

Genesis Chapter 49 Commentary

1 ¶ And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days. 2 Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.

Jacob calls his sons together and gets their attention. Now, he proceeds with the prophecies for each one. "***that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.***" We notice that Jacob didn't tell each one privately, but rather, told them all in the presence of one another. This would certainly keep them from saying "daddy told me this or that" and keep them from bickering among themselves.

"***in the last days***" is a prophesy of what is going to happen to these tribes from the present time until the coming of Christ Jesus. These "***last days***" are defined by the end of an age of time.

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.

Reuben was the firstborn son to Jacob, and Jacob acknowledges that was born first. "***thou art my firstborn,***" We see this phrase defined by scripture in: ***De 21:17 "But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his."***

"***the chief of strength***" This is defined in scripture in: ***Ps 105:36 "He smote also all the firstborn in their land, the chief of all their strength."*** Here, we see God demonstrating, that even among the pagan world they recognize that the first born is their strength.

Jacob tells Reuben, about 40 years ago, you lost your right of firstborn when you defiled my bed, and I shall give it to another who was born after you. Because of your sin, you shall not excel, nor be the leader of the family after my death. We see this confirmed by scripture in: ***1Ch 5:1-2; 1 ¶ "Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. 2 For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's:)"*** We will speak of why the birthright was Joseph's when we get to his blessing.

We shall see, in Numbers chapter 16, that the sons of Reuben tried to rise and take possession of the right of firstborn. They desired to be leaders over Israel, seen in: ***Nu 16:1 ¶ "Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:"*** It so displeased God; He caused the earth to swallow up them and their families.

Reuben's family was one of the tribes who did not go into the Land of promise to dwell. They chose to live on the east side of Jordan River. This, also, was an act of defiance to God. In effect, they were saying to God; we don't want to be in the land of promise; we like it here. They rejected the blessing that God had in store for them, proving them to be unstable as water.

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 self-will 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.

The first four children of Jacob are born of Leah. Reuben and Judah, in their own ways, rescued Joseph from death by the hand of his brethren. Simeon and Levi are vindictive, mean, and cruel.

We see that these two children, being next in line of inheritance, are bypassed because of their sin against humanity in the destruction of the city of Shechem. When it was only Shechem himself who sinned in defiling their sister Dinah. Simeon, who was ringleader in this terrible deed, will never do anything to demonstrate that he has had a change of heart.

Levi, however, will demonstrate they have changed. They will stand with Moses, for God, when they are at Sinai, after Aaron made the golden calf for Israel, seen in: ***Ex 32:26 "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."***

"O my soul, come not thou into their secret" Jacob is saying, you plotted and designed this horrible sin of murder and plunder, and you did it secretly, I had no knowledge of your plot when you made the deal with Shechem. You, in satanic deceitfulness, gave your word to the people of Shechem, never intending to do that to which you gave your word to do. You plotted, in secret, to do this mass murder.

"Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel:" We see that Jacob did not curse the men themselves but their anger, which led them to commit their great sin. Listen to what is said about anger in the NT in:

- ***Mt 5:20-22; 20 "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. 21 ¶ Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."*** Simeon, and Levi, may have felt they were justified in their actions against the city of Shechem, but we see clearly here in Matthew, that they were not justified, nor are we, if we take vengeance of our own will.
- ***Ro 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."*** Whenever we are tempted to seek vengeance for ourselves, let us remember this scripture and know; God will deal with any wrongdoings against us in his own time and way.

"I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel." The tribe of Simeon did not get a portion of property, in the division of the Land of promise, that was defined by borders on a map as their own. But rather, their allotment of property was within the borders of the tribe of Judah, as seen in scripture in: ***Jos 19:1-9; 1¶ "And the second lot came forth to Simeon, even for the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families: and their inheritance was within the inheritance of the children of***

Judah. 2 And they had in their inheritance Beersheba, or Sheba, and Moladah, 3 And Hazarshual, and Balah, and Azem, 4 And Eltolad, and Bethul, and Hormah, 5 And Ziklag, and Bethmarcaboth, and Hazarsusah, 6 And Bethlebaoth, and Sharuhem; thirteen cities and their villages: 7 Ain, Remmon, and Ether, and Ashan; four cities and their villages: 8 And all the villages that were round about these cities to Baalathbeer, Ramath of the south. This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families. 9 Out of the portion of the children of Judah was the inheritance of the children of Simeon: for the part of the children of Judah was too much for them: therefore the children of Simeon had their inheritance within the inheritance of them."

