

The Last Will and Testament of Jacob

Genesis Chapter 49

- Gen 49:1 **1) The Last Will and Testament of Jacob** vs 1-33
Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come.
- *Jacob calls his sons. He has passed on the blessing to Ephraim and Manasseh. Now he will speak to his other sons.*
 - *"What will befall you in the Last Days" He will prophesy over his sons. We will see that in the book of Joshua, Judges and Kings that these words will come to pass.*
- Gen 49:2 "Gather together and hear, O sons of Jacob; And listen to Israel your father.
- *"Sons of Jacob" vs "Israel your father"*
 - *They are born of Jacob the man of flesh that is a fact. All of us are born of the flesh.*
 - *Their father is now Israel. In Genesis 32 Jacob wrestled with God and God Prevailed. Israel means God Prevails or Governed by God*
 - *Is Israel making a distinction between himself and his children? Are his children governed by God?*
- Gen 49:3 "Reuben, you are my firstborn; My might and the beginning of my strength, Preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power.
- *After these words Reuben is standing straighter, his chest puffs out, then Israel continues...*
- Gen 49:4 "Uncontrolled as water, you shall not have preeminence, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled {it} --he went up to my couch.
- *You shall not have preeminence (Shall not excel)*
 - *Reuben could not control his lust. He went up to his father's concubine and lay with her. He did not control his lust.*
 - *This description of Reuben is one of great potential. Might, Strength, Dignity, Power yet he lost it all with one uncontrolled act. He is no longer remembered for these but that he did not control his lust and fulfilled it's desire.*
 - *Reuben settles short in the Promised Land with Gad and ½ tribe of Manasseh. Reuben is the first tribe carried off by the Assyrians. Reuben never excels.*
 - **Warning Concerning LUST!**
 - *Psalm 6:25-35 reduces, burns, destroys James 1:14-15 sin then death 2 Peter 2:10 Causes War*
 - *Gal5:16 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."*
 - *2 Peter 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*
- Gen 49:5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Their swords are implements of violence.
- Gen 49:6 "Let my soul not enter into their council; Let not my glory be united with their assembly; Because in their anger they slew men, And in their self-will they lamed oxen.
- Gen 49:7 "Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel. I will disperse them in Jacob, And scatter them in Israel.
- *These two, Simeon & Levi are considered together.*
 - *Jacob doesn't want their counsel or to be united with them. Not so much them as persons but their character.*
 - *They are angry and violent. Jacob says their wrath is cruel. It is too much. It is inappropriate.*
 - *Remember when Diana was raped. (Gen 34) In their wrath, they slew the men of an entire town.*

- *Simeon suffered the greatest loss due to infidelity between this census and Moses' second census. (Numbers 25 + 26) And when Joshua portioned out the land Simeon was given scattered land through out Judah.*
- *Levi before Moses when Moses calls for Israel to stand with righteousness and Levi took a stand with Moses. Levi didn't receive land per se, but because of the righteous stand he became the priestly line. Levi's inheritance was not land but 48 cities scattered throughout Israel.*
- **Warning Concerning ANGER!**
- *Ecc 7:9 "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools."*
- *Proverbs 15:18 "A wrathful man stirrith up strife; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife."*
- *Eph 4 & Col 3 Tells us to put off anger*
- *Col 3 tells fathers not to provoke your children to anger lest they be discouraged.*

Gen 49:8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons shall bow down to you.

Gen 49:9 "Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him up?

Gen 49:10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him {shall be} the obedience of the peoples.

Gen 49:11 "He ties {his} foal to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine; He washes his garments in wine, And his robes in the blood of grapes.

Gen 49:12 "His eyes are dull from wine, And his teeth white from milk.

- *Possibly Judah was bracing himself for this strange mood of dad's. He realizing all his shortcomings and seeing Jacob publicly pointing out these failures in his brothers could have been thinking, "My list is so long"*
- *Judah remembered being jealous of Joseph. Remembers selling his brother into slavery. Remembers he married a Canaanite woman. Remembers getting Canaanite wives for his sons. Remembers despising Tamar and not caring for her. Remembers his indiscretion with a Canaanite prostitute. Remembers his hypocrisy in wanting to punish Tamar for becoming pregnant. Remembers that moment when his indiscretion as revealed.*
- *But repentance had its work in Judah. He was the one who had offered himself before his father and a second time before Joseph as substitutionary for his brothers.*
- *Judah is remembered for more unrighteous acts, but also is the only one remembered for a repentant changed life.*
- *So His Father Blessed him*
- *Speaking of being praised, bowed down to, images of lion or royalty in his lineage.*
- *"A scepter shall not depart from Judah...Until Shiloh comes" this is a Messianic Prophecy Royalty will be in his house. From the line of Judah, the House of David.*
- *4-6 AD the Roman government took away Israel's right to self govern with the death penalty. The rulers of Israel cried in the streets that God's word was broken. Little did they know that Jesus is a little boy growing in wisdom and stature in Nazareth. Shiloh had come.*

Gen 49:13 "Zebulun will dwell at the seashore; And he {shall be} a haven for ships, And his flank {shall be} toward Sidon.

