

Vayechi וַיַּחֲיֶי

“And he lived”

Genesis 47:28-50:26

Genesis 49:1

And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.

Overview:

After Jacob and the rest of his family were brought to Egypt, he lived another 17 years. When he knew he was about to die, Jacob made Joseph promise to take his body back to Canaan to be buried in the cave in the field of Machpelah where his family was buried. He also asked to meet Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to Joseph in Egypt. He blessed them and received them as his own sons. He then called all his sons and gave them blessings. When Jacob died, Joseph and his brothers took his body to Canaan and buried him in the tomb with his family as Joseph had promised. After the death of Jacob, Joseph's brothers were afraid he would take vengeance on them for their treatment of him as a youth. He comforted them and told them that what they had meant for evil, God used for good. Joseph lived to be 110 years old. Before he died, he told his family that God would one day bring them out of Egypt, back to the Promised Land. He made them promise that when they returned to Canaan that they would take his bones up with them.

Focus Passage: Genesis 49:1-28

Just before Jacob dies, he gathers all his sons around him and speaks prophecy to each of them. He reveals to them prophetic truths that are for the individual tribes, but also for all the Jewish people; things that will happen to them throughout the ages and into the last days. His sons learn that their actions can have long-reaching consequences.

Reuben, the firstborn son should receive a double share and the leadership position. However, Jacob tells him that although Reuben has power, strength, and potential, he has lost the status of the firstborn due to sexual sin (Genesis 35:22).

Simeon and Levi, when rescuing their sister, Dinah, from Shechem (Genesis 34: 25-31) were very cruel and acted with fierce anger. They did not seek God's plan for dealing with the situation. Because of their actions, they (and their tribes) will be scattered throughout Israel.

Judah is given the position of prominence and power in Israel. Jacob foretells that the sceptre of power will not depart from Judah. One coming from the House of Judah (Messiah) will have the rod of leadership and will bring the people of God together.

Up to this point Jacob has been going in birth order as he blessed each son, but here he changes the order, giving blessings to some of the younger sons before their older brothers. This is not an error but gives greater revelation.

Zebulun is told his land will reach to the Mediterranean coast. Because of his faithfulness his borders will be extended to include some of the land that should have gone to Dan.

Issachar is as strong as a beast of burden. He will work hard to acquire things but will become enslaved to paying taxes.

Dan will judge his people, but he will not be fair and just. He will be like a snake in the path, striking at the horse's heels, so that it throws its rider.

Gad will be attacked but will ultimately have the victory.

Asher will be symbolic of rich food or nourishment which brings blessings and happiness.

Naphtali will have freedom and liberty. He will speak good words of change, repair, and improvement.

Joseph stayed true to God even when going through many trials and difficult times in his life. He is given blessings and strength from God and will bring about blessings for his people.

Benjamin is described as a wolf that will fight in the morning and eat in the afternoon or evening, which means he will be successful.

After pronouncing blessings over each of his sons, Jacob told them he was about to die, and he again told them he wanted to be buried with his family in the cave in the field of Machpelah. After this he "yielded up the ghost and was gathered unto his people." (Genesis 49: 33).

Name: _____

Date: _____

Sons of Jacob

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Lost his right as first born son | A. Issachar |
| 2. Given a position of prominence and power in Israel | B. Naphtali |
| 3. Will be attacked but will have the victory | C. Gad |
| 4. Will work hard but become a slave to paying taxes | D. Benjamin |
| 5. Youngest son. He will be successful | E. Asher |
| 6. Due to his faithfulness, his borders will be extended to the Mediterranean | F. Judah |
| 7. Because of their evil deeds, their people will be scattered throughout Israel | G. Joseph |
| 8. Stayed true to God even when he went through hardships; became a blessing to God's people | H. Simeon and Levi |
| 9. Will symbolize good foods that will bring blessing and happiness | I. Reuben |
| 10. Will not be a fair and just judge of his people | J. Dan |
| 11. Will have freedom and liberty and will speak good things for the future of his people | K. Zebulun |