We find later in scripture that they are dispersed and scattered, as noted in scripture in: ***1Ch 4:38-43; 38 "These mentioned by their names were princes in their families: and the house of their fathers increased greatly. 39 And they went to the entrance of Gedor, even unto the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks. 40 And they found fat pasture and good, and the land was wide, and quiet, and peaceable; for they of Ham had dwelt there of old. 41 And these written by name came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and smote their tents, and the habitations that were found there, and destroyed them utterly unto this day, and dwelt in their rooms: because there was pasture there for their flocks. 42 And some of them, even of the sons of Simeon, five hundred men, went to mount Seir, having for their captains Pelatiah, and Neariah, and Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi. 43 And they smote the rest of the Amalekites that were escaped, and dwelt there unto this day.***"

The tribe of Levi, as the Levitical priesthood, had no property inheritance granted to them in the Land of promise, by defined property boundaries on a map. They were dispersed throughout the land of promise, and had possession only of certain cities, and small lots of property adjoining these cities. This dispersal among the tribes is demonstrated in scripture in ***Jos 21:1-42***.

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.

Due to the sins of the first 3 sons; Judah is next in line to receive the right of firstborn son. One of the things that came with inheritance, of the right of the firstborn, was headship of the family. We see here; Jacob is giving that to Judah. Judah does receive a double blessing, one in nature because he is given headship over all Israel; the second is spiritual because he receives the promise of the Messiah that shall come from his lineage.

However, Judah does not receive the "double portion blessing" that accompanies the right of the firstborn son, as we see in: ***1Ch 5:1-2; 1 ¶ "Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. 2 For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's:)"***

"Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise" Remember, Judah was given the oversight and rule over his brethren, except for Joseph, who was ruler over Egypt. This is a prophetic picture of the coming of Christ, his kingship, and the worship of his people, seen in: ***Mt 21:9 "And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."***

"thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies;" I was reminded from the phrase **"thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies"** of a story of a man and his wife. The man explained to the wife that he was the head of the house. She in turn said: yes, you are the head, but remember; I am the neck, and the neck turns the head in the direction it is to go. Thus, we understand; Judah would prevail over his enemies and do with them as he wished.

We shall see leadership, and the praise, bestowed on the tribe of Judah when they enter the land of promise. The tribe of Judah will be the first to enter the land of promise and take possession of their portion, after destroying the inhabitants thereof. You can follow this thought on through to the New Testament, where the scripture teaches us; Christ was the first to conquer death, hell, and the grave, and is the first to occupy the promise of the Eternal Heavenly Kingdom. **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."**

"thy father's children shall bow down before thee." We have confirmation of this in: **1Ch 5:2 "For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler;"** This prophecy was renewed in King David, who was of the lineage of Judah, as seen in: **Ps 18:40 "Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me."**

Remember, in Genesis, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and heeded to the serpent. God gave the prophecy below, which established the need for a Saviour: **Ge 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."** This prophecy was of the seed. The promise of the coming forth of this seed was given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and now is promised through Judah.

All the tribes of Israel will eventually come to be subject to the tribe of Judah. We see this manifested when King David comes to the throne and is made king over all Israel, and the Lord eventually gives him rest from all the enemies of Israel. **2Sa 5:1-5; 1 ¶ "Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. 2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel. 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah."** This typifies to us; all of God's people will be subject to Christ. We shall give Christ praise, and bow down to him, in obedience and reverent awe.

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?

"Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up:" Exactly what Jesus did when here in the world incarnate. Having overcome death, hell and the grave, Christ rose victorious and returned to the eternal heaven. He is **"gone up."**

"he stooped down, he couched as a lion" Stooping down gives us the picture of bowing down in subjection to the will of another, or to bear a burden. Christ did both for us. He bowed to the Father's will by coming to earth incarnate; and bowed Himself to the cross and gave his own life for us. Upon the cross He bore the burden of our sin that was laid upon Him.

"and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?" Christ came the first time as the Lamb, seen in: *Isa 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.* When He returns, as the eternal King, to gather His people, and judge the world; He will come as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, as described in: *Re 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.* Here, in Revelation, we see that Christ is the pictured lion, and he is of the tribe of Judah as prophesied.

Christ "the grown and mature lion" will one day be stirred up, when time is no more, and then who shall stand before Him? His wrath will be poured out and manifested upon all those who roused him up; and they shall be cast into the eternal lake of fire. He shall, with finality, destroy and overcome. Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess, Christ is Lord and King Supreme.

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.

"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet" The sceptre is a picture of life or death, which is administered by the king, who either holds out the sceptre to, or withholds the sceptre from, those who come into his presence. We see this in the book of Ester clearly defined. Below are a couple of places in scripture that show that this is a true prophetic picture of the coming of Christ.

- **Nu 24:17 "I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth."** We see in this scripture; Sceptre is capitalized, which signifies that it is the name of someone, that someone is Christ Jesus.
- **Heb 1:8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom."** Here, we see that God the Son has "**a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.**" This gives us the clear picture; Christ has held out the sceptre to all of God's people that are chosen and called. By doing this; Christ robed us in the robes of His righteousness, and grafted us into His kingdom, which is eternal.

Remember, this world is not our home. Every person has eternal life, which will be spent in one of two places. Everyone, to whom the sceptre has been extended, is alive forevermore, and shall be in the eternal heaven, that Christ has gone to prepare for us. To all that have not had the sceptre extended to them, there is prepared already for them an eternal lake of death and fire.

I believe, the intent of this scripture is the tribe of Judah shall remain distinguishable as the ruling tribe of Israel until Christ is come. Jesus will be the last king from the tribe of Judah, which will fulfill this prophesy. We see this played out in scripture through the OT. One of the definitions of lawgiver is

governor. I believe this is saying to us that Judah shall have dominion over the other tribes of Israel and there will be a constant ruler on the throne of Judah until "**Shiloh come**" which is the coming of Christ.

Surely, we see that this is accomplished in Christ in the NT scriptures. Christ is the only acceptable sacrifice for sin and the only one to whom the KING held out the scepter always because He never fell in sin as all others before Him did. Christ is also the one who has held the scepter out to us.

Even today "**the lawgiver**" is present, and is ruling in our lives, as we await the 2nd coming of Christ. "**and unto him shall the gathering of the people be**" Unto him, Christ, shall the people be gathered.

- What happened when Christ began his earthly ministry? The people flocked to him.
- What has happened since He established the Grace Church? His people have flocked to it.
- What will happen when He comes again? His people shall be gathered to Him. He shall give tranquility to His people and take them into the eternal rest. Rest is another one of the definitions of Shiloh. When this happens, this prophetic picture will be completed.

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:

"Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine;" It is interesting that it is through Leah (Jacob's 1st wife), not Jacob's 2nd wife (the choice vine) and true love Rachel, that we get the lineage to Christ. Leah is a picture of the law service bringing us to Christ. Christ was bound to this vine by promise of a coming King, the Messiah.

Rachel is a picture of the Grace Church, in that God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son for her. The Grace Church is the choice vine. You said that Jesus was "the coming King." How is he king today? Here are some of the scriptures:

- **Mt 21:5 "Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass."**
- **Joh 12:12-15; 12 ¶ "On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. 14 And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, 15 Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt."**

You understand that he was recognized as King when he came the first time. However, he didn't sit on the throne of a king here on earth. He took that position when he ascended back into the eternal heaven, seen in:

- **Mr 16:19 ¶ "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."**
- **Lu 22:69 "Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God."**

In application to our spiritual lives. If Christ Jesus is not king in your life; you are projecting the image that you are still dead, and that you have not been born-again.

