

The Power Of A Family Blessing, Part 2

Genesis 49

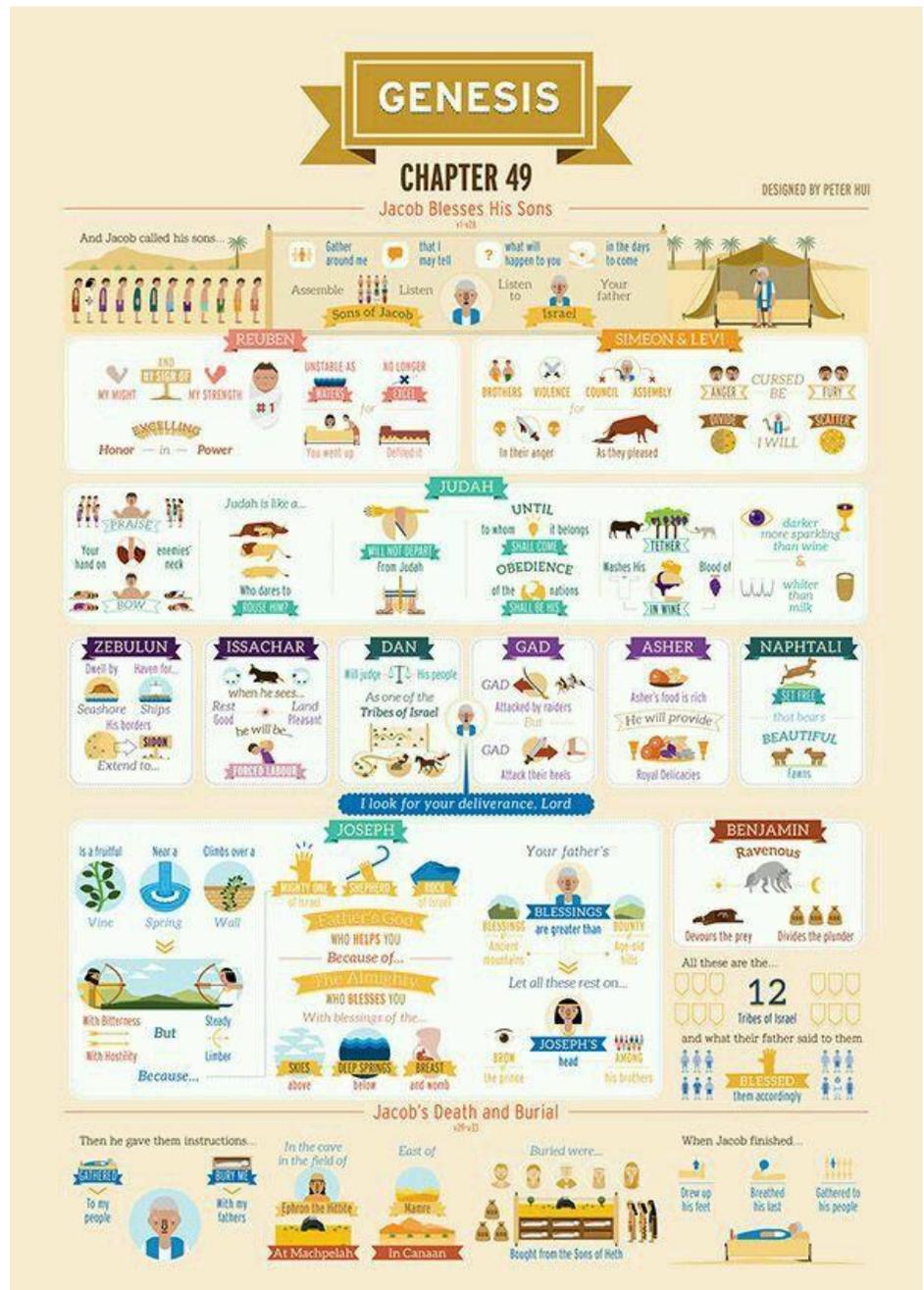
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<https://www.thepictorialgenesis.com/thebook>

Conclusion:

1. Will your life be rewarded with blessings or be disqualified from sin?
2. How will you intentionally bless your family?
3. Have you received the blessing of salvation from Christ from Abraham, Jacob and Judah?

