

Deuteronomy Chapter 33 Commentary

1 And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.

In the previous chapter, Moses has told Israel of the great wrath of God they will suffer, if they are disobedient, and told them he knows they will be disobedient. In this chapter, Moses is telling them he loves them, as a father loves his own children, even though he knows what evil things they will do and the retribution they will suffer. Here, as he is setting things in order to die; he sets in order the spiritual lives of his children by blessing them. He is going to leave them, with their final remembrance of him, blessing them and reminding them of the greatness of their God.

This is a principle that is often repeated in scriptures. Several of the old patriarchs, at the end of their lives, bless their children and then depart this life. What a great way to die, after being faithful servants of God. Leaving with your children the memory; our spiritual father, and leader, was looking to God, and he is blessing us in the name of God. Now, not only do your children have the belief that you are going to heaven, but they also have the blessing of God on their lives. Praise the Lord! for blessing us with solid Christian faith, to leave as a legacy to those who remain after us. May God give us blessings, with which we may bless our children before we die.

When Jesus left this world, to return to his throne at the right hand of the Father, he departed blessing his disciples, seen in: ***Lu 24:50 ¶ "And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them."***

2 And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them. 3 Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.

Moses is relating to Israel in verse 2: "***The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them***" the "***them***" here is a reference to Israel. God "***rose up***" and went before Israel, in a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, and led Israel "***them***" from there to where they are now.

Next, he relates: "***and he came with ten thousands of saints:***" this is immediately followed by the phrase: "***from his right hand went a fiery law for them.***" The "***them***" in this last phrase is referring us back to the ten thousands of his saints in the previous phrase, which is referring to the children of Israel. Understand, the fiery law of God was given to "***them***" God's people Israel.

"***Yea, he loved the people;***" Moses tells Israel: God loved you "***the people***" so much, that when he gave you the law commandments; God "***and rose up from Seir*** (Seir is another name for Sinai) ***unto them;***" rose up in a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, and has led you from Sinai, all the wilderness way, to this time and place, where you are now looking over Jordan and seeing the land of promise.

"***all his saints are in thy hand:***" Moses is telling Israel: you are all in God's hand. God has demonstrated this to you, by going before you and keeping you safe, in all this long wilderness journey.

God brought you to where you are; just as God brought you to Sinai, seen in: ***Ex 19:4 "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself."*** Just as you were secure in the hand of God then, so are you still in the hand of God today.

Jesus told us the same thing in: ***Joh 10:25-30; 25 "Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. 26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and my Father are one."***

"and they sat down at thy feet" Moses reminds Israel: when you were at Sinai; you received the law commandments. Since then, you have received many more commandments, from God to you, as his children. You are like students sitting before their teacher, learning from God the laws of God.

"every one shall receive of thy words." Not only did God make the commandments, he made you to understand them. His laws are not hard to understand. Moses is telling Israel: even today, for those who were not present at Sinai, God's words and laws are easily understood. God even makes this application to his people today, seen in:

- ***Heb 8:10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people."***
- ***Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;"***

Israel, today, is any person who has been born-again by the grace of God, seen in:

- ***Ro 2:28-29; 28 "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."***
- ***Ro 9:6-7; 6 ¶ "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called."***

We find a good New Testament summation of these verses in: ***Eph 1:17-23; 17 "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."***

I believe the lessons we can draw from ***De 33:1-3***, are: the remembrance of what great things, and displays of divine power, God did for Israel. The visible presence of God descended on Mount Sinai, and there he gave the law commandments. When Israel left there, the visible presence of God

continued before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God did this everywhere Israel traveled until they reached the promised land.

There was only once, that I remember, that God removed from before Israel and that was at the crossing of the Red Sea. The pillar of fire moved from before Israel to behind them and between them and the Egyptians. It was darkness to the Egyptians and light for Israel. God did this to protect Israel from the Egyptians. God did not need to lead them here, the only path they could take was the one God provided through the sea.

Moses is reminding Israel; consider all that God has done for you; consider that he chose to save you and deliver you from bondage; consider how he has destroyed your enemies before you; and consider how he has led you. As you ponder these things; let not their memory escape you, so that you always remember the greatness of your God. This will keep you from turning to idolatry.