"he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes" Jesus told us in the New Testament that the wine, the cup, was an emblem of his blood, shed for the remission of sins. His

blood being shed, and the sins of his people being remitted, Christ arose dressed in his own righteousness, pure, holy, and undefiled.

Consider: **Heb 12:23-24; 23 "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."**

Abel offered a blood sacrifice to God and his sacrifice was accepted. We see therefore, the coming of the sacrificial law service, which was to point out the true and living way, the better way, that was to come of Christ. Jesus established a new living way, which was better than the continual sacrificial offerings of the law seen in: **Heb 10:1-6; 1 ¶ "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. 5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure."**

Heb 10:5 "but a body hast thou prepared me" This body, Christ incarnate, was the only body that had blood, that was not defiled with sin, which was acceptable to God as an atonement for sin. Because of this sacrifice and offering which Jesus did to grant remission of sins; we have amplified for us the church of Salvation by Grace is indeed the choice vine.

"he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes" Wine is indicative of Christ's blood as shown in NT scripture in: **Mt 26:26-28; 26 ¶ "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."** Christ body was washed in his own blood when they beat him, nailed him to the cross, crowned him with thorns, and pierced his side with the spear.

"and his clothes in the blood of grapes" We see this picture in: **Re 19:11-14; 11 ¶ "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."** Thus, we see; his clothes washed in the blood of grapes, is typical of the vesture dipped in blood in Revelation. It is the righteousness of Christ manifested for all to see.

12 His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

"***His eyes red with wine***" is representative of His 2nd coming, and the time of judgment, and the outpouring of God's wrath, on a world of sinners, who have rejected Christ reigning in their hearts, seen in:

- ***Re 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;***"
- ***Re 2:18 ¶ "And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;"***
- ***Re 19:12 "His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself."***

"***His teeth white with milk***" Represents the purified and glorified church that is presented to Christ, as the Lamb's wife, in the New Testament scriptures.

Judah will fail to drive out or kill all the inhabitants of their territory: ***Jos 15:63 "As for the Jebusites the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out: but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem unto this day."*** This is a picture of the organized church today being occupied by those who have not been born again, who are hypocrites and/or apostates.

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.

The lot of God's providence exactly agrees with the plan of God's counsel, like a true copy with the original. If prophecy says, Zebulun shall be a haven of ships, Providence will so plant him. Consider: God appoints the bounds of our habitation. It is our duty to accommodate ourselves in our lot. If Zebulun dwell at the haven of the sea, let him be for a haven of ships.

Zebulun did not drive out all the inhabitants of their property: ***Jg 1:30 "Neither did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanites dwelt among them, and became tributaries."***

One of the judges of Israel will come from the tribe of Zebulun: ***Jg 12:11-12; 11 "And after him Elon, a Zebulonite, judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years. 12 And Elon the Zebulonite died, and was buried in Aijalon in the country of Zebulun."***

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.

Apparently, the lot of land given to Issachar was very fertile and a very pleasant place to live. Though small, they were a stalwart tribe and produced many valiant soldiers, seen in: ***1Ch 12:32 And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment."***

One of the judges of Israel will come from Issachar, seen in: ***Jg 10:1 ¶ "And after Abimelech there arose to defend Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in mount Ephraim."***

Issachar also had a king from their family: ***1Ki 15:27-28; 27 "And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon. 28 Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead."***

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.

Dan was born of Rachel's handmaid, Bilhah, and he was a son of Jacob, and his tribe was thus established. Dan is one tribe that turned to idolatry as seen in: ***Jg 18:30 "And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land."***

Dan was also one of the tribes from which some of the judges came; Samson being born of this lineage.

One, of the tribe of Dan, was a skillful workman, who was used in the building of the temple of Solomon: ***2Ch 2:13-14; 13 "And now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's, 14 The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skilful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father."***

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

Gad was one of the tribes that did not have a possession in the Land of promise, but stayed on the east side of Jordan, neighbored by the Ammonites and the Moabites, who were constantly at war with them and often overcame them.