The Power Of A Family Blessing

Genesis 48:1 - 49:27

GENESIS

CHAPTER 49

DESIGNED BY PETER HUI

Jacob Blesses His Sons

And Jacob called his sons... 

Gather around me  that I may tell  what will happen to you  in the days to come 

Assemble  Listen  Listen to  Your father 

Sons of Jacob  Israel 

REUBEN

MY MIGHT  AND THE SIGN OF  MY STRENGTH 

UNSTABLE AS  WATERS  NO LONGER  EXCEL 

HONOR  in  Power 

#1  You went up  Deluded it 

SIMEON & LEVI

BROTHERS  VIOLENCE  COUNCIL  ASSEMBLY 

In their anger  As they pleased 

CURSED  BE  FURY 

DIVIDE  I WILL  SCATTER 

JUDAH

Judah is like a... 

Your hand on  the bow  enemies' neck 

Who dares to  ROUSE HIM? 

UNTIL  to whom  it belongs  SHALL COME 

Obedience  of the  nations  SHALL BE HIS 

Washes His  Blood of  IN WINE 

darker  more sparkling  than wine 

whiter  than milk 

ZEBULUN

Dwell by  Haven for... 

Seashore  His borders 

Extend to...  SIDON 

ISSACHAR

when he sees... 

Rest  Good  Land Pleasant 

he will be... 

FORGOT LABOUR 

DAN

Will judge  His people 

As one of the  Tribes of Israel 

Attack their heels 

GAD

Attacked by raiders  But 

Attack their heels 

ASHER

Asher's food is rich 

He will provide 

Royal Delicacies 

NAPHTALI

SET FREE 

that bears  BEAUTIFUL 

fans 

I look for your deliverance, Lord 

JOSEPH

Is a fruitful  Vine 

Near a  Spring 

Climbs over a  Wall 

With Bitterness  But  Steady 

With Hostility  Because...  Limber 

WHO HELPS YOU  Because of... 

WHO BLESSES YOU  With blessings of the... 

SOLES  above 

DEEP SPINGS  below 

BREAST  and womb 

BENJAMIN

Ravenous 

Devours the prey  Divides the plunder 

All these are the...  12 

Tribes of Israel  and what their father said to them 

JOSEPH'S  head 

BROW  of the prince 

AMONG  his brothers 

Jacob's Death and Burial

Then he gave them instructions... 

SAFELY  To my people 

BURY ME  With my fathers 

In the cave  in the field of 

Ephron the Hittite  At Machpelah 

East of  Manse 

In Canaan 

Buried were... 

Bought from the Sons of Heth 

When Jacob finished... 

Drew up  his feet 

Breathed  his last 

Gathered to  his people 

I. How God Blesses Us (48:1-4)

48 After this, Joseph was told, "Behold, your father is ill." So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. 2 And it was told to Jacob, "Your son Joseph has come to you." Then Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed. 3 And Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, 4 and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.'

Genesis 12:2-3 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will **ble**ss you and make your name great, so that you will be a **ble**ssing. 3 I will **ble**ss those who **ble**ss you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be **ble**ssed.

- "bless" = Heb. *barak*
- in the OT, it was a spiritual, material and familial blessing
- Abraham would be blessed with great faith, great wealth and a great nation

- Bruce Waltke: "The three nuances of bless— prosperity (13:2, 5; 14:22– 23; 24: 35; 26:12– 13; 30:43; 32:3– 21), potency/ fertility (1:28; 13:16; 15:5; 22:17; 26:4; 28:3,14; 35:11), and victory (cf. 1:22)— are spelled out in 22:17. Horst says, 'Blessing brings the power for life, the enhancement of life, and the increase of life.'" (Waltke, Bruce K.; Waltke, Bruce K. (2016-11-22). *Genesis: A Commentary* (p. 205). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.)

