



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Faith and the Last Days!

Genesis 49:1-33

Message #49 of 50 – S957

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Sunday Morning Service

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Faith and the Last Days!

Genesis 49:1-33

Opening Comments

- Good morning – we will be in **Genesis 49**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- A couple of God's characteristics are omniscience and omnipresence
- God is omniscient

Omniscient – having complete or unlimited knowledge, awareness, or understanding; perceiving all things.

- There is nothing God doesn't know
- God is omnipresent

Omnipresent – present everywhere at the same time.

- The Bible also teaches us that God doesn't relate to time the same way we do
- We view time in a linear way – we are moving out of the past – are in the present – and moving into the future
- God views time as being outside of time – past, present, and future are all the same
- He is everywhere present at the same time across all of time
- Don't worry if you don't understand that – it is a God thing
- What it means for us is that God knows what is coming in the future

Isaiah 46:9-10

Remember the former things of old, for I *am* God, and *there is* no other; I *am* God, and *there is* none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *things* that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'

- 'declaring the end from the beginning' – Only God knows what is coming in the future because He alone knows the end of the story before it even begins
- That has become a great source of comfort for me
- God, who loves me and saved me, knows what is coming into my future
- And because He is sovereign over all of creation and omnipotent, He can carry me through whatever comes
- And not just me but all of God's people at the same time

- It is estimated that between one-quarter and one-third of the Bible was prophetic at the time it was written
- Before events happened, God told His people so that they would be prepared and so that their faith would be in Him and in Him alone
- Many of those prophecies were fulfilled in the past
- For example, God gave Daniel a prophecy that predicted the exact date the Messiah would ride into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey
- We refer to that event as Palm Sunday – Jesus rode into Jerusalem
- Many more prophecies are still waiting to be fulfilled – most significantly the Second Coming of Jesus
- In today's text, Jacob will be inspired by the Holy Spirit to tell his sons what is coming in the future
- It was good news for some and not for others
- Let's pray and see what we can learn about our future
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Faith and the Last Days!**
- Chapter 49 are Jacob's last words
- **Genesis 49:1-2**
- This is the first occurrence of the phrase 'last days' in the Bible
- It points to the culmination of God's plan for His people **Daniel 12:4**
But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.
- One of the interesting things about prophecy is that they often include signs and partial fulfillments before the ultimate fulfillment
- Many of the things Pastor Randy will share at the Future Today prophecy meeting after church
- Jacob begins with his firstborn son
- **Genesis 49:3**
- The first son born to a man was his primary heir.
- Culturally, that also carried special honor, dignity, and authority in the family.
- As Reuben heard this first sentence, he probably felt a swell of pride.
- That wouldn't last long
- **Genesis 49:4**

- In Genesis 35 we are told that Reuben slept with one of his father's concubines – equivalent to sleeping with his wife
- Jacob knew about it but there is no sign that he confronted Reuben about it or that Reuben ever repented to his father
- On his deathbed Jacob exposed Reuben's unconfessed sin in front of his brothers.

- Our sin cannot be hidden from God **Hebrews 4:12-13**

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must* give account.

- Unconfessed sin is a poison in your heart.
- The longer it remains, the more dead your heart becomes.
- 'you shall not excel' – the tribe of Reuben did not excel
- One of the first tribes taken into exile by the Assyrians
- Next comes a pair of sons
- **Genesis 49:5-7**
- In Genesis 34, Jacob's daughter Dinah caught the eye of the prince Shechem – and he raped her
- Simeon and Levi responded by deceiving the men of Shechem and then slaughtering them and looting the city
- The sense here was this was not a one-time occurrence
"I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel."
- When the Israelites finally got into the Promised Land Simeon received an inheritance but over time was scattered throughout Israel
- In Deuteronomy 33 when Moses was blessing the tribes before entering the land, Simeon was omitted
- In Exodus 32, after some of the Israelites got tangled up with idol worship with the daughters of Moab, Moses challenged the people and asked who was on the Lord's side.
- It was only the tribe of Levi who responded.
- Levi became the priestly tribe and wasn't given an inheritance but was given 48 towns throughout all of Israel.
- The prophecy was fulfilled for both but differently based on seeking God – The Levites did and Simeonites did not

