

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning**, that **we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Gen. 47-49

Review

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. THE PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

C. The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—36:43

D. The Provider: Joseph, 37:1—47:26

E. The Conclusion, 47:27—50:26

1.The Death of Jacob, 47:27—50:21

a. Jacob's Foreknowledge, 47:27—49:27

(1)The Chosen Favorite, 47:27—48:22

(a)Jacob's Burial, 47:27-33

(b)Jacob's Bedside, 48:1-6

(c)Jacob's Bereavement, 48:7

(d)Jacob's Blindness, 48:8-12

(e)Jacob's Blessing, 48:13-16

(f)Jacob's Behavior, 48:17-20

(g)Jacob's Belief, 48:21-22

Tonight, we begin Gen. 49, the last days of Jacob as he gives an evaluation of, and a prophetic picture of the future for his family. Jacob states, "...that I may tell you *that* which shall befall you **in the last days**."

(49:1b) He will give prophesy of both advents of the Lord Jesus Christ.

These prophecies may be viewed *dispensationally* or *dispositionally*. The "judgment seat of Jacob" is an excellent picture of the "Judgment Seat of Christ."

Both the sons of Jacob and the children of God will learn about their inheritances or loss thereof. Join us to learn more, for we all have a special appointment:

Heb. 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

(2) The Chosen Family, 49:1-27

(a) Introduction, 49:1-2

Gen. 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**.

2 Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto **Israel** your father.

- ❖ Jacob creates a “family church” service to give his loved ones spiritual direction.
- ❖ Note the distinctive difference in verse 2 – “...sons of Jacob...Israel your father.”
- ❖ This gathering is a type of “The Judgment Seat of Christ” – evaluations of good and bad are given then, and now during “the judgment seat of Jacob.”
- ❖ Time is an excellent revelation of one’s character, Jacob had 147 years during his lifetime to observe his family.

Prov. 20:11 **Even a child is known by his doings**, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.

(b) Reuben, 49:3-4

i. His Unique Position, 49:3

Gen. 49:3 Reuben, thou *art* my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:

- ❖ The evaluation begins on a very positive note for Reuben.
- ❖ As literally the firstborn, Reuben was born into the family with potential for a special place and with special privileges.

- ❖ This is a picture of what “should have been” for Reuben’s life.
 - ii. His Unstable Personality, 49:4a
“Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel...”
- ❖ Jacob then begins to describe what the reality of Reuben’s life became.
- ❖ No ruler, prophet, priest, king or judge ever comes from the tribe of Reuben.
- ❖ Reuben’s character exhibited instability, and one that could not be counted upon.

iii. His Unscrupulous Passion, 49:4b

“...because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou *it*: he went up to my couch.”

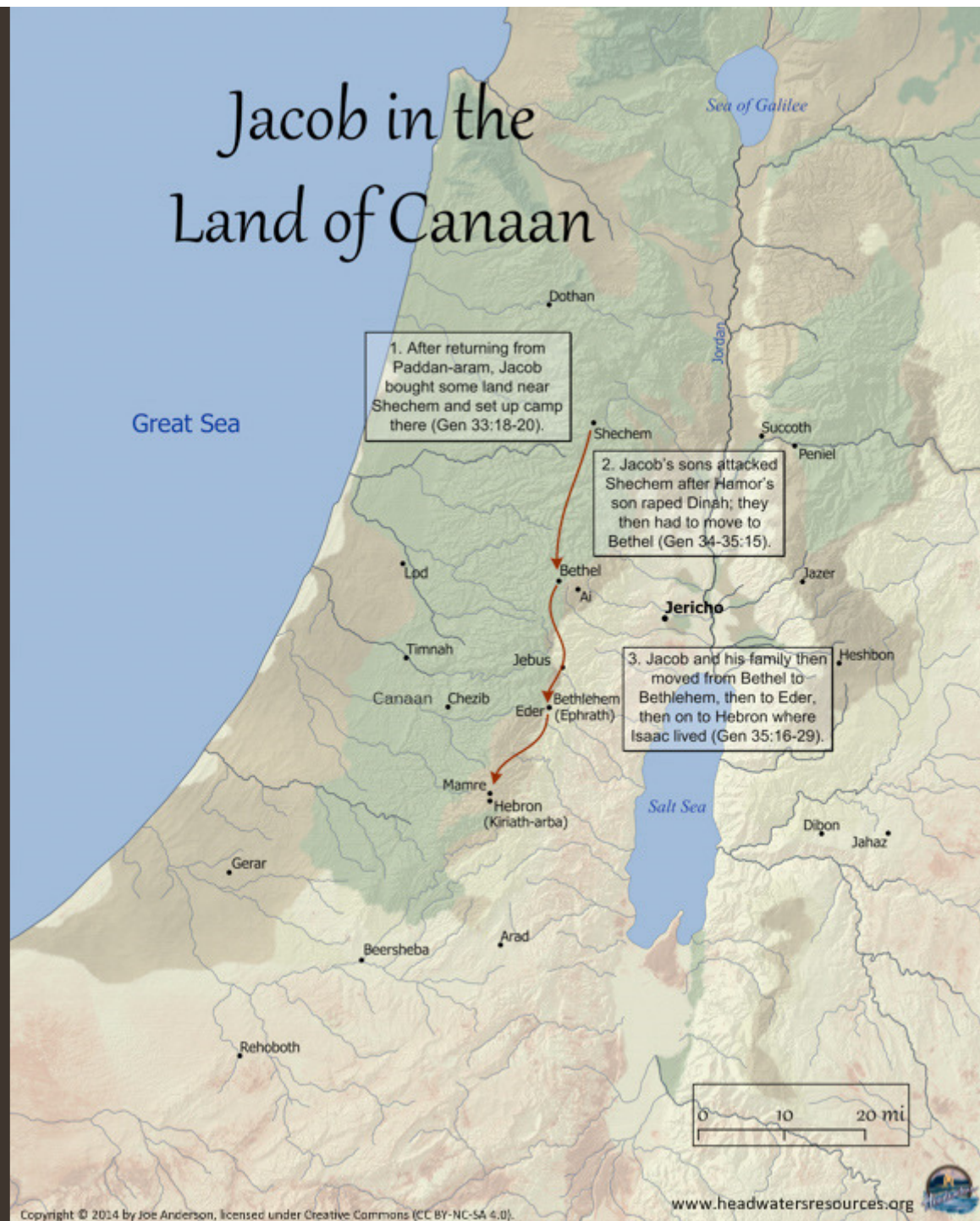
❖ During a very rough time in Jacob's life, his beloved Rachel died, Reuben selfishly dishonored and disrespected his father.