- Abraham transferred the blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant to Isaac (Gen 24)
- Isaac wanted to bless Esau after his favorite meal, but it was God's plan for Jacob to have the birth rite – though Jacob schemed for it (Gen 27)
- Now it was time for Jacob to pass on this blessing – he does to Jacobs sons Manasseh and Ephraim, instead of Reuben
- Jacob adopts Joseph's sons

II. How We Can Bless Our Family (48:5-22)

- Blessing = parental acceptance
- Gary Smalley and John Trent: A family blessing begins with *meaningful touching*. It continues with a *spoken message of high value*, a message that pictures a *special future* for the individual being blessed, and one that is based on an *active commitment* to see the blessing come to pass." (*The Blessing*, Thomas Nelson, 1986, p. 24)

- Five parts of a family blessing:
 - Meaningful Touch
 - A Spoken Message
 - Attaching "High Value" to the One Being Blessed
 - Picturing a Special Future for the One Being Blessed
 - An Active Commitment to Fulfill the Blessing (ibid)

- Five parts of a family blessing:
 - Meaningful Touch

- Gen 27:26 "Come near now and kiss me, my son"
- A Spoken Message
- Attaching "High Value" to the One Being Blessed
- Picturing a Special Future for the One Being Blessed
- An Active Commitment to Fulfill the Blessing (ibid)

A. **Affirm Their Belonging And Importance (48:5-9)**

5 And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, **are mine**; Ephraim and Manasseh **shall be mine**, as Reuben and Simeon are. 6 And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance. 7 As for me, when I came from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

8 When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?" 9 Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, **whom God has given me here.**" And he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may **bless** them."

- John H. Walton: "A literal translation of the Hebrew reads: 'Like Reuben and Simeon they will be to me.' That is, they become the firstborn sons of Jacob. This, in effect, provides the double portion of the firstborn's inheritance to Joseph, though in a roundabout way. Theoretically, Joseph receives his portion, while Ephraim and Manasseh receive the portions of Reuben and Simeon, giving Joseph three shares." (*Genesis: The NIV Application Commentary*, p. 710, Zondervan. Kindle Edition)
- V. 5 – Jacob adopts Ephraim and Manasseh – they would take Simeon and Levi's place
- V. 7 connects Jacob's affinity to Ephraim and Manasseh to his love for Rachel, who died earlier
- V. 8 "Who are these?" – Walton points out that this doesn't mean Jacob is blind, but that he is initiating a ceremony – (i.e., a minister at a wedding asking "Who gives this woman to this man?")
 - Though v. 10 points out Jacob was going blind
- V. 9 Joseph acknowledges his fatherhood but especially God's Fatherhood – God has given them

B. **Demonstrate A Meaningful Affection (48:10-14)**

10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he **kissed** them and **embraced** them. 11 And Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also." 12 Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. 13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. 14 And Israel **stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim**, who was the younger, and **his left hand on the head of Manasseh**, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn).

C. Acknowledge God's Sovereign Presence (48:15-16)

15 And he blessed Joseph and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, 16 the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

- V. 15 – God has been faithful to Abraham, Isaac and now to Jacob – "my shepherd all my life long to this day"
- V. 16 God will use Joseph's boys to carry on His name
- The birthright is now being transferred from Reuben to Joseph

- Q: How many of you have saved parents? Grandparents? Great grandparents?
- Q: How many generations back does your family go in Christ?
- Q: How did they first hear the Gospel?
- Q: Do you have this story of God's faithfulness to your family memorialized?

D. Assure God's Future Purpose (17-22)

17 When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. 18 And Joseph said to his father, "Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head." 19 But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations." 20 So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, 'God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.'" Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.

- God deliberately is choosing the younger brother Ephraim over Manasseh
- This is the 5th time in Genesis that the birth order was reversed:
 - Abel over Cain
 - Isaac over Ishmael
 - Jacob over Esau
 - Joseph over Reuben

E. Impart A Meaningful Gift (21-22)

21 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers. 22 Moreover, I have given to you rather than to your brothers one mountain slope that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow."

- Jacob is giving Joseph
- V.2 – this mountain slope won through Jacob's military exploits is the lone indicator in the Scriptures that Jacob, the mama's boy, was also a successful warrior with the sword and the bow
 - This could have been the situation in Shechem in Gen 34
 - This will be the land that Jesus will meet the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4)

III. How A Family Blessing Impacted A Nation (49:1-27)

49:1 Then Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come. 2 "Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father.

