future blessing.
- B. Some of these promised blessings would not be filled in the life of the son receiving it. That is, the son receive the blessing as an inheritance. However his children would live to see it come to pass. The blessing bestowed upon Judah is an example of the descendants living to see the blessing but Judah was denied seeing Shiloh come. Reuben, Simeon, and Levi are examples of those not receiving a blessing at all because of their past actions.
- C. Christians ought to be a blessing. This lesson looks at what a blessing is, how to be a blessing, and whom can receive a blessing.
- D. But these are more than just blessings and wishes and prayers for his sons, these words are prophecy – of how they will turn out way out in the future – in the last days!

II. Study Lesson

A. Understanding a Blessing – The _____ Nature of the Blessings

1. In order to understand what is invoked when one bestows a blessing, you should understand the meaning of the words _____, _____, and _____. The word bless means several things, context being the determining factor of the definition to use.
2. Some of the meanings of *bless* are:
 - a. Spiritually, it means to consecrate; make holy by religious rite, to glorify, to invoke divine favour upon a person or thing.
 - b. Emotionally, it means to make happy or to show approval, good wishes, anything that gives happiness, or prosperity. Most of the time, this is the meaning people use today.
 - c. The general definition of the word bless, and the one that most often comes to mind when the word or one of its root words is used, is bestowing favour or prosperity upon a person. This is the definition this lesson uses.
3. **What Are Blessings?**
 - a. Are blessings always riches? No. The worst mistake a Christian can make is thinking that blessings must have a monetary value. It is a wise person that understands and realizes that blessings are not counted as valuable in relation to money.
 - b. *Prov 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.* There is no sorrow attached to the blessings we receive from the Lord. God does not tax His children with sorrows after they receive a blessing.
 - c. *1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* Paul told Timothy that there were some who coveted money thinking it would be a blessing to be rich. This is foolish thinking of the worst kind.
 - d. Why is coveting for riches foolish thinking? Consider some of these reasons:
 - 1) The blessings of the Lord are not always in money.
 - 2) Coveting is a sin within itself.
 - 3) When we covet, instead of receiving a blessing, we get sorrow.
 - 4) If we do not have a spirit for giving before we obtain riches, we will not have one after we get rich.
 - 5) If we were fools when we had none to little money, we will be the same with money: fools.
 - 6) Godliness with contentment is great gain.

- B. **The Twelve Tribes Throughout History** (49:1-28) – a companion description of the futures of the twelve tribes is given by _____ in Deuteronomy 33.

1. _____ and The Past (49:3-4)

- a. Reuben is a prime example of one that used an opportunity to harm himself and his descendants. He did this when he took his father's concubine as his secret lover.
- b. As a result of his actions, he forfeited (lost) the birthright, and no prophet, priest or judge ever came from his descendants.
- c. Jacob said that Reuben was _____ .
 - 1) When we think about the many forms of water, we get an idea of the nature of Reuben and his descendants.
 - 2) Water cannot be compressed. It does not take the shape of pressure.
 - 3) When water is heated to its boiling point, it evaporates - disappears.
 - 4) If water is subjected to freezing temperature, it becomes ice.
 - 5) Regardless of the form that water assumes, it cannot remain that way. Its ENVIRONMENT changes the form of the water molecules. A block of ice will melt into a puddle of water and then the sun evaporates the water. Water is unstable.
- d. Reuben had the opportunity to be head of the tribes of Israel, by birthright, and receive that honour. However, because of the things he did, he forfeited the blessings. He conformed to the opportunity and sinned against God. Joseph had the opportunity to conform to the environment created by Potiphar's wife and he refused. Reuben's past caught up with him and his actions affected the blessings of his heirs.
- e. The lesson here for us is if we are unstable, we might also lose a blessing. Each of us must take inventory of the things that come our way each day. We need to be careful how we live our lives so that we do not prevent blessings from coming to our family. *Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye _____ by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

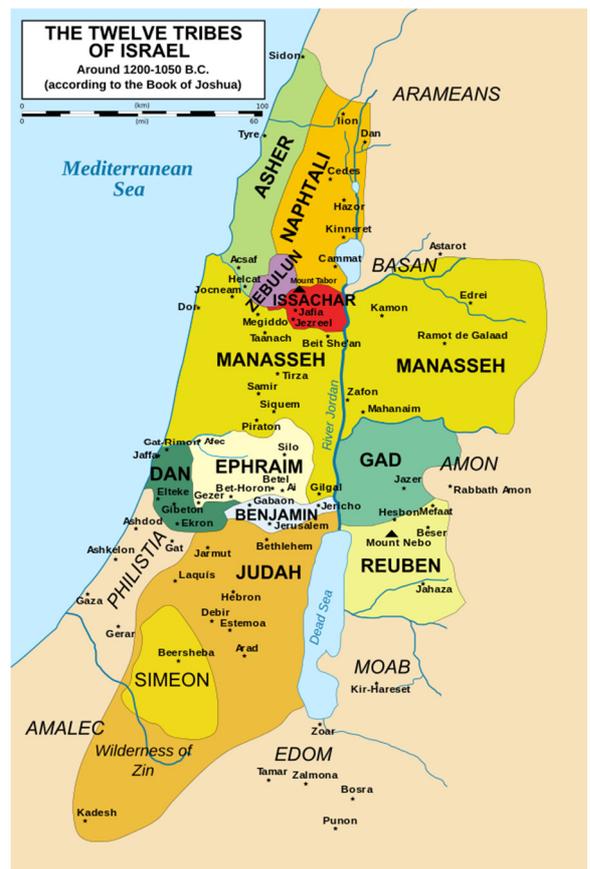
2. _____ - Deceit and treachery (49:5-7)