- *Zebulun was on a trade route. They were not seamen themselves but they never extended their boundaries.*

Gen 49:14 "Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between the sheepfolds.

Gen 49:15 "When he saw that a resting place was good And that the land was pleasant, He bowed his shoulder to bear {burdens,} And became a slave at forced labor.

- Their lot fell in the Jezreel Valley. Because of the choice location the conquering would come through there and take this land first and enslave the people.
- They are commended. They were valiant men 1 Chronicles 7:5
- They understood the times and knew what should be done. 1 Chronicles 12:32

Gen 49:16 "Dan shall judge his people, As one of the tribes of Israel.

Gen 49:17 "Dan shall be a serpent in the way, A horned snake in the path, That bites the horse's heels, So that his rider falls backward.

Gen 49:18 "For Your salvation I wait, O LORD.

- Dan Judges his people - Samson was from Dan.
- Rev 7 Dan is omitted but in Ezekiel he is allotted a portion.
- Dan fights the Philistines but never really excels. After time they relocate and never drives out the inhabitants and assimilate into the culture.
- Idolatry come to Israel through Dan. (Amos 8:14) A serpent in the way.
- Possibly the Antichrist Jeremiah 8:16 & Daniel 11:37
- "For Your Salvation I Wait O LORD!" Possibly that looking at Dan causes Jacob to exclaim a need for the LORD's Salvation.
- This is the first mention of salvation. Also interesting is the actual word is Yeshua (Jesus in the Greek)

Gen 49:19 "As for Gad, raiders shall raid him, But he will raid {at} their heels.

- Gad does not enter Canaan. But they would always be attacked from Assyria.
- But while much of his time is troubled Gad does experience victory as well.

Gen 49:20 "As for Asher, his food shall be rich, And he will yield royal dainties.

- Obscure yet the Lord knows of Asher and has a portion. It is meaningful
- Moses blesses
- Asher in Deuteronomy 33:24

Gen 49:21 "Naphtali is a doe let loose, He gives beautiful words.

- Judged 5:18 was involved in great battles.

Gen 49:22 "Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a spring; {Its} branches run over a wall.

- Psalm 1:1-3 Joseph has found a spring that makes him fruitful. Have you?

Gen 49:23 "The archers bitterly attacked him, And shot {at him} and harassed him;

Gen 49:24 But his bow remained firm, And his arms were agile, From the hands of the **Mighty One** of Jacob (From there is **the Shepherd**, **the Stone of Israel**),

Gen 49:25 From the **God of your father** who helps you, And by **the Almighty** who blesses you {With} blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

- Joseph has clearly been bitterly attacked. The historical record tells of the countless attacks yet the Lord was with him.
- His bow & arms remained firm and agile. Not by his own strength but by the **Mighty One**.
- Zechariah 4:6 "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This [is] the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."

- Also notice the references Israel makes concerning God. (*marked in red*) He knows God as these names indicate..

Gen 49:26 "The blessings of your father Have surpassed the blessings of my ancestors Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills; May they be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of the one distinguished among his brothers.

- *Your blessing is surpassing than that blessing I had or Isaac had.*
- *Joseph did receive a double portion through the blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh.*
- *From his line there is: Samuel, Joshua, Gideon, Deborah, Jephtha*

Gen 49:27 "**Benjamin** is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he devours the prey, And in the evening he divides the spoil."

- *Ravenous wolf - Benjamin acquired the reputation for fierceness and cruelty in Judges 19 & 20. Known Benjaminites - Saul 1st king in Israel and Saul/Paul Romans 11:1 who persecuted the church.*

Gen 49:28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them. He blessed them, every one with the blessing appropriate to him.

- *1st mention of the words "twelve tribes of Israel."*

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

Gen 49:30 in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought along with the field from Ephron the Hittite for a burial site.

Gen 49:31 "There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah--

- *Israel desires to be buried with his father and Abraham.*
- *Isn't it interesting that he desired this rather than with Rachel. But with Leah*
- *Possibly because through Leah, Isaac, Abraham, these are the people with whom the Lion of the Tribe of Judah will come.*

Gen 49:32 the field and the cave that is in it, purchased from the sons of Heth."

Gen 49:33 When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

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