- V. 1 "tell you" – role of prophet
 - This is Jacob's 3rd blessing: 1) Pharaoh (47:7-10); 2) Ephraim & Manasseh (48:15-20); now his 12 sons (49)
 - This is the first extensive poem in the Bible
- "what shall happen to you in days to come" – these blessings also contain prophecies
 - What they did in the past affected their future
 - Our actions today determine what happens tomorrow
 - Our actions today affect our future family – these blessings were for the individual sons and their family
 - If you've done something radically sinful – it can affect a family
 - Ie/ being in prison will impact your children
 - Ie/
 - "in the days to come" has also been translated "in the last days" (Isa 2:2 & Mic 4:1)
 - Waltke: "This prophetic term refers to a future that brings the strivings of the present to a fitting outcome. There is a thickness to the expression, embracing both the near and distant future. Here it embraces the entire history of Israel from the conquest and distribution of the land to the consummate reign of Jesus Christ." (*Genesis*, p.
- V. 2 "Assemble and listen" – last words

A. Reuben – Lost His Birthright Because Of Immorality (3-4)

3 "**Reuben**, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. 4 Unstable 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!

- Vv. 3-15 – Jacob blesses the sons of Leah, his first wife
- V. 3 – Reuben is his firstborn
- Reuben is praised for his responsibility as a firstborn, being the strength of the family, demonstrating dignity and power
- "firstfruits" – choicest among the harvest
- Preeminent in dignity and power
- V. 4 – yet he was a reliable as water
 - "insolent" = turbulent = "proud, undisciplined, uncontrollable, or unstable" (Waltke, p. 606)

- Allen Ross: "...because he had the ungoverned impulse of boiling water, he would fail in leadership" (*Creation & Blessing*, pp. 700-701)
- Warren Wiersbe: "Water is certainly weak in itself, but turbulent water can be very destructive." (*Be Authentic, Gen 25-50*, p. p. 164)
- Jacob pronounces an **antiblessing**
- Future: "**you shall not have preeminence**"
 - His prominence has now been revoked
- Reason: he had an affair with his father's concubine, Bilhah (Gen 35:22)
 - V. 4 – he defiled his father's bed
- Because of his betrayed trust, Reuben would not carry the mantle of the firstborn
- Birth order may open the door for opportunities, but we have to be faithful with the opportunities we have
- Reuben is the 5th person in Genesis to be passed up for the oldest son privilege and responsibility because of sin (Cain, Ishmael, Esau and Er)
 - Disqualification is a sad word
 - An impeached President
 - A disbarred judge
 - A defrocked pastor
 - A discredited anybody
 - When Draymond Green was disqualified in the 2nd Finals against Cleveland
- Waltke points out that "No prophet, judge, priest or king comes from this tribe." (p. 605)
- As predicted, Reuben's tribe during the wilderness wanderings with Moses declined from the 7th most to the 9th most when entering the Promised Land (Num 1:20-21)
- In Numbers 16, Reuben's descendants, Dathan and Abiram, joined Korah in a rebellion against Moses – God judged thousands
- In Judges 5:15-16, the Reubenites ignored the call of Deborah and Barak to join the war effort against the Canaanites
- They didn't help David in battle either at Hebron (1 Chron 12:37)
- **Q:** Have you ever been given a great opportunity but squandered it away because of sin?

B. Simeon And Levi – Scattered Because Of Their Angry Violence (5-7; cf. 34:25-31)

5 "**Simeon** and **Levi** are brothers; weapons of **violence** are their swords. 6 Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company. For in their **anger** they killed men, and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen. 7 Cursed be their anger, for it is **fierce**, and their wrath, for it is **cruel!** I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.

- When their sister Dinah was molested, Simeon and Levi exacted a revenge that went beyond an appropriate response. Instead of restricting vengeance to the guilty party, in their unrestrained anger, they massacred many of the Shechemite people (Gen 34)

- Are we struggling with anger?
- How will this affect your family?

C. Judah – The Line For Christ The King (8-12)

8 “**Judah**, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. 9 Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. 11 Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. 12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

- “Judah” = the name is similar to the Hebrew word for “praise”
 - There is a wordplay going on here because Judah’s name would be praised over his older brothers
- The 3 older brothers (Reuben, Simeon & Levi) were disqualified from prominent roles in the family
- Judah wasn’t perfect – he had sinned like Reuben, Simeon and Levi
 - It was Judah’s idea to sell Joseph as a slave (Gen 37:26-27)
 - But this sale of Joseph also kept him from being killed
 - Judah was also involved in an immoral relationship with Tamar (Gen 38)
- Judah was trusted by Jacob
 - Jacob offered his own life if he couldn’t protect Benjamin
 - Jacob entrusted Judah in preparing the family move to Egypt (46:28)
- V. 8 – his brothers would affirm his right to rule – even his older brothers
 - *your father's sons shall bow down before you*
 - Judah kingship is recognized by the brothers, Joseph is later pronounced a “prince among his brothers”
- v. 8 – he would be victorious
 - “your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies” = control enemy by the nape of the neck
 - Then a snake can’t bite you
 - A horned animal can’t stab you because you keep the head from turning
 - Ie/ Tiger or cheetah kill a wildebeest – a much larger animal – by going for the neck
- V. 9 Like a lion is the King of the beasts, Judah’s tribe was compared to a cub, lion and lioness
- “Scepter” – indicates the King’s power
- “Not depart” – this kingly line will be affirmed through his future descendant David and ultimately to Jesus