"but he shall overcome at the last" This was fulfilled in King David's time when Israel had rest from all her enemies.

This is a prophetic picture of the Christian's life, being constantly attacked, sometimes succumbing to the enemy, yet we know that even in all our failures, we shall overcome at last, in the finished work of Christ Jesus, our Saviour and Lord!

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

His blessing is to have abundance, not only of common things like corn, but also of the royal dainties, the uncommon things.

When the tribe is settled in the Land of promise, they are situated in one of the most fertile and best favored places for cultivation. Their land was well watered and very fertile, say the historians.

Asher did not drive out all the inhabitants of their properties: **Jg 1:31-32; 31 "Neither did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Accho, nor the inhabitants of Zidon, nor of Ahlab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah, nor of Aphik, nor of Rehob: 32 But the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land: for they did not drive them out."**

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

We find the blessing of Moses in: **De 33:23 "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."** This tribe seems to have received much blessing from God.

One of this tribe was instrumental in the building of the temple, seen in: **1Ki 7:13-14; 13 ¶ "And king Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre. 14 He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work."**

Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of their property: **Jg 1:33 Neither did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Bethshemesh, nor the inhabitants of Bethanath; but he dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land: nevertheless the inhabitants of Bethshemesh and of Bethanath became tributaries unto them."**

22 ¶ Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:

Bough is from a Hebrew word *ben* (pronounced: bane) and means: *a son (as a builder of the family name)* and its root word means: *to build*.

Remember that we have told you many times that Joseph is a type of Christ. We see that here in Israel's blessing. Joseph is a fruitful bough; he is as a tree planted by the well of water. Being well watered his limbs are stretched out and go over the wall. We see the picture, of the grace church grafted into the family of God, from the phrase "***even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:***" Fulfilling the prophesy of the branches running over the wall is seen at the crucifixion of Jesus, when he yielded up his life the veil of the temple was rent in twain. The wall of partition was broken down and the Gentiles were grafted into the church of Salvation by Grace. Hallelujah!

23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him:

Joseph's own brethren did this to him, but God delivered him from them, and made him to be ruler over all Egypt, and eventually lord over his whole family in Egypt. Jesus's own people hated him, and tried to kill him, as Joseph's brethren did. They shot at him many times trying to trap him in his words and deeds.

Remember, Israel and Joseph's brethren thought him to be dead. The Pharisees, and leaders of Israel, thought that Jesus was dead, but lo and behold, he appeared on the scene a resurrected Saviour and Lord. King over his people, just as Joseph was raised from the dead in the sight of his brethren, and was ruler over Egypt.

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:)

Although Joseph was beset with many trials and tribulations in life, he kept his faith in God, and was strong to give God the praise. God sustained Joseph, and delivered him out of his afflictions, and made him ruler over Egypt, and a shepherd over the family of Israel to sustain, and keep them.

"from thence is the shepherd" This is an exact picture of what happened to Jesus incarnate. He established the church, and thereby, he continues to feed and shepherd over God's people.

"the stone of Israel" Israel is a picture of the chosen people of God upon the earth. Christ was indeed the chief corner stone, seen in: ***Eph 2:19-22; 19 "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."***

Christ is the name upon which the church is built, seen in: ***Mt 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."***

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.

A picture of God the Father pouring out his blessings upon God the Son. Though Jesus incarnate was born of a woman, He was seed of the Holy Ghost and was **"separate from his brethren"** because he was sinless, holy and undefiled. Christ is also separate from the brethren in that he has risen from the grave, ascended back to the eternal heaven, and is now seated on the throne of God.

As promised earlier, we now address the double portion of the firstborn blessing, seen in: ***1Ch 5:1-2; 1 ¶ "Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. 2 For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's:)"*** How can this be you ask? Let me give you some things to consider:

- Jacob's first wife was Leah, but she was not his real wife. What do you mean? Jacob was married to Leah through deceit. Rachel was Jacob's love and his real wife.

- When you see this, then you understand, Joseph was the firstborn son of Jacob and Rachel, and the rightful heir of the firstborn rights.
- Jacob manifested this by giving Joseph the coat of many colors, which told his brethren that he was the rightful firstborn son. This is one of the things that caused his brethren to hate him so much.

