

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
JANUARY 10, 2024
GENESIS 49:27-33

INTRODUCTION:

1. Chapter 49 records the last days of Jacob's life as he blesses his twelve sons.
 - a) To whom were the blessings given? (Gen. 49.28)
 - b) From whom did these blessings originate? (Gen. 49.28,1; Ps. 105.9,10,15)
 - c) What did these blessing entail? (Gen. 49.28)
2. The last one to be blessed before Jacob died was the tribe of Benjamin.

I. THE BLESSING OF BENJAMIN

- A. **GENESIS 49.27:** *"Benjamin is a ravenous wolf"*
 1. Ravenous (tarap): To tear in pieces. (cf. Ezek. 22.25-27)
 2. "Wolf" is often used of those who are predatory. (Matt. 7.15; 10.16; Acts 20.29)
 3. **GENESIS 49.27:** *"In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil."* To devour is to simply eat. (cf. Gen. 2.17; Matt. 4.4)
- B. Benjamin would develop into a warlike tribe.
 1. Benjamin went to war against the rest of the nation. (Judges 19,20)
 - a) **JUDGES 19.12,22-24:** A Levite's concubine was abused and left for dead.
 - b) **JUDGES 20.14-17:** Justice was demanded and war was waged.
 - c) **JUDGES 20.21,25,48:** Benjamin almost won the war.
 2. Men of valor came from Benjamin. (1 Chr. 8.40; 12.1,2; 2 Chr. 14.8,9,14; 17.17)

II. THE DEATH OF JACOB

- A. **GENESIS 49.29:** *"Then he charged them and said to them"* Lit., commanded. (v. 33)
 1. There is a location.
 - a) **GENESIS 49.29,30:** *"the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan..."*
 - b) In Genesis 23, Abraham bought the land to bury his wife. (Gen. 23.1-11)
 2. There is a description.
 - a) **GENESIS 49.31:** *"There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah."* (Gen. 35.27-29)
 - b) Who is missing? (Gen. 35.19,20)
 3. There is an explanation. (Gen. 49.32; 23.12-18)
- B. **GENESIS 49.33:** *"And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people."*
 1. How old was Jacob when he died? (Gen. 47.28)
 2. Joseph had already promised to bury his father. (Gen. 47.29-31)
- C. Consider the phrase, *"gathered to his people"*
 1. There is a series of consecutive actions all taken in the past tense, i.e., finished, drew, breathed, finished." Each action was taken after the previous.
 2. When was Jacob taken to Hebron and buried? (Gen. 50.3,4,12; cf. 25.7-9)
 3. Physical death is a separation of body and soul. (James 2.26)
 - a) When does the soul leave the body relative to the burial? (Gen. 35.18)
 - b) Jesus was buried, but His soul went to Hades. (Luke 23.43; Acts 2.27,31)