

Chapter 49:1-28

1 And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

2 "Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob,
And listen to Israel your father.

3 "**Reuben**, you are my firstborn,
My might and the beginning of my strength,
The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.

4 Unstable as water, you shall not excel,
Because you went up to your father's bed;
Then you defiled it—
He went up to my couch.

5 "**Simeon and Levi** are brothers;
Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place.

6 Let not my soul enter their council;
Let not my honor be united to their assembly;
For in their anger they slew a man,
And in their self-will they hamstringed an ox.

7 Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce;
And their wrath, for it is cruel!
I will divide them in Jacob
And scatter them in Israel.

8 "**Judah**, you are he whom your brothers shall praise;
Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
Your father's children shall bow down before you.

9 Judah is a lion's whelp;
From the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He bows down, he lies down as a lion;
And as a lion, who shall rouse him?

10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes;
And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

11 Binding his donkey to the vine,
And his donkey's colt to the choice vine,
He washed his garments in wine,

- And his clothes in the blood of grapes.
- 12 His eyes are darker than wine,
And his teeth whiter than milk.
- 13 “**Zebulun** shall dwell by the haven of the sea;
He shall become a haven for ships,
And his border shall adjoin Sidon.
- 14 “**Issachar** is a strong donkey,
Lying down between two burdens;
15 He saw that rest was good,
And that the land was pleasant;
He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden,
And became a band of slaves.
- 16 “**Dan** shall judge his people
As one of the tribes of Israel.
17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way,
A viper by the path,
That bites the horse’s heels
So that its rider shall fall backward.
- 18 I have waited for your salvation, O Lord!
- 19 “**Gad**, a troop shall tramp upon him,
But he shall triumph at last.
- 20 “Bread from **Asher** shall be rich,
And he shall yield royal dainties.
- 21 “**Naphtali** is a deer let loose;
He uses beautiful words.
- 22 “**Joseph** is a fruitful bough,
A fruitful bough by a well;
His branches run over the wall.
23 The archers have bitterly grieved him,
Shot at him and hated him.
24 But his bow remained in strength,
And the arms of his hands were made strong

By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob
(From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

25 By the God of your father who will help you,
And by the Almighty who will bless you
With blessings of heaven above,
Blessings of the deep that lies beneath,
Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

26 The blessings of your father
Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors,
Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.
They shall be on the head of Joseph,
And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his
brothers.

27 “**Benjamin** is a ravenous wolf;
In the morning he shall devour the prey,
And at night he shall divide the spoil.”

28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father
spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his
own blessing.

Jacob's Sons & their Notable Descendants

Jacob's 12 sons were the ancestors of the 12 tribes of Israel.
The entire nation of Israel came from these men.

Reuben	None
Simeon	None
➔ Levi	Aaron, Moses, Eli, Zacharias, John the Baptist
Judah	David, Jesus
Dan	Samson
Naphtali	Barak, Elijah (?)
Gad	Jephthah (?)
Asher	None
Issachar	None
Zebulun	None
Joseph	Joshua, Gideon, Samuel
Benjamin	Saul, Esther, Paul



THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL – GENESIS 49

Tribes	Mother	Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49	Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33	Total - Numbers 1	Total - Numbers 26	Position round tabernacle	Judges	Well known figures	Historical events
REUBEN	Leah	Thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength... Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel	Let Reuben live, and not die; and let not his men be few	46,500	43,730	South		Dathan and Abiram took part in the rebellion of Korah (Num 16)	Chose to dwell on the east bank of Jordan (Num 32.1-5); failed to answer the call of Deborah (Judg 5.15-16)
SIMEON	Leah	I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel		59,300	22,200	South		Zimri slain by Phinehas due to his brazen immorality at Shittim (Num 25.10-15)	
LEVI	Leah		Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with the holy one, whom thou didst prove at Maasah					Moses Aaron Samuel	Levi stood with Moses in the matter of the golden calf (Ex 32.26); the tribe that provided the priestly family and the others to be servants in the Tabernacle and the Temple
JUDAH	Leah	The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come	Hear, Lord, the voice of Judah, and bring him unto his people: let his hands be sufficient for him: and be thou an help to him from his enemies	74,600	76,500	East	Othniel	Boaz David	The tribe from which David and the Kings of Israel came
ZEBULUN	Leah	He shall be for an haven of ships	Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy going out; and	57,400	60,500	East	Tola		Many of them came to Jerusalem for Hezekiah's passover (2 Chr 30.11)
ISSACHAR	Leah	A strong ass couching down between two burdens	Issachar, in thy tents	54,400	64,300	East			
DAN	Bilhah	An adder in the path that biteth the horse heels	Dan is a lion's whelp: he shall leap from Bashan	62,700	64,400	North	Samson		They set up idol worship (Judg 18.30-31) and became a centre of idolatry; Jeroboam's idolatrous calves were set up in Bethel and Dan (1 Kings 12.28-30)
GAD	Zilpah	A troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last	Blessed be he that enlargeth Gad: he that dwelleth as a lion	45,650	40,500	South			Settled on the east bank of the Jordan with the Reubenites (Num 32.1-5)
ASHER	Zilpah	His bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties	Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren	41,500	53,400	North			Many of them came to Jerusalem for Hezekiah's passover (2 Chr 30.11)
NAPHTALI	Bilhah	A hind let loose: he giveth goodly words	O Naphtali, satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the Lord: possess thou the west and the south	53,400	45,400	North			
JOSEPH - EPHRAIM	Rachel	Joseph is a fruitful bow... whose branches run over the wall	Blessed of the Lord of his land... His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns	40,500	32,500	West	Abdon	Jeroboam	Many slain by the Gileadites under Jephthah (Judg 12.5-6); became the leading tribe of the northern kingdom of Israel (1 Kings 12.19-20)
JOSEPH - MANASSEH				32,200	52,700	West	Gideon		
BENJAMIN	Rachel	Benjamin shall ravine as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil	The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders	35,400	45,600	West	Ehud	Saul Jonathan	Many of them came to Jerusalem for Hezekiah's passover (2 Chr 30.11); remained with Judah as the southern kingdom of Judah after Jeroboam's revolt (2 Chr 11.1)