

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JANUARY 3, 2024

GENESIS 49:22-26

INTRODUCTION:

1. Genesis 49 records the last words that Jacob would speak before he died.
 - a) **GENESIS 49.1:** *“And Jacob called his sons”* His twelve sons came and surrounded him.
 - b) **GENESIS 49.33:** *“And when Jacob finished commanding his sons...he breathed his last”*
2. Having explored the blessings given to his first ten sons of Israel, we will focus on Joseph.

I. BLESSINGS OF PROSPERITY

A. **GENESIS 49.22:** *“Joseph is a fruitful bough”*

1. Bough: Literally a branch or vine.
2. Branches were often used to illustrate descendancy. (Isa. 11.1,10; Rev. 5.5; 22.16)
3. How fruitful would be the descendants of Joseph?
 - a) **GENESIS 49.22:** *“A fruitful bough by the water.”* (cf. Ps. 1.3)
 - b) **GENESIS 49.22:** *“His branches run over the wall”* (Josh. 17.17; Deut. 33.13-17)

B. The blessings promised to Joseph are blessings offered to the faithful.

1. Like the Israelites, Christians are the children of God. (Deut. 4.37; 1 Pet. 2.9,10)
2. As His children, Christians enjoy a family *“in this present time”* (Luke 18.29,30).

II. PROMISE OF CONFLICT

A. **GENESIS 49.23:** *“The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him.”*

1. Joseph suffered the bitter envy and hatred of his brothers. (Gen. 37.8,18-20)
 - a) Joseph suffered the bitter envy and hatred of Potiphar. (Gen. 39.20)
 - b) Joseph would suffer bitter envy and hatred in his future. (Gen. 49.1,28)
2. Despite the conflict, Joseph would show great strength.
 - a) **GENESIS 49.24:** *“But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong”* Strong (pazaz): “flexible” (2 Sam. 6.16)
 - b) **GENESIS 49.24:** *“By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel)”* (cf. Ps. 18.1,2,30-34; Gen. 35.11; 48.15; Deut. 32.4)

B. The conflict promised to Joseph is the conflict promised to the faithful.

1. Like the Israelites, Christians are promised persecution. (2 Tim. 1.3,4,7,8; 3.10-12)
2. Christians will overcome through the strength of God. (2 Tim. 3.10-12; 2 Pet. 3.13-15)

III. BLESSINGS THAT ARE PROLIFIC

A. **GENESIS 49.25:** *“With blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath”*

1. Joseph would be completely enveloped with blessings.
2. **GENESIS 49.25:** *“Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.”* The idea is that everyone who has a womb will bring forth offspring and every breast will suckle.
3. **GENESIS 49.26:** *“The blessings of your father”*
 - a) These blessings spoken by Jacob to Joseph *“have excelled the blessings of my ancestors”* Jacob is blessed more than his fathers.
 - b) **GENESIS 49.26:** The blessings given to Joseph are more than his brothers.

B. The prolific blessings of Joseph are also prolific for the faithful.

1. Every spiritual blessing is found in Christ. (Eph. 1.3; 2 Pet. 1.4)
2. God is able to do *“exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think”* (Eph. 3.20).