Gen. 35:20 And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that *is* the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day.

21 And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar.

22 And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard *it*. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:

Jacob in the Land of Canaan



- ❖ Reuben's selfish, sinful act cost him the blessing of the firstborn.
- ❖ Reuben's material blessings go to Joseph.
- ❖ Reuben's priestly blessings go to Simeon and then to Levi.
- ❖ Reuben's kingly blessings go to Judah.

2 Jn. 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we **lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.**

Gal. 6:8 For **he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption**; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

❖ On a positive side, Reuben tried to deter his brothers about selling Joseph into slavery, and did offer his sons to Jacob regarding Benjamin going to Egypt.

Gen. 42:22 And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required.

Gen. 42:37 And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again.

- ❖ Being the oldest, he did not have much influence on his brothers.
- ❖ Reuben was the first to want his inheritance, careless and greedy, wanted the lush pasture on the other side of Jordan.
- ❖ Reuben was the first to go into captivity.

1 Chron. 5:26 And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria, and **he carried them away, even the Reubenites**, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan, unto this day.

- ❖ Reuben's worse display of spiritual character was his failure over the years to repent.
- ❖ Forty years had passed since his sinful act and no sign of repentance.

Eccl. 8:11 **Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily**, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Num. 32:23 But if ye will not do so, **behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.**

(c) Simeon and Levi, 49:5-7

i. Their Close Brotherhood, 49:5a
“Simeon and Levi *are* brethren...”

❖ Simeon and Levi are discussed together as they were involved together in an important event in Shechem in Gen. 34.

ii. Their Criminal Behavior, 49:5b-6

“...**instruments of cruelty** *are in* their habitations.

Gen. 49:6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for **in their anger** they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.”

❖ The digging “down a wall” is an act of aggression – (See Psa. 7:15, 35:7; Ezek. 12:5; Job 24:16, 2 Kings 19:24)

Gen. 34:25 And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, **Simeon and Levi**, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males.

iii. Their Continuing Blame, 49:7

Gen. 49:7 **Cursed *be* their anger, for *it was* fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel:** I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.

- ❖ The prophecy of “I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel” would not be done by Jacob, as he was speaking for God Himself.
- ❖ Simeon will become the smallest of the 12 tribes.

- ❖ In Deut. 33, the blessing of Moses records something about all the tribes except Simeon.
- ❖ Levi had no land to inherit, and was scattered throughout the Promised Land.
- ❖ Simeon did not receive a full inheritance like his brothers, but a partial one within Judah.

Josh. 19:9 **Out of the portion of the children of Judah was the inheritance of the children of Simeon:** for the part of the children of Judah was too much for them: therefore the children of Simeon had their inheritance within the inheritance of them.

Summary

- ❖ At “the judgment seat of Jacob,” the first three sons, Reuben, Simeon, and Levi, were confronted with the reality of their sins and loss of rewards.
- ❖ Believers at “The Judgment Seat of Christ” will give an account of their works, good or bad to God.

2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before **the judgment seat of Christ**; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

Rom. 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

11 For it is written, **As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me**, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

❖ Like Jacob's sons, believers will face the judgment regarding an inheritance.

Conclusion

Col. 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord **ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance**: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Eph. 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, **hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.**

1 Cor. 6:9 Know ye not that **the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?** Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, **shall inherit the kingdom of God.**

Gal. 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

2 Jn. 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we **lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.**

1 Cor. 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, **he shall suffer loss**: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Heb. 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience **inherit the promises.**

1 Pet. 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, **that ye should inherit a blessing.**