- a. Consider Simeon and Levi and their sin regarding the city of Shechem, *Gen. 34*, and the cost of that sin.
 - 1) They did not just exact revenge... with deceit and treachery they lied to a city and then went through it and _____ the males.
 - 2) Without any command from God, or their father – they were their own authority – and that is vigilantism, and it is wrong!
 - 3) These two brothers made an entire city to think that if the males of Shechem were circumcised they could be equal to Israel. Their actions were filled with malice and murder.
- b. Because of what these two brothers did to the males of Shechem Levi did not receive an inheritance when the nation went back into the land of Canaan. Simeon had no inheritance in the Promised Land of his own, but was only given an inheritance within the bounds of Judah's.
- c. Deceit and treachery prevented these two sons of Israel from inheriting a blessing. It will do the same for us. *Deu 11:26-28 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day*
- d. God curses their anger – it was NOT of God
- e. Both tribes are cursed as well – they will be scattered – not grouped together like a tribe was supposed to be
- f. Yet, God also turned the cursing into a blessing
 - 1) Simeon gets absorbed into a good tribe – Judah
 - 2) Levi gets scattered, but as a priest-tribe, ministering the word of God to all the people of Israel

3. _____ (49:8-12)

- a. Now comes the _____
- b. The blessing was not only for the tribe, but also for an individual of the tribe yet in the future
- c. The Messiah shall have the following characteristics
 - 1) Shall be _____ – all right kings would be

- 2) Shall be _____ by Israel
 - 3) Shall draw all men unto Him (10)
 - 4) Shall be a _____
 - 5) Shall start off as a Lion's _____ – young, tender cub
 - 6) Shall only go up and up as He defeats each enemy as a prey
 - 7) Shall attack wittingly as a young lion would
 - 8) Shall not be afraid, or shaken, but mature, and un-worried as an old lion
 - 9) Shall have the Sceptre of _____ – kings shall come from Judah
 - 10) Shall produce the Law-givers, people of authority
 - 11) Shiloh will settle everything – Shiloh is a _____
 - a) His coming shall be associated with a _____ – young donkey
 - b) His coming shall be to judge like the crushing of grapes - Armageddon
 - c) His eyes shall be in judgment
 - d) All comes to pass with _____ (see Revelation chapter 1)
4. _____ (49:13)
- a. Shall conquer the sea by shipping
 - b. Shall be along the northern coast
 - c. All the way up through Lebanon
 - d. This is where Messiah will grow up, and do most of His ministry (Mt 4:13-15)
 - e. All the apostles (except _____) will come from this area and Naphtali
5. _____ (49:14-15)
- a. A strong tribe
 - b. Hard-working
 - c. Looked forward to the Promised Land
 - d. Becomes a servant in the land
 - e. Somehow will not be free but under taxation, and tribute to someone else
6. _____ (49:16-18)
- a. Shall _____ his people – shall be an authority in Israel
 - b. But Dan shall be a “snake in the grass” – will be led by the Serpent
 - 1) Dan will turn and bite the children of Israel
 - 2) They shall cause Israel to fall backwards
 - 3) Dan therefore will be the source of the *anti-christ*
 - c. Jacob hates to think of such a future, and instead looks forward to the salvation that God will provide (49:18)
7. _____ (49:19)
- a. Gad is supposed to be a troop (an army), but instead will be overcome by a troop – will not live up to their name
 - b. But in the end (Millennium) will win
8. _____ (49:20)
- a. Shall be a fruitful producer of bread
 - b. Asher will grow marvellous foods for the kings of Israel
9. _____ (49:21)
- a. Like a gentle deer, that gets free
 - b. Shall speak good words
 - c. The Messiah will preach the Gospel mainly



here among this tribe! And the tribe shall repeat what Jesus speaks!

10. _____ (49:22-26)
- a. A fruitful tree-branch
 - b. Planted by a well of water
 - c. The archers (his own brothers, and all people) have sore hurt him by constantly shooting at him – they hated him
 - d. But Joseph's bow was still strong
 - e. God made Joseph strong **through** his adversity
 - f. From the same God shall come the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel – the stone of Israel shall be made strong the same way
 - 1) Hated by his brethren
 - 2) Constantly attacked
 - 3) Pressed through continual hardship
 - g. Joseph shall be blessed
 - 1) From heaven above
 - 2) In marriage
 - 3) In the home
 - 4) Joseph shall experience the best blessings, better than Jacob experienced,
11. _____ (49:27)
- a. A little tribe
 - b. But shall be like a wolf
 - c. He will fight in the morning
 - d. And by nightfall, he will divide the spoils in victory
 - e. Benjamin becomes one of the most powerful tribes because they were such good slingshot slingers

C. The Final Charge to the Children Concerning Jacob's Burial (49:29-33)

1. He knew his time was up – as did Paul (2Tim 4:6)
2. He only wanted to make sure he was buried in the same cave of Abraham
3. He yielded up the ghost – surrendered to death
4. He was gathered to his people, before he was ever buried – shows life after death

III. Conclusion

A. Bless The Following on purpose:

1. Your Family
2. Your Church
3. Your Saviour
4. Your Job

B. Remember, that you blessing these things actually affects their future!

C. Count Your Many Blessings.

The sons of Jacob found out what blessings they had coming or what ones they lost. Each son received a blessing accordingly. What blessing have WE received?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.