Genesis 49:10 (NIV) The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people

Genesis 49:10 (ESV) The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

- There is some confusion on the phrase *yabo siloh*
 - NIV interprets *siloh* as Shiloh, a place of cultic activity
 - ESV interprets this as *say loh* = "tribute to him"
 - But the understanding is that a King will come and be recognized
- His family line would be royal (10)
 - "Tribute comes to him" – payment given to kings
- **Numbers 24:17** "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel"
 - **Matthew 2:2** "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews.?"
 - **Revelation 19:16** "He has on His robe... 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords'"

Genesis 49:11 Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes.

- V. 11 – a picture of the future Millennium where there is so much prosperity, you could hitch your ride (donkey) to a vine (not really secure) but it didn't matter because life is good
- washing clothes in wine
- wine is so plentiful, it can replace water
- Victory in the Lord is so good that you could wash your clothes in wine
- Ie/ when victorious sports team spray champagne in the locker room (e.g. Warriors)
- Judah is not only recognized as royal, powerful, and victorious; but now beautiful
 - V. 12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

D. Zebulun – Shipping Industry (13)

13 "**Zebulun** shall dwell at the shore of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon.

- Zebulun is Leah's 6th son, but 10th in Jacob's order of sons

Deuteronomy 33:18 Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, and Issachar, in your tents.

- Zebulun didn't receive coastal property, but was close enough to do import/export on the Sea of Galilee to Damascus (Deut 33:19; Josh 19:10-16) and with the Phoenicians
- Zebulun also produced brave soldiers who fought with Deborah against Sisera (Jdg 5:14-18)

1 Chronicles 12:33 Of Zebulun 50,000 seasoned troops, equipped for battle with all the weapons of war, to help David with singleness of purpose.

- Elon was a judge from Zebulun (Judg 12:11-12)

E. Issachar – Faithful laborers of the land (14-15)

14 **Issachar** is a strong donkey, crouching between the sheepfolds. 15 He saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant, so he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant at forced labor.

- 5th son of Leah, 9th of Jacob
- A strong donkey – a faithful beast of burden
 - They loved money and material things and were confined to doing much physical labor
 - They will do much of the physical labor in the land – farming, herding

Q: Do you love money and material things so you become a workaholic to obtain it? Then are you too busy to enjoy it?

- Produced Tola – judge (Judg 10:1-2)
- Produced soldiers who joined Deborah and Barak against Sisera (Judg 5:15)

1 Chronicles 12:32 Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do,

- The sons of Issachar studied their culture so they knew how to be strategic

F. Dan – Serpent-like Judges (16-18)

16 **Dan** shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. 17 Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward. 18 I wait for your salvation, O Lord.

- Dan is Jacob's 5th son through Bilhah (her first) who was Rachel's maid when Rachel was barren
- "Dan" means "to judge"
- Jacob makes the play on words "Dan shall judge his people"
- Samson the judge came from Dan
- He is compared to a serpent – crafty, striking attacks
- Dan was a place of idolatry during Jeroboam's reign (1 Kings 12:28-30)
- Maybe that's the reason Dan is not mentioned in the genealogies of 1 Chronicles 2-10, though Ezekiel (48:1-2) includes Dan in the Millennial Kingdom

G. Gad – Victorious Over Raiders (19)

19 "Raiders shall raid **Gad**, but he shall raid at their heels.