Joseph being separated from his brethren, being sold into slavery and carried to Egypt, Judah was given the headship of the family. Yet, Jacob gave to Joseph the double portion that was part of the firstborn son privilege, seen in: **Ge 48:5 "And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine."** We see here that Jacob adopted the two sons of Joseph as his own children. To each was given a portion in the land of promise, and they were named among the tribes of Israel. We do not find a tribe of Joseph (though you will find reference to the house of Joseph), but the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. This adoption, of Joseph's sons by Jacob, made the apportionment of the land of promise be twelve tribes. How? Because, Simeon was within the bordered land of Judah, and Levi was the priesthood with no bordered land inheritance.

Confirmation of this is found in: **Eze 47:13-14; 13 ¶ "Thus saith the Lord GOD; This shall be the border, whereby ye shall inherit the land according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph shall have two portions. 14 And ye shall inherit it, one as well as another: concerning the which I lifted up mine hand to give it unto your fathers: and this land shall fall unto you for inheritance."**

We find further in scripture: **Ge 48:21-22; 21 "And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers. 22 Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow."** This portion is in the land of Shechem, which Jacob purchased when he dwelt there. Apparently, after they left it was occupied by the Amorites, and Jacob had to regain his possession by means of warfare.

Ephraim is the tribe from which Samuel was born: **1Sa 1:1 ¶ "Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:"** Samuel judged Israel many years.

Ephraim did not drive out all the inhabitants of their property:

- **Jos 17:12 Yet the children of Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants of those cities; but the Canaanites would dwell in that land."**
- **Jg 1:27 "Neither did Manasseh drive out the inhabitants of Bethshean and her towns, nor Taanach and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns: but the Canaanites would dwell in that land."**

Gideon, one of the judges over Israel, was of the tribe of Ephraim: **Jg 6:15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."**

They also raised some idolators: ***Jg 18:30 And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.***"

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

Israel says of Benjamin that he shall be a warrior, and the tribe was a fighting tribe. In the end, they joined with the tribe of Judah and those two tribes continued together for a long time.

"and at night he shall divide the spoil" This is a picture of the end time when Judah and Benjamin are joined together. It is a picture of the grace church coming to fruition, when the night of the sacrificial law is come to an end, and the grace church comes forth. The grace church is comprised of both Jew and Gentile, and they are joined together as Judah and Benjamin were confederate.

Benjamin did not drive out all the inhabitants of their properties: ***Jg 1:21 ¶ "And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day."***

Saul, the first king over Israel, was of the tribe of Benjamin. ***1Sa 9:1-2; 1 ¶ "Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power. 2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people."*** He certainly lived up to this prophesy, as his time as king of Israel was used to feed upon Israel and its children, concerned only for self. He certainly was not a shepherd over Israel as King David was.

Paul the Apostle was from the tribe of Benjamin: ***Php 3:5 "Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;"***

28 ¶ All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.

Now let's look at these prophesies, the future events of the children of Israel, and compare them to the Grace church today. Don't you see all the things happening, in organized religion and in the church, that are coming to pass in the lives of these families?

Look at your own life and see if you don't find some of every tribe of Israel in yourself.

29 And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, 30 In the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a burying place. 31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah. 32 The purchase of the field and of the cave that is therein was from the children of Heth. 33 And when Jacob had made an

end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

Jacob, having completed the work that God had given him to do, now yields up the ghost and dies. So it is, in the life of every born-again child of God in this life. When we have finished, all the work that God planned to accomplish through us, we will be called home to be with the Lord.

We can see this in the New Testament in the life of Paul, the apostle, seen in: ***Php 1:20-26; 20*** ***"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. 21 ¶ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; 26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again."*** Paul understands that he has not completed his work on earth, yet. Though, he desires to depart this troublesome life and enter the peace of God. When his work is completed, he will freely go to his death, with no regrets, and the full expectation of his hope in Christ, in full view. May it be thus with all of God's people.