Name: _____ Date: _____

Unscramble the names of Jacob's Sons

1. PSOEJH _____

2. VLIE _____

3. EAHSR _____

4. URNEBE _____

5. BZUELNU _____

6. AND _____

7. NEMISO _____

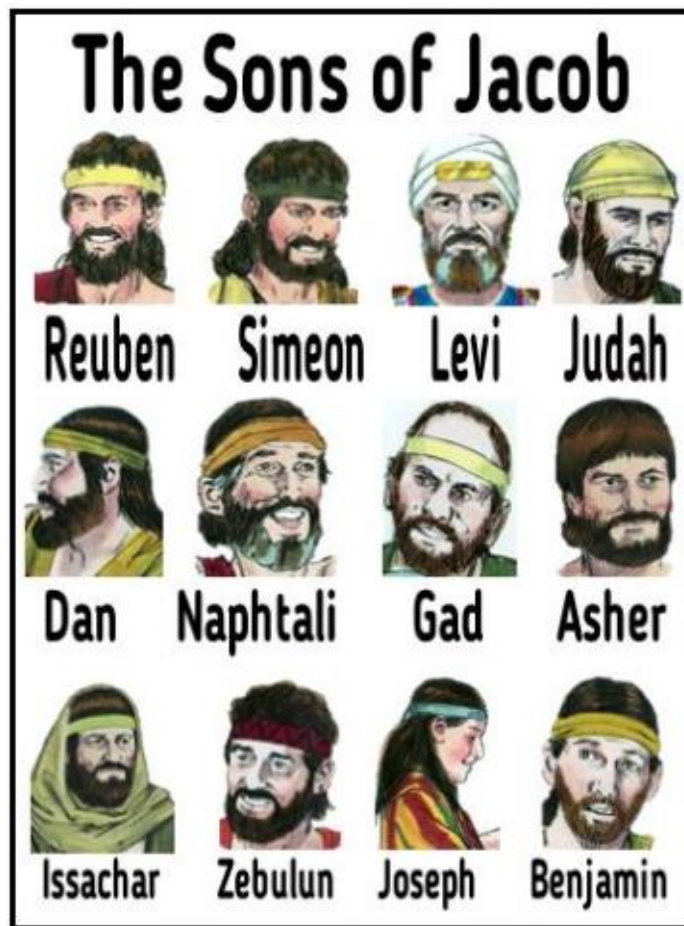
8. INEMBNJA _____

9. SARICSA _____

10. TPLHNAIA _____

11. GDA _____

12. ADJUH _____



ANSWER KEY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sons of Jacob

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Lost his right as first born son. A | A. Reuben |
| 2. Given a position of prominence and power in Israel. E | B. Gad |
| 3. Will be attacked but will have the victory. B | C. Dan |
| 4. Will work hard but become a slave to paying taxes. J | D. Joseph |
| 5. Youngest son. He will be successful. G | E. Judah |
| 6. Due to his faithfulness, his borders will be extended to the Mediterranean. F | F. Zebulun |
| 7. Because of their evil deeds, their people will be scattered throughout Israel. H | G. Benjamin |
| 8. Stayed true to God even when he went through hardships; became a blessing to God's people. D | H. Simeon and Levi |
| 9. Will symbolize good foods that will bring blessing and happiness. I | I. Asher |
| 10. Will not be a fair and just judge of his people. C | J. Issachar |
| 11. Will have freedom and liberty and will speak good things for the future of his people. K | K. Naphtali |

Name: _____ Date: _____

Unscramble the names of Jacob's Sons

1. PSOEJH Joseph
2. VLIE Levi
3. EAHSR Asher
4. URNEBE Reuben
5. BZUELNU Zebulun
6. AND Dan
7. NEMISO Simeon
8. INEMBNJA Benjamin
9. SARICSA Issacar
10. TPLHNAIA Naphtali
11. GDA Gad
12. ADJUH Judah