

# **Genesis 49**

## **Genesis 49.1-4** - Reuben

**V 1-2** – A very solemn time – Jacob was near death – he had his sons gather around him for final words

-Is this done much today? No – so many people die in hospitals, drugged into unconsciousness

**V 3-4** – Who was the first born? Reuben

-What **should** have been his position? Honor and blessings, etc.

-But what had Reuben done? **Incest** (sexual relations with Bilhah)

-Reuben did not have self-control

-Self-control is lacking today – it so easy to get addicted to something (caffeine, for example)

## **Genesis 49.5-7** - Simeon and Levi

**V 5-7** – What had Simeon and Levi done that was so bad? Killed everybody because of rape of Dinah

-They would not be leaders either

## **Genesis 49.8-12** - Judah

**V 8-9** – What kind of fighter would Judah be? Victorious, would defeat all his enemies

**V 10** – “Shiloh” can mean “rest” = until Jesus comes

-Scepter = staff indicating royal authority

-Judah was always the leading tribe

**V 11-12** – This seems to be a description of Christ

## **Genesis 49.13-15** - Zebulun and Issachar

**V 13** – Future for Zebulun? Sea traffic and business

**V 14-15** – Issachar? Hard workers, good citizens

## **Genesis 49.16-21** - Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali

**V 16-18** – What would the tribe of Dan be like? Evil

-The most wicked of the tribes – after *1 Kings*, we never hear of the tribe of Dan again because of their calf worship

**V 19** –Gad? Would be attacked, but would win

**V 20**– **Tribe of Asher?** Would be prosperous and have plenty of food (famous for dainty food)

**V 21** – **Naphtali?** Would be famous for good words

**Genesis 49.22-26** – Ephraim and Manasseh

**V 22** – **How was Joseph described?** Fruitful bough

**V 23** – **What had people done to Joseph?** Attacked him

-**Who?** His brothers, Potiphar’s wife, fellow prisoners (who forgot about him)

**V 24** – But he had not given in to their attacks; he had remained firm

**V 25-26** – The 2 tribes of Joseph would be greatly blessed

**Genesis 49.27** - Benjamin

**V 27**– **What would Benjamin be like?** Fighting like a mean wolf

-**Who came from the tribe of Benjamin?** King Saul and the Apostle Paul

**Genesis 49.28-33**

**V 28** – These were the 12 tribes (sons) of Israel

**V 29** – **What instructions did Jacob leave concerning the place of his burial?** To be buried in Canaan, in cave of Machpelah

**V 30** – **Where did the cave come from?** Bought from Ephron the Hittite by Abraham

**V 31-32** – **Who else had already been buried there?** Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Leah (Jacob’s first wife)

**V 33** – Jacob died and was “gathered to his people”

-**Meaning?** We are conscious after death – we are reunited with God's faithful people who have gone on before us

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