This is a reminder to us; consider what Jesus has done for you; consider how he chose you; consider that you are born-again by his power and grace; consider how he has destroyed your enemies before you; consider how he has led you; and consider the greatness of the power and authority of your Saviour and your King, Christ Jesus. As you ponder these things; they will keep you from turning to idolatry and forsaking your God and Saviour. Hallelujah! Amen!

4 Moses commanded us a law, even the inheritance of the congregation of Jacob. 5 And he was king in Jeshurun, when the heads of the people and the tribes of Israel were gathered together.

"Moses commanded us a law, even the inheritance of the congregation of Jacob." The law was called an inheritance, because the law has continued from generation to generation in Israel. The law commandments still exist and are effective in the lives of God's people. You see; Christ only did away with the sacrificial part of the ceremonial law service. We see this confirmed in scripture: **Ga 3:24** **"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."** The commandments of the law make us know we are sinners under the penalty of death for sin and in need of a Saviour.

- Jeshurun is from the Hebrew word Y@shuruwn (pronounced; yesh-oo-roon') and means: *upright; a symbolic name for Israel*. We understand; Jeshurun is simply another name for Israel.

"And he was king in Jeshurun," Since the previous sentence is speaking of Moses and is conjunctively tied by the "and"; we can see that the phrase is speaking of Moses as being king. Moses was not identified as king, as he oft pointed out that God was the king, the supreme ruler, of Israel. However, he was looked upon as a king by Israel, and the leaders of Israel, as he fulfilled all the duties that a king would ruling over a nation of people.

In verses 6-26 we have Moses's blessing of the individual tribes of Israel. Let's compare, and/or combine, the blessings, of Jacob and Moses, of the individual tribes.

6 Let Reuben live, and not die; and let *not* his men be few.

Ge 49:3-4; 3 "Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: 4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch."

Because of his sin, pointed out in Jacob's blessing, Reuben lost the blessing of the firstborn. We notice; Moses prays; for Reuben to continue as a tribe, for his lineage to not die out, and for the tribe of Reuben to be a numerous tribe.

Another thought for us to take note of here is: People will always remember our sins in life, most often forgetting any good works that God accomplished through us. Therefore, it behooves us to be on the guard, at all times, that we fall not into the snares, and temptations, of the devil.

7 And this is the blessing of Judah: and he said, Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, and bring him unto his people: let his hands be sufficient for him; and be thou an help to him from his enemies.

Ge 49:8-12; 8 "Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? 10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. 11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: 12 His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk."

"Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah" Judah will be a praying people. Moses ask God to give ear to the prayers of Judah, which we believe did come to pass. It certainly came to pass in the prophetic picture of the coming of Jesus Christ. Scripture teaches that God always heard the prayers of Jesus and answered in accordance thereto, seen in: ***Joh 11:41-42; 41 "Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me."***

"and bring him unto his people:" Prophetically, Christ will be born in the portion of land that is possessed by Judah. Confederate with Judah will be Benjamin, who will be under the care and protection of Judah, where the temple of the Lord will be built.

"thy father's children shall bow down before thee." In both the blessings, headship is given to Judah. Thus, we see the prophetic picture of Jesus coning in this lineage, and the headship that shall be upon him. **"and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."** We see the preeminence given to the prophetic promise. We see the name of the Lord resting continually upon Judah's lineage until the coming of Christ.

"and bring him unto his people:" The prophetic picture; when Christ shall come incarnate; he will come to his people, which includes both Jew and Gentile. Jesus will be born under the ceremonial law service, and unto Israel first will he bring salvation. By the rejection of Israel of Jesus as Christ, the Gentile people will be grafted into the family of God. Praise the Lord that he was brought unto his people, both Jew and Gentile!

8 And of Levi he said, Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah; 9 Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant. 10 They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar. 11 Bless, LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands: smite through the loins of them that rise against him, and of them that hate him, that they rise not again.

"whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah;"
Here is mention of when the people did strive against God and God proved his power to bring forth water from the rock, seen in: *Ex 17:5-7; 5 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?"*

"Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant." This is inserted to show the faithfulness of Levi in serving the Lord and following his commandments. This was when Aaron made the golden calf and Israel fell in idolatry at Sinai. *Ex 32:26-27; 26 "Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. 27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour."*

Ge 49:5-7; 5 "Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. 6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall. 7 Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel."

We point out here; Simeon is not mentioned by Moses, and thus as stated in Jacob's blessing, they are separated here in Moses's blessing. When you look at the map of the land of promise; you find the property, which was apportioned to each tribe. You will find that Simeon has a portion of land, but that portion is within the land apportioned to Judah. There are no borders marked out for Simeon. As in Jacob's blessing: Levi was scattered throughout the tribes of Israel in the priesthood offices and locations. Simeon was made subordinate to Judah, thus their land is encompassed by that of Judah.

Simeon and Levi were forefront in the matter of deceit and murder of the men of Shechem, concerning the rape of their sister Dinah. However, Levi redeemed themselves, when they stood fast with God and Moses at Sinai, in the matter of the golden calf and the idolatry of Israel.

"Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah;" This is a reference to Aaron who God appointed as High Priest over Israel.

- Thummim is from the Hebrew word; Tummiym (pronounced; toom-meem') and means; *perfections, one of the epithets of the objects in the high-priest's breastplate as an emblem of complete Truth.*
- Urim is from the Hebrew word; 'Uwriym (pronounced; oo-reem') and means; *lights; the oracular brilliancy of the figures in the high-priest's breastplate.*

"Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one," Let's look at this phrase and see a picture of our Saviour. We find in: **Ex 28:30 "And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually."** As we consider this text, the above text, and the definitions of the words; we understand; the high priest was to bear the Thummim and Urim upon his heart in the breastplate of the high priest vestments. The high priest was to come before God on behalf of the people Israel, to intercede on their behalf. The definitions of Thummim and Urim indicate to us; the high priest was to come before God hiding nothing, of the sins of Israel, and putting all things before God, for his judgment in the light of truth to be shed upon them, asking for God's forgiveness of sins and any instruction God may give.

Now, fast forward to this age of Salvation by Grace and see; Jesus entering in once and making the only sacrifice which was pure, holy, and undefiled. Jesus came before God the Father as he hung upon the cross confessing every sin of every sinner that God the Father gave to God the Son to save. God the Father accepted this pure blood sacrifice of Jesus. Jesus gave his whole self upon the cross as the sacrifice for the remission of sins and yielded up the ghost. Jesus came before God the Father in sinless perfection. He had laid upon him; all the sins that are ever to be forgiven and forgotten by God. Not one was missing, and none requireth any more shedding of blood for their eternal redemption. Do not forget; though Jesus purged your sins eternally; there is still a consequence of sins here in time that each individual must pay.

Do you understand, all people are sinners, and as indicated by the definitions of Urim and Thummim, no sin is hid from God? Seen in:

- **Heb 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."** Not only does God know when you sin; God knows if the intent in your heart was to sin.
- **Ps 94:11 "The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity."**
- **1Co 3:20 "And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain."**

As he continues the blessing; Moses points out; God has ordained Levi to be the spiritual leaders and teachers of the law, and they are to be the ones who are to do the sacrificial work. This gives us the picture of the coming of the one true High Priest forever, Jesus Christ, who established the church to continue the work of preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. If you are a born-again sinner today, you are to be teaching and preaching the truth of Christ by both word and action.

12 And of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him; and the LORD shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.

Ge 49:27 "Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil."

In both blessings, I believe we see the protecting hand of God upon Benjamin. Benjamin was the youngest child of Jacob, and he was Joseph's full brother. He was very much loved by Jacob, as noted in scripture, after the supposed death of Joseph, when his brethren sold him into slavery. We remember that later on, when the tribes of Israel shall separate themselves into two parts; it is Benjamin who joins with Judah.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: "Note, Those are blessed indeed that are beloved of the Lord. Saul the first king, and Paul the great apostle, were both of this tribe.

