

The Poetic and Prophetic Blessings of Jacob



The Blessings of Jacob

- Jacob pronounced a prophetic (49:1) blessing (49:28) upon his sons
- Jacob began with Leah's oldest sons (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah), then with the two born later, in reverse order (Zebulun, Issachar)
- Jacob blessed the sons of the two handmaids, Bilhah and Zilpah, next (not in order)

The Blessings of Jacob

- Jacob closed with Joseph and Benjamin, the sons of Rachel his first love
- The prophetic blessing of Moses found in Deuteronomy 33 should be compared

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Lesson
<p>1. Reuben will be removed from his preeminence because of ungoverned impulse</p> <p>Gen. 35:22</p>	<p>Reuben would fail in leadership (Judg. 5:15-16); no record of any later accomplishments</p>	<p>Passionate lack of self-control can forfeit a person's future influence and standing (1 Cor. 7:5)</p>

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Lesson
<p>2. Simeon and Levi will be divided and scattered because of their revenge</p> <p>Gen. 34:25-30</p>	<p>Lived in cities scattered throughout Judah and Israel</p> <p>(Josh. 19:1-9; Num. 35:1-8)</p>	<p>Revenge from anger and self-will can lead to cruelty toward others (Rom. 12:17-21)</p>

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Lesson
<p>3. Judah will be given “praise” (29:35) for his powerful ruler-ship and bountiful prosperity</p>	<p>Judah would lead his brethren with the royal authority of kings (Psa. 78:67-68), from David to Jesus (Rev. 5:5)**</p>	<p>The need to obey Jesus the king (Psa. 2)</p> <p>** “Shiloh” means “one to whom it belongs” (Ezek. 21:26-27)</p>

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Lesson
4. Zebulun will be enriched by sea trade (Deut. 33:19)	Zebulun would be located near the sea and the port-city of Sidon (Josh. 19:10-16)	

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Lesson
5. Issachar will serve others like an ass (beast of burden)	Issachar would not seize their land from the Canaanites	

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Lesson
<p>6. Dan will “judge” (30:6) his people, will strike like a snake and be painful to others</p>	<p>Samson would judge from Dan (Judg. 13:2) and the Danites would be violent (Judg. 18:26)</p>	

A Break in the Prophetic Blessing

“I have waited for thy salvation,
O Jehovah” (49:18)

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Lesson
7. Gad will be attacked by a marauding band or “troop” (30:11), but not overcome	Gad would repel attacks by various raids on the east side of the Jordan River (1 Chron. 5:18; 12:8)	

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Lesson
<p>8. Asher will have plenty of substance and provide for the royal family (Deut. 33:24-25)</p>	<p>Asher would be located near a fertile plain and a trade route to the sea</p>	

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Lesson
9. Naphtili will break loose like a female deer (“comely fawns”, RSV, is better than “goodly words”)	Naphtili and Barak (Judges 4:6) would take part in the battle with Deborah against Sisera	

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Lesson
10. Joseph will be fruitful in spite of his past trials & tribulations (see 1 Chron. 5:1-2)	Ephraim (“fruitful”, 41:52) and Manasseh would have a large portion in Canaan	With a right relationship with God, you can still be strong in times of adversity (Rom. 5:1-4)

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Lesson
11. Benjamin will be ravenous like a wolf and devour his prey	Benjamin, though small, would fight with Barak (Judg. 5:14) and make war in Judges 19-21 (1 Chron. 12:2)	