- **Genesis 49:9-12**

- Judah may have been holding his breath as he saw his father turn his gaze upon him
- He had done some things that deserved a similar fate as his brothers
- But something had changed in Judah's heart
- He offered to take Benjamin's place when Joseph was testing them
- And he had assumed a leadership role in the family
- The reference to a lion here reminds us of **Revelation 5:5**

But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

- That is Jesus in heaven – both his mother who bore Him and her husband were descended from King David, of the tribe of Judah
- 'The scepter' – starting with David, there was a king from Judah
- This also reminds us of another title of Jesus **Revelation 19:16**

He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

- The name 'Shiloh' is a name attributed to the Messiah, the Savior
- After Jesus came there were no more kings in Israel
- Verses 11 and 12 probably refer to the Millennium when Jesus rules on the earth
- Jacob then addresses several of his sons in rapid fire
- **Genesis 49:13**
- Where Nazareth is located – where Jesus grew up
- **Genesis 49:14-18**
- Sampson was from Dan
- Also, where idolatry seemed to have taken a foothold first
- One of first tribes taken into exile
- **Genesis 49:19**
- Elijah was from Gad
- **Genesis 49:20-21**
- Then Jacob's focus turns to the son who has always had a special place in his heart
- **Genesis 49:22-26**
- The 'archers' probably points to the betrayal of Joseph's brothers and all the other tribulations he endured
- But through it all Joseph trusted God to take care of him

- And the result was fruitfulness – Joseph trusted – God blessed
- Joseph was fruitful in many ways – God multiplied him more than his brothers
- The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph’s sons, were the largest of the other 11 tribes
- Also, Joshua, who led them into the Promised Land was from Ephraim
- Joseph trusted God and was faithful to Him for His entire life
- And so, he enjoyed God’s blessings through his entire life, even though he had to enjoy some of them through hard circumstances
- There are a couple of allusions of Christ in verse 24
- Jesus is described as our Shepherd **John 10:11**

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

- And also as the Stone **Romans 9:32-33**
Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. As it is written: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

- Jacob then addresses his youngest son
- **Genesis 49:27**
- Benjamin has a mixed history – good and bad
- Israel’s capital, Jerusalem, is within the territory given to Benjamin
- It also produced two Sauls: King Saul and Saul/Paul the apostle
- Moses who is writing these things down adds a comment
- **Genesis 49:28-33**
- This is the first direct reference to the ‘twelve tribes of Israel’
- ‘...he blessed each one according to his own blessing.’
- They did not all get equal blessings
- There are some in our culture that insist upon equal outcomes
- And if there are any inequities between groups, it must be because of systematic racism
- Chapter 49 teaches us that outcomes are a result of God’s blessings
- It also teaches that while God is sovereign, our personal choices influence the outcome

- Simeon and Levi got the same blessing, but because Levi aligned themselves with God, God gave them a different outcome than Simeon
- Judah had done many things that warranted a negative blessing
- But because he repented, his sins were not even mentioned
- Joseph was faithful to God throughout his life and experience God's blessing throughout
- No where does the Bible promise equal outcomes
- We are also not promised equal opportunities
- It is not about race, gender, nationalism, or any other ism we might look to – it is about God's sovereign will
- This chapter does tell us we are to play a role in God's will
- Three quick things: **Being Blessable!**
- First thing to be blessable – **Seek God!**
- There is no reason for God to bless you if you are living the life you want to live rather than the one He wants you to live
- Repent – turn to Him with your whole heart and get to know Him in His Word daily
- Second thing to be blessable – **Love God!**
- It is easy to say you love God, but Jesus says that loving God means keeping His commandments – do what God says – not what the culture says
- It also means loving what He loves – especially other people
- The better you are loving other people, the way God loves them, the more blessable you are
- Third thing to be blessable – **Share God!**
- Our God is a gracious and giving God
- To be more blessable we need to be willing to share what He has blessed us with
- Share His Word, share His love, share your stuff, share your hope, joy, peace – just share – If God gave it to you – be willing to share it
- The blessings are the object – God is! Seek Him, love Him, and share Him – it is all about Him
- Do that and then trust God to bless you - **Prayer!**