It is here intimated that the temple in which God would dwell should be built in the borders of this tribe. Jerusalem the holy city was in the lot of this tribe (Jos 18:28); and though Zion, the city of David, is supposed to belong to Judah, yet Mount Moriah, on which the temple was built, was in Benjamin's lot. God is therefore said to dwell between his shoulders, because the temple stood on that mount, as the head of a man upon his shoulders. And by this means Benjamin was covered all the day long under the protection of the sanctuary (Ps 125:2,) which is often spoken of as a place of refuge, Ps 27:4-5; Ne 6:10. Benjamin, dwelling by the temple of God, dwelt in safety by him. This situation of Benjamin, it is likely, was the only thing that kept that tribe in adherence with Judah to the divine institutions, when the other ten tribes apostatized. Those have corrupt and wicked hearts indeed who, the nearer they are to the church, are so much the further from God."

I thank God, for revealing these things above mentioned to Matthew Henry. I would never have put all this together. My own bible study is not nearly as extensive as his research demonstrates. As we see in his commentary; geographical and historical scriptural studies have much fruit to yield.

13 And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the LORD be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, 14 And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon, 15 And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills, 16 And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren. 17 His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.

Ge 49:22-26; 22 "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: 23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: 24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) 25 Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: 26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills:

they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren."

We notice that Moses denotes; Joseph is the two separate tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, whom Jacob adopted to be his sons in the place of Joseph, and they became the tribes of Israel in the place of Joseph and of Levi, who did not have a division of the property in Canaan.

In both blessing we see that Joseph is given the bounty of the abundance of the earth. When you study the life of Joseph; you will find many things in Joseph's life that are prophetic pictures of the life of Jesus incarnate. As we look at both the blessing given by Jacob and those given by Moses, we see:

- ***"Blessed of the LORD be his land,"*** Here is a picture of the grace of God abounding in the salvation of sinners in both the physical land of promise and the church today, the spiritual land of promise. Did you notice all the abundance that was granted to Joseph by both Jacob and Moses?
- ***"let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph,"*** Truly, God's blessings were upon the head of our Saviour and Lord, through whom all our blessings come today.
- ***"His glory is like the firstling of his bullock,"*** Christ is the firstborn of many brethren, seen in: ***Ro 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."***

De 33:17 "and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh." Here is the prophetic picture of the end of time when Christ shall gather all of God's people together to be carried to the land of immortality.

18 And of Zebulun he said, Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy going out; and, Issachar, in thy tents. 19 They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand.

- ***Ge 49:13 "Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for an haven of ships; and his border shall be unto Zidon."***
- ***Ge 49:14-15; 14 "Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens: 15 And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute."***

In both blessings; Zebulun is given the abundance of the sea, and Issachar is given the abundance of the land. Both, of these tribes, are given to pointing people to Jerusalem, the central place of worship of God, wherein was the temple, which contained the tabernacle, which is a picture of Christ Jesus.

As we consider these thoughts; we see a prophetic picture; of the church, under the ceremonial law service and the church of Salvation by grace today, calling to the world to come to Jesus for salvation.

20 And of Gad he said, Blessed be he that enlargeth Gad: he dwelleth as a lion, and teareth the arm with the crown of the head. 21 And he provided the first part for himself, because there, in a portion

of the lawgiver, was he seated; and he came with the heads of the people, he executed the justice of the LORD, and his judgments with Israel.

Ge 49:19 "Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last."

"And he provided the first part for himself," We remember that Gad, Reuben, and the half tribe of Manasseh, approached Moses and the leaders of Israel about occupying the land of the Midianites on this side Jordan, which they had conquered by God's direction. Gad was the leader in getting this before Israel, and was given a large portion of land on this side Jordan. According to commentators; they enlarged their territory considerably through waring upon their neighbors.

"and he came with the heads of the people, he executed the justice of the LORD, and his judgments with Israel." Gad was instrumental in sending their warriors over Jordan with Israel to conquer the land of promise. Gad was faithful to discharge the commandments of God in going over and securing the land of promise.

In both blessings we see; Gad is overthrown and then recovers and breaks free in the end. This is a picture of mankind and those chosen of God to be saved by grace. We are all overthrown by sin in time; but through Jesus Christ, and the redemption of our sins, we will overcome at last.

