### Genesis

## Chapter 49

1Then Jacob called the rest of his sons in and said to them:  
  
 2‘Gather here so I can tell you what will happen to you in later years. Gather and listen to me, sons of Jacob. Listen to IsraEl… Listen to your father!  
  
 3‘ReuBen:  
  
 ‘You’re my firstborn and my strength. You’re the first of my children, but you’re hard to endure, [pig headed], 4and you’re as unruly as water… Bring an end to your violence!  
  
 ‘For you even climbed up on your father’s bed and dirtied the couch that you climbed on!  
  
 5‘SimeOn and Levi:  
  
 ‘You are brothers who are good at the injustices that separated you. 6May my inner person pay no attention to the things that you say, and may my feelings never have any part in your conspiracies. For you’ve killed men in anger, and in your passion you’ve cut off the feet of bulls!  
  
 7‘May your anger be cursed, because it’s willful and cruel. So I’ll separate you in [the land of] Jacob and scatter you in IsraEl!  
  
 8‘Judah:  
  
 ‘Your brothers have spoken well of you, so your hands will stay on the backs of your enemies, and your father’s sons will bow before you… 9For Judah is the cub of a lion.  
  
 ‘My son: you’ve grown from the tender plant [you once were], and now you’re a young lion. So by whom can you ever be beaten?  
  
 10‘There’ll always be a ruler from Judah,  
 And princes will come from his loins  
 Until the one we’re awaiting arrives…  
 The one who’s the hope of the nations.  
  
 11‘[He’ll] tie his foal to a vine…  
 The foal of his burro to a branch,  
 And he’ll wash his robes in [fine] wine…  
 In the blood of grapes, he will wash his clothes;  
 12His eyes will be more cheerful than wine,  
 And his teeth [will be] whiter than milk.  
  
 13‘ZebuLun:  
  
 ‘You’ll live on the coast near a shipping port that reaches to Sidon.  
  
 14‘IshSachar:  
  
 ‘You’ve desired the best thing… To rest among the [other] inheritances. 15So [when you find] a good resting place and fertile land, you’ll put your shoulders to work and become a farmer.  
  
 16‘Dan:  
  
 ‘You’ll judge your people as a single tribe in IsraEl.  
  
 17‘Dan will be a snake on the road that blocks the path and bites at the hooves of horses to cause their riders to fall, 18while he awaits the salvation of Jehovah.  
  
 19‘Gad:  
  
 ‘You’ll be looted by plunderers… But then you’ll also follow and plunder them.  
  
 20‘Asher:  
  
 ‘You’ll have plenty of bread, and you’ll provide delicious things to princes.  
  
 21‘NaphTali:  
  
 ‘You’re a spreading vine [that will bear] beautiful fruit.  
  
 22‘JoSeph:  
  
 ‘My son who has now grown [into a man];  
 My dearly-loved son who’s been increased;  
 My younger son who has been returned...  
  
 23‘You’re the one whom the evil have spoken against;  
 The one against whom they’ve plotted  
 And whom the archers [have tried to shoot down].  
  
 24‘But their bows and arrows were quickly destroyed  
 By the hand of Jacob’s Almighty God,  
 Who then weakened the might of their arms…  
  
 ‘You’re the one who thereafter brought strength  
 From the God of IsraEl, to his father.  
  
 25‘My God has helped you and blest you  
 With the blessings that come from above.  
  
 ‘They’re the blessings of the ground that owns all…  
 They’re the blessings of the breasts and the womb.  
  
 26‘They’re the blessings of your father and mother,  
 Which last longer than the blessings on the mountains,  
 And [longer than] the hills of the ages.  
  
 ‘These [blessings] will be upon JoSeph’s head,  
 And on the heads of the brothers  
 Over whom he will now take the lead.  
  
 27‘BenJamin:  
  
 ‘You're a hungry wolf who’ll eat all morning long, but also provide food in the evening.’  
  
  
28All these are the 12 sons of Jacob, and that’s what their father said to them. He blest them… He blest each of them by the blessings that they’d receive.  
  
29Then he said to them:  
  
 ‘Now I’m going to my people [in death]; so, bury me with my ancestors in the cave that’s in the field of EphRon the Kettite.  
  
 30‘It’s the double cave across from MamRe in the land of CanaAn that AbraHam bought as a tomb from EphRon the Kettite, 31and it’s where they buried AbraHam and his wife SarAh, IsaAc and his wives RebecKa and LeAh, 32in that part of the field where the caves of the sons of Ket are located.’  
  
33Then Jacob stopped giving instructions to his sons, and he lifted his feet on the bed and died… Then he was buried with his people.