

Dreamer: The Life of Joseph **A Study in Genesis 37-50**

Jacob's Blessing
Genesis 49:1-33
September 5, 2021

Then Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come." - Genesis 49:1

I. THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

- Jacob "walks through" his sons in birth order, sharing with them prophetic blessings concerning the future of their descendants (Gen. 49:1-27).
- Some of his prophecies are general concepts, some are very specific (Gen. 49:4, 7, 10, 13).
- The tribes of Judah and Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh) receive the abundance of the blessing (Gen. 49:8-12, 22-26).
- Verse 18 is a wonderful interlude. Jacob pauses to exalt in his God.

II. GATHERED TO HIS PEOPLE

- Jacob dies at 147 years of age, but not before giving directions for his burial once again (Gen. 47:28, 49:28-33).
- With the death of Jacob the age of the patriarchs draws to a close. God is now the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Ex. 3:6; Matt. 8:5-13; Mark 12:24-27).

III. THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

- The most far reaching prophecy of Jacob lies with his son Judah. A line of kings will come from his body (Gen. 49:10; 1 Sam. 17:12).
- To one from the tribe of Judah shall come "the obedience of the peoples" (1 Cor. 15:24-28; Phil. 2:9-10).
- Eventually, the reign of King Jesus, "The Lion of the Tribe of Judah," will commence with great exaltation (Rev. 5:1-14).

KNOW: Jacob's deathbed blessing points to a coming ruler, revealed to us as Jesus the Messiah, who will reign forever and ever.

DO: Make peace with the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Suggested Reading:

In Christ Alone by Sinclair Ferguson

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 49:1-33

1. Summarize this chapter. What is happening and why?
2. Reuben, Simeon and Levi are "passed over" by their father. Why?
3. What type of descendants or "tribe" will Judah produce?
4. What are Jacob's directions for his own burial? Why is this so important to him? (See Gen. 47:29-31.)
5. Jesus is born into the tribe of Judah. Why is this important?
6. What does the future look like for Jesus? (See Rev. 5.)
7. What application do you take from our passage/message from Sunday? How will you act upon it?