

## 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).