We may also see a picture of Christ in incarnation. When Jesus died upon the cross and was buried in the tomb, it appears that he has been overcome. However, Jesus manifested his power by his resurrection from the dead, and ascension back into the eternal glory, which was his before the world was. Therefore, God's people will overcome at last, in the resurrection of the dead at the end of time.

22 And of Dan he said, Dan is a lion's whelp: he shall leap from Bashan.

Ge 49:16-18; 16 "Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel. 17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward. 18 I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD."

In Moses's blessing we find ***"he shall leap from Bashan."*** and he shall be like a devouring lion and expand his territory. Jacob's blessing notes that Dan shall be like a serpent that overcomes his enemies by subtilty. Historians say; Bashan was a mountain noted for fierce lions, which went out from the mountain and sought prey in the surrounding lands. Likewise, Dan used the mountain Bashan to go forth from, to conquer the surrounding lands and expand their territorial occupation.

23 And of Naphtali he said, O Naphtali, satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the LORD: possess thou the west and the south.

Ge 49:21 "Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words."

I give you here Adam Clarke's comments as I would never have thought of this:

- *Adam Clarke's Commentary: [O Naphtali, satisfied with favour] Though this may refer to the very great fertility of the country that fell to this tribe, yet certainly something more is intended. Scarcely any of the tribes was more particularly favoured by the wondrous mercy and kindness*

of God, than this and the tribe of Zebulun. The light of the glorious Gospel of Christ shone brightly here, **Mt 4:13-16; 13 "And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: 14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, 15 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; 16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.** Christ's chief residence was at Capernaum in this tribe, **Mt 9:1 "And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city."; Mr 2:1 "And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.";** and this city, through Christ's constant residence, and the mighty miracles he wrought in it, is represented as being exalted unto heaven, **Mt 11:23 "And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day."** And it is generally allowed that the apostles were principally of the tribe of Naphtali, who were to possess the west and the south-to dispense the Gospel through all the other tribes.

24 And of Asher he said, Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil. 25 Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.

Ge 49:20 "Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties."

In both blessing we see abundance of life given to Asher.

"let him be acceptable to his brethren," We have a similar expression of acceptability to the brethren in: ***Ro 14:18 "For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men."***

26 There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky. 27 The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them. 28 Israel then shall dwell in safety alone: the fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also his heavens shall drop down dew. 29 Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

Jeshurun is a name used in the stead of Israel.

These are the last words of Moses to Israel. It is said by men today: the words remembered the most, by people spoken to others, are the first and last things that a person says. If this be true, we can see a picture of Moses coming to Israel and telling them God has come to deliver you through me. It is the same picture for us today as we look at Jesus coming to earth to save all of God's people. Remember; what great things the Lord has done for you: he has loved you; he has chosen you; and he has called you unto salvation and eternal life. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

These last words of Moses are words, which tell of the wonders of salvation that God has accomplished, and prepared for Israel. We too have such a promise from Christ Jesus in: ***Joh 14:2-3; 2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*** Meanwhile; Christ has left us the land of promise, the church, and the glorious gospel of Christ, the revelation of Christ from God's word of truth, and the hope of eternal life in the immortal world.

Moses reminds Israel; there is no other God but thy God. Thy God is eternal and shall never fail. He has chosen you Israel, and has said to thy enemies; you shall be destroyed by my power, through these my people. God has brought Israel to the place to cross over into the land of promise. Your next stop will be in the land of promise, and God's promise will be fulfilled with your occupation of the land of promise. Moses tells Israel; no people on earth should have as much happiness and joy as Israel. You are the saved people of God almighty. God is your protector and sustainer. You have the promise that you shall overcome your enemies in the end.

We can take these same blessings and apply them to our lives in Christ. We are the church established by Christ Jesus. We have the divine and eternal protection of God. We have a land of promise to occupy till Christ comes again. Christ is all in all to us. None can be happier, or rejoice more, than those who have been given salvation by grace and eternal life in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah! Be glad and rejoice, ye people of God! Sing unto the Lord, oh ye mighty and give praise and glory to the name of our God, and our Saviour and King, Jesus, the Christ. Amen!