- First son of Zilpah, Jacob's seventh
- Gad & Asher belong to Zilpah
- "Gad" means "good fortune" (30:11) and "troop"
- Jacob, a punster, talks about Troops raiding the troop
- Being on the East side of the Jordan River, they were vulnerable to attack from enemies, but they would fight them off (Dt 33:20; 1 Chron 5:18; 12:8)
 - Attacked by Ammonites (Judg 10-12; Jer 49:1-6)
 - By Moabites
 - By Arameans (1 Kings 22:3; 2 Kings 10:32-33)
 - By Assyrians (2 Kings 15:29)

Deuteronomy 33:20 Blessed be he who enlarges Gad! Gad crouches like a lion; he tears off arm and scalp.

- Gad will get the Raiders from Oakland

H. Asher – Happy With Great Food (20)

20 "**Asher's** food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal delicacies.

- Jacob's 8th son, Zilpah's 2nd son
- "Asher" means "happy" (30:13)
- They were agriculturalists and were successful in producing olive oil
- Western Galilee was fertile for farming
- Asher will produce great foods that kings would love

Deuteronomy 33:24-25 24 Most blessed of sons be Asher; let him be the favorite of his brothers, and let him dip his foot in oil. 25 Your bars shall be iron and bronze, and as your days, so shall your strength be.

I. Naphtali – Free & Loose (21)

21 "**Naphtali** is a doe let loose that bears beautiful fawns.

- Naphtali is Bilhah's 2nd son, Jacob's 6th, full brother of Dan
- Naphtali produced great soldiers (Judg 5:18)
- "doe let loose" = "free-spirited people, not bound to tradition" (Wiersbe)
- "... an allusion to the freedom, agility and frequent movements of the tribe or to its impetuosity" (Waltke, p. 612)
- "bears beautiful fawns" – or beautiful words

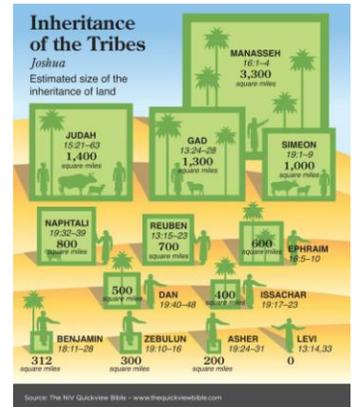
J. Joseph – Shepherded By God, Shot At, Stood Strong And Didn't Shoot Back (22-26)

22 "**Joseph** is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall.

23 The archers bitterly attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him severely, 24 yet his bow

remained unmoved; his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), 25 by the God of your father who will help you, by the Almighty who will **ble**ss you with **ble**ssings of heaven above, **ble**ssings of the deep that crouches beneath, **ble**ssings of the breasts and of the womb. 26 The **ble**ssings of your father are mighty beyond the **ble**ssings of my parents, up to the bounties of the everlasting hills. May they be on the head of Joseph, and on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.

- “fruitful bough” (22) – main vine of the grape – branches spread out fruitfully
 - This is imagery for his many descendants (fertility)
- “branches run over the wall” (22) = his territory expands through his 2 sons Ephraim and Manasseh
 - See chart for land size of Manasseh and Ephraim
- Joseph survived the attacks of archers (23) – a picture of his brothers selling him out as a slave
 - “bitterly” described the attitude of the brothers
- He remained unmoved, strengthened by the Almighty God
- V. 24 – his arms were made agile by the hands of the Almighty God
 - “agile” – flexible, quick moving
 - Ie/ needed for Dodge Ball
- V. 24 – God is our **Shepherd** – led Joseph through various land mines
- V. 24 – **Stone** of Israel – God is our ROCK
- Vv. 25-26 – **“Bless”** or **“Blessings”** is used 6x of Joseph
- Joseph’s descendants would be blessed by the land through farming fertile land in what would be Northern Israel



K. Benjamin – Fierce Wolf (27)

27 **“Benjamin** is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey and at evening dividing the spoil.”

- Youngest son of Jacob, 2nd son of Rachel, full brother of Joseph
- Benjamin means “son of his right hand”
- Ravenous wolf – brave and ruthless warriors
- “dividing the spoil” – kills more than his need and shares it with others
- Benjaminites helped defeat Sisera (Jdg 5:14)
- Saul, first king of Israel, was from Benjamin – he was ruthless
- Benjaminites were faithful, for the most part, to Judah (Southern Kingdom)
- Saul (Paul) was from Benjamin

Conclusion:

1. Will your life be rewarded with blessings or be disqualified from sin?
2. How will you intentionally bless your family?
3. Have you received the blessing of salvation from Christ from Abraham, Jacob and Judah?