

JUDAH and JOSEPH—in the latter days

Before the Patriarch Jacob whose name was changed to Israel passed away, he brought his twelve sons before him and blessed them. When he looked into the eyes of each one, he remembered how they conducted themselves from the time they were born into adulthood, but their story kept playing like a movie before him and he saw their descendants into the latter days. His blessing to each son was a prophecy for our time today.

All of the twelve tribes of Israel will be saved (Romans 11:26) and despite their long history of treachery and rebellion, God will bring them to repentance and reward them. Described by John in the book of Revelation, each gate into the New Jerusalem is named after them; they are the entry points into this city of radiant beauty and absolute perfection. Of the twelve tribes, two of them are given exceptional honor and many blessings; these are Judah because King David obeyed God and Joseph who served God.



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JUDAH: Like a breath of fresh air, Jacob looked upon Judah and remembered his promise to protect Benjamin with his life. Joseph standing by, remembered Judah’s humility in bowing before him to pledge his life and servitude for the release of Benjamin, so he could return to his aged-distressed father. His brothers stood in the background and remained silent. With five verses of a joyful song, Jacob praised Judah. His head down and heart heavy, Judah felt the pain and shame of the crimes that he had participated in, but he did all he could to rectify the wrong doing. Jacob transferred the leadership role from Reuben to Judah. “The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs...” (Genesis 49:10). Christ is ‘he’, the seed of Judah—the King of whom the sceptre belongs.

Jacob compared Judah to a young lion that matures into a strong and powerful adult with the strike of a lioness protecting her young—“Who dares to rouse him?”

Judah’s royal leadership is displayed in their leading the battles against their enemies into the Promised land, the great God-fearing and God-serving King David, King Solomon’s God-given

wisdom that rose to become an international witness, and their continued recognition of the Almighty God preserving His oracles throughout time.

The house of Judah has diligently kept God's Sabbath for hundreds of years. God promises that **all** who keep **the Sabbath holy** and **rest with Him, delighting in this special day** that pictures the Millennium when all of mankind no longer rebels against God but gives Him rest from war, will enjoy continual abundance.

"If because of the Sabbath, you **turn your foot from doing your own pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and honor it, desisting from your own ways, from seeking your own pleasure and speaking your own word, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause YOU TO RIDE IN TRIUMPH ON THE HEIGHTS of the land and to FEAST ON THE INHERITANCE of your father Jacob.**" The mouth of the LORD has spoken" (Isaiah 58:13-14).

Jacob blessed Judah with abundant blessings, so much that he will be filled to the brim "in the latter days" with the absolute finest of blessings. "He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk" (Genesis 49:11-12).

JOSEPH: A tired and dying man turns to rest his eyes on Joseph. His heart swells with love and he feels the eternal peace of God as he pours out, in full measure, the blessings bestowed by God to an obedient covenant people. Five long verses of praise, abundance and protection is awarded to a son, so well deserved.

"Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall. With bitterness archers attacked him; they shot at him with hostility. But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, **because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, because of your father's God, who helps you, because of the Almighty, who blesses you** with blessings of the skies above, blessings of the deep springs below, blessings of the breast and womb. Your father's blessings are greater than the blessings of the ancient mountains, than the bounty of the age-old hills. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the **prince among his brothers**" (Genesis 49:22-26).

As we cast our eyes over the earth searching for the house of Joseph, **in the latter days**, we find with ease and immediacy a group of nations, speaking the same language. Two brothers grown into two separate nations: one an empire and the other a superpower enjoying the wealth of the world in their time of glory each being sustained by the protective hand of God. They were not the victims of World War 1 and 11, they were the heroes who suffered minimal loss. Their faith in God has waned in this 21st century of self-glory, self-direction and self-reliance, but if they would review their history, they would be reminded of their roots and the goal of their ancestors to return fully and completely to their God—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Their story is one that begins with a strong foundation forged by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, but as the structure rises, it encounters tumultuous times. They are under attack by

invisible rogue forces that entice these people away from their God. They give in to their arrogant desires of self-glory and self-reliance and turn against their Creator. God fights against His own people leaving a small remnant to enter into captivity. Approximately, one hundred and twenty years later, they are released and remain angry with their Protector. They do not repent; they continue in sin and rebellion exasperating their “Husband” who finally rejects and divorces them from the covenant family.

Into the darkness they enter, so little is recorded about them that they became lost to themselves and the world. They remain a small and vulnerable group of people wandering through the nations practicing the ways of the pagans; they became Gentiles. Sometime during their cursed, cold days of their history, they call out to God and He hears them. Immediately, their Rescuer sets His Plan of Redemption into action and they wait gratefully and patiently as outcasts.

The re-grafting back into the covenant family began when God accepted the perfect sacrifice of Christ. Jesus met the woman at the well who then told the leaders of her community that the Messiah, the one they were waiting for is Jesus; their Savior is here. For two days, Jesus stayed with and talked to them and they believed him. The offer to take the gospel to the world was given first to the house of Judah, but they rejected Christ as their Savior, so the baton was passed to the “lost sheep of Israel”—the newly re-grafted-in people from the house of Israel led by the house of Joseph. They were humbly honored. Ignorant of the ways of God having wandered for many long years among the Gentiles, these early converts needed teaching, needed the pure word of God. They begged to hear the word of God and they received it with thanksgiving from the apostles.

With the baton tightly gripped in their hand, they set in motion the preservation of the Old and New Testament and combined them into one book; they translated the text into the many languages of the world and printed it. They paid for the free distribution of the word of God throughout the world and sent out missionaries to all parts of the earth. It was during these times, that the blessings of Joseph were released in full measure and continue to this day.

