

# 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. 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

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

(a)Introduction, 49:1-2

(b)Reuben, 49:3-4

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

(d) Judah, 49:8-12

i. The Leader, 49:8

ii. The Lion, 49:9

iii. The Lord, 49:10

iv. The Land, 49:11-12

Tonight, we continue in 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 called the "judgment seat of Jacob" and 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. Last week we learned about Judah. 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:

We begin with Zebulon who is not a prominent tribe in Israel. He was the youngest son of Leah and the 10<sup>th</sup> born (Gen 30:20). He was not a bold man like Judah nor a bad man like Reuben. Jacob does not mention any sinful acts of Zebulon, but describes his future regarding coastal interests.

## (e) Zebulun, 49:13

### i. His Costal Interests, 49:13a

