

**I. Introduction and review.**

**II. Jacob's prophetic oracle concerning his sons. 49:1-28**

- A. What is the significance of this blessing? v. 1-2, 28**
1. Jacob speaks prophetically. v. 1b 9:25-27 27:27f II Pe. 1:21
  2. When will these things come to pass? Is. 2:2 Nu. 24:14 Ez. 38:16 I Pe. 1:10-12
  3. Jacob blesses each one appropriately. v. 28
- B. The sons of Leah. v. 3**
1. Reuben lost his birthright because of immorality and instability. v. 3-4 35:22 I Chron. 5:1-2 Judges 5:15-16 Num. 16:1-2
  2. Simeon and Levi will be scattered throughout Israel because of their violent anger. v. 5-7 34:25-31 Pr. 14:17 25:18 Deut. 33:8 I Chron. 4:24-31
    - a. Simeon's tribe is absorbed into insignificance. Josh 19:1 Num. 1:22-23 26:14
    - b. Levi's descendants are scattered among the tribes of Israel as a blessing. Num. 18:23 35:2-8 Josh 21:1f Lev. 25:32-33 Ex. 32:36
  3. Judah will establish an everlasting dynasty. v. 8-12 I Chr. 5:2 (see below).
  4. Zebulun will live near the sea and be involved in commerce. v. 13 Deut. 33:18-19
  5. Issachar will be strong but unambitious, trading his liberty for material prosperity under foreign domination. v. 14-15
- C. The sons of Jacob's concubines, Bilhah and Zilpah, stand beside their brothers as tribal leaders. v. 16-21**
1. Dan, who will judge Israel, will be small, but cunning. v. 16-17 Ju. 18 I Ki. 12:28f
  2. Gad will be subject to attack, but will rise to the challenge. v. 19 I Ch. 12:8,14
  3. Asher will occupy fertile land and enjoy great prosperity. v. 20 Dt. 33:24 Lu. 2:36
  4. Naphtali will be independent and eloquent. v. 21 Ps. 18:33-34 Mt. 4:12.
- D. The son's of Rachel. v. 22-27**
1. Joseph (Ephraim, Manasseh) will prosper in spite of hardship. v. 22-26 I Chr. 5:1-2
    - a. He shall be fruitful in spite of the attacks of his enemies. v. 22-23
    - b. The Mighty One of Jacob, the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel keeps him safe and strong. v. 24 48:15b 40:8 41:16 Ex. 9:3 Deut. 2:15 Ps. 132:2 Isa. 49.
    - c. God will bless Joseph abundantly. v. 25-26 Deut. 33:15 Isa. 5:1 Ps. 72
    - d. The nature of these blessings will be primarily earthly. Hos. 11:1f Am. 6:6
  2. Benjamin will be small, but fiercely courageous. v. 27 Judges 3:15 5:15 20:1f I Chron. 12:2 8:40 II Chron. 14:8 17:8 Ps. 68:24,27 Rom. 11:1 Phil. 3:5
- E. While Joseph enjoys the earthly blessings of the birthright, Judah's descendants, culminating in the Messiah, will reign. v. 8-12 I Chron. 5:2**
1. He will be praised. v. 8 29:35 II Sa. 5:1f
  2. He will be mighty and triumph over his enemies. v. 8b,9 3:15 27:29 Nu. 24:9
  3. A descendent of Judah will rule as king forever over Israel and the peoples. v. 10 II Sam. 7 Nu. 24:17 Ps. 45:7 Amos 1:5,8
  4. His reign will bring great prosperity. v. 11-12
  5. What is Shiloh? v. 10b Ps. 122:6-7 Zech. 9:9-12 Ezek. 21:27
  6. This promise is fulfilled in type through David. I Ki. 4:29-31 II Sa. 7:16 5:2-3
  7. This is fulfilled ultimately in Christ who shall conquer His enemies and reign forever in a kingdom of prosperity and peace. Heb. 7:14 Mt. 2:5 Rev. 5:5
  8. Where else in Genesis is the Messiah promised? 3:15 4:25 9:26 12:1-3 21:12 25:23

### III. How does this passage point to Christ?

#### A. Jesus is like Joseph. 49:22-26

1. He overcame fierce attacks by his brethren and is exalted. 49:23 Mt. 21:38
2. He is the fruitful branch which extends far. 49:22 Isa. 4:2 27:6 Jo. 10:16 Eph. 2:12
3. He is the Stone (Rock). 49:24 Mt. 16:18 7:24 I Cor. 10:4 Eph. 2:20-21 I Pe. 2:6-8  
Isa. 8:14 I Sam. 7:12 Mt. 7:24

#### B. He is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Rev. 5:5 Isa. 9:6 11:1-9 Ezek. 21:26-27 34:23-31 Amos 9:11-15 II Sa. 7:16 Phil. 2:9-11

1. He has triumphed over God's enemies. v. 8 3:15 Co. 2:15 Ro. 16:20 I Co. 15:24-25  
I John 3:8 Ps. 110:1
2. He is the Mighty King Who reigns forever. v. 10 Rev. 5:13 11:15
3. He reigns over the peoples. v. 10c 12:3 John 10:16 3:16 Isa. 60:1-8 42:1 Ro. 11:15
4. He will usher in the glorious reign of peace, righteousness, and prosperity. v. 11-12  
John 2:1-11 Isa. 11:1 55:1-2 Mt. 21:5f Zech. 9
5. His blood cleanses us. v. 11b Rev. 7:14 Isa. 63:3
6. He is praised. v. 8 Rev. 5:1-14 Phil. 2:9-11

### IV. How does this passage apply to us?

#### A. God sovereignly bestows blessing. 49:28 Isa. 46:10 Eph. 1:11

#### B. The choices you make have significant long term consequences. 49:3-7 2:17

1. Unbridled passions (lust and anger) can destroy your life. II Ti. 2:22 Pr. 14:17  
25:28 15:18 5:21-35 7:1-27
2. Your sins also affect your children. Ex. 20:5-6
3. It is possible for children, like the Levites, to rise above the sins of their parents.  
Ezek. 18:4-18 Read Ezek. 18:14-18
4. Sinners can, like Judah, repent and change their character, by God's grace.  
II Cor. 5:17 I Cor. 6:9-11

#### C. You are not in control of your children's destiny. Pr. 22:6 Ezek. 18:5-13 Dt. 29:29

#### D. Those who proclaim the Word need to, like Jacob, deliver God's message without compromise, even if it is disturbing to those who hear. II Tim. 4:1f

#### E. God's faithfulness to His promises strengthens our faith.

### V. Concluding applications: Choices in this life affect your place in the Kingdom. Mt. 25:14f

#### Discussion Questions

1. Why is Jacob's blessing to his sons so important?
2. When will these things come to pass?
3. Why are Judah and Joseph elevated above their brothers?  
How do Judah's blessings compare to those of Joseph?
4. How does the blessing to Joseph point to Christ?
5. How does the blessing to Judah point to Christ?
6. What should we learn from the displacement of Reuben, Simeon, and Levi?
7. How do our sins affect our children?
8. Is it possible for children to go against their training at home (whether good or bad)?
9. How is Jacob a model for preachers?
10. For which of God's promises to Jacob do we await fulfillment?