

Recap of last week: Joseph's family (70 in all) are gathered to Egypt to ride out the famine and of course to be multiplied as God had foretold to Abram (prior to becoming Abraham) : Genesis 15:13+14 131

Then He said to Abram, "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions."

Genesis 48:1-22 : I will explain as I read. Notice Jacob/Israel's eye sight is gone like his fathers (Isaac). Also, another similarity is that once again the younger is blessed above the older and the fact that Jacob is claiming his son's sons as his. Ephraim and Manasseh are counted to Joseph's brothers. A.K.A the 12 Tribes of Israel.

Genesis 49:1-2 Jacob is calling his sons together for a blessing and to prophesy each son's families settings, character, future prospects, as well as their properties. This, God given, prophesy would truly extend to the last days.

Genesis 49:3-4 Reuben lost his birthright because he sinned against his father by defiling what was his fathers. Jacob calls Reuben as unstable as water. (Not ice but water). No one of the tribe of Reuben would excel. As a matter of fact no one from the tribe would ever be mentioned as a prophet, military leader, or Judge in the Bible.

Genesis 49:5-7 Jacob was really upset with Simeon and Levi for their brutality and revenge on those who defiled their sister Dinah in chapter 34. They had lied, told them that if they were circumcized they could intermarry with their women only to slaughter them while they were in agony after being circumcized. (All though my human nature would agree with eliminating those who did such evil, I can not help but notice that this is a dying man, obviously in the power of the Holy Spirit, speaking truth, that maybe they were found guilty because they did not seek counsel with Jacob (much less God's will in the matter. A simple, "You see what this person from this evil nation did to our sister; what shall we do?").

Genesis 49: 8-12 The references to Judah/the tribe of Judah are indeed prophetic. Judah is described as a lion. And "the scepter (the king's scepter) shall not depart from it" refers to out of his lineage the Final Ruler, or King shall come. "Shiloh" is capitalized (means: to Whom it belongs) and so is "His" (referring to Deity, or Jesus Christ). Put this prophecy all together regarding Judah we have: The Lion of the tribe of Judah shall reign forever and the scepter shall not depart from His Hand. The human tribe of Judah would ultimately also be a leader of the tribes of Israel.

Genesis 49: 13-19 Some of the characteristics, fruits, territories, and information on the tribes of Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, and Gad.

Genesis 49: 20 The prophecy of Asher also came to its fulfillment when in Deuteronomy the land of Asher was lifted up for its olive trees that not only yielded olives but more importantly the wealthy product of Olive Oil that was highly valued in the ancient of days.

Genesis 49: 21-26: Joseph is described as "fruitful". Fruitful indeed! Without him and his faith in knowing that God was always working behind the scenes, the nation of Israel would have floundered and ceased to be. Jacob acknowledges that all has come about because of Joseph and that because of, "the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob". And he also ends his prophecy of truth of Joseph by saying, that the crown truly is on the head of him who was separated from his brothers.

Genesis 49: 27: Benjamin a ravenous wolf? Possibly because wolves attack their prey, eat until content, and leave. Or maybe, because wolves kill more than they need. Or maybe, because Wolves kill and eat, then leave the rest for others? (Hence, "divide the spoil")? Never-the-less Jacob/Israel describes the tribe of Benjamin as a "ravenous wolf".

Genesis 49: 28: Thus were the 12 tribes of Israel as described by God through Jacob.

Next week we conclude Genesis and flow into Exodus.