However, during times of wealth and abundance, many have slipped away falling back into disbelief, leaving the work to a minority. God is unwavering. He remains the God to His people—**all** of His people. He will shake them to break their slumber. Jacob’s trouble is on the near horizon. The invasion of their land, the death of two-thirds of their people is what it takes to bring the re-grafted-in people back into their faith. The remnant will recognize their sufferings are due to their sins and they will call out to God and He will hear them, **again**. They will repent this time with an everlasting sincerity. He will rescue them and they will stand by Christ, their Savior and the resurrected saints in the great and final battle of God and Christ against Satan, the rogue sons of God and their wily subjects.

The final beast, a coalition of rogue heavenly rulers and powers, will capture all of the nations of the world. The nations will worship Satan and the beast for they will believe that they have no choice, “Who can make war against him?” (Revelation 13:4b). God Almighty can and will make war against him.

At a time when the world is turned upside down and aliens/gods rule over all of the nations, except the rescued people of 21st century Israel, the blindness is lifted from the eyes of the Jews like the raising of a stage curtain. They see again. The Antichrist has set himself up in the temple as God of all gods, and the Jews are terrified. They have made a great mistake. For over two thousand years, they rejected their Savior and now finally, they see that the one in their temple is NOT their Savior but a vile imposter. They were deceived and who can help them now.

The Jews flee Jerusalem. They are pursued by a powerful army and corralled into a valley surrounded by mountains. They are trapped. In their despair, they cry out to God and He hears them. In loving-kindness a man wearing a crown, riding a white horse appears on the mountain surrounding them. His feet touch down and the mountain cracks in two providing their way of escape. The ominous army catches up and Christ sends a plague that instantly causes their flesh to rot. The army panics, as they witness this horrific sight. They retreat in fear, but the plague released is all-consuming and ravenous leaving them in a rotting pile. The escaping Jews turn and watch their enemies fall and they drop their heads weeping bitterly, realizing the Savior they rejected.

The two houses of Israel both throughout their history behaved treacherously, but the love of God runs deep and wide, high and far. They are both forgiven—completely. Christ gathers the twelve tribes together and reunites them back into one kingdom.

Satan and the beast are raging with madness with the arrival of Christ and the resurrected saints. They don't plan to lose this final battle. All of the nations of the world are commanded to march against Christ, the saints and the newly reunited kingdom of Israel. But, the God of Israel is above them and ready for war.

Satan leads a rogue and raging heavenly coalition of powerful rulers and powers, demons, and hybrids on earth and he will gather all of the nations who number in the billions.

Christ, who has been given all power in heaven and earth leads the resurrected saints and his heavenly army to battle the rogue heavenly powers, while the God of Israel leads the remnant of the reunited kingdom of Israel against the raging nations.

Satan is confident that his earthly coalition of all the nations will overpower in an instant the remnant people of Israel. So foolish is his belief in his own power. Our Creator is the source of all power and what Satan holds is but a drop in the bucket. God sounds the trumpet and the people of Israel go out to fight against a vast sea of soldiers and a sky of weaponry.

What fear Satan will feel when he sees his army of mortals, bounce off the invisible shield of God, while the remnant Israelites move like tanks unharmed. God gives His people superhuman ability and a victory that they will remember for generations.

Christ with his vast heavenly armies and the saints will overpower Satan, the rogue and ruthless heavenly rulers and powers and their squabbling entourage. Satan will be imprisoned for one-thousand years, while the beast and the false prophet will be thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. Christ will stand before all the nations on earth and take his throne. There, he will usher in his one-thousand-year rule of peace and prosperity.

Into the Millennium, we will see the continuation of Genesis 49.

“Judah, your brothers will praise you... The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his” (Genesis 49:8).

The brothers of Judah will praise him for keeping God’s Sabbath, God’s Holy Days and taking care of the oracles of God. “He [Judah] will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch, he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk” (Genesis 49:10-11). The Jews will finally enjoy the abundance of blessings promised to their forefather, Judah. King David will rule again over the kingdom of Israel under Christ in the Millennium.

The descendants of Joseph will return fully to their God and obey His commandments carefully. God’s Sabbath and His Holy Days will be kept with much delight and gladness. They will forever rejoice in their God—the God of their fathers and will forever hold God’s grace close to their hearts. With great thanksgiving, they will honor Him who protected them despite their distance, despite their ingratitude and lack of recognition of His protective hand. Never again will they wander away. Their blessings will be continued throughout the Millennium; they will remain a fruitful vine near a spring and they will be a righteous leader in their kingdom. Could we see Joseph rule under Christ over the Gentile nations, again—in the Millennium? If so, he will need lots of help from his family.

Such honor and abundance of blessings were given to the descendants of Judah and Joseph because **one person from their tribe** dedicated his life to obeying and serving the Almighty God, humbly and willingly. There is still time—for you. One person can affect the future of the whole nation through repentance to God, total and complete obedience, faithfulness, and love serving our Creator—the Creator of all of mankind.

Enter the race set before us and study the word of God like an athlete training for the Olympics. Keep God’s Sabbath, His Holy Days and the Commandments of God. Humbly come before Him in gratitude for the grace given to us. Draw close to the Mighty One of Jacob, our Shepherd, the Rock, the Almighty God and become at one with Him. You alone, like King David and Joseph can affect the future in ways beyond your imagination. Go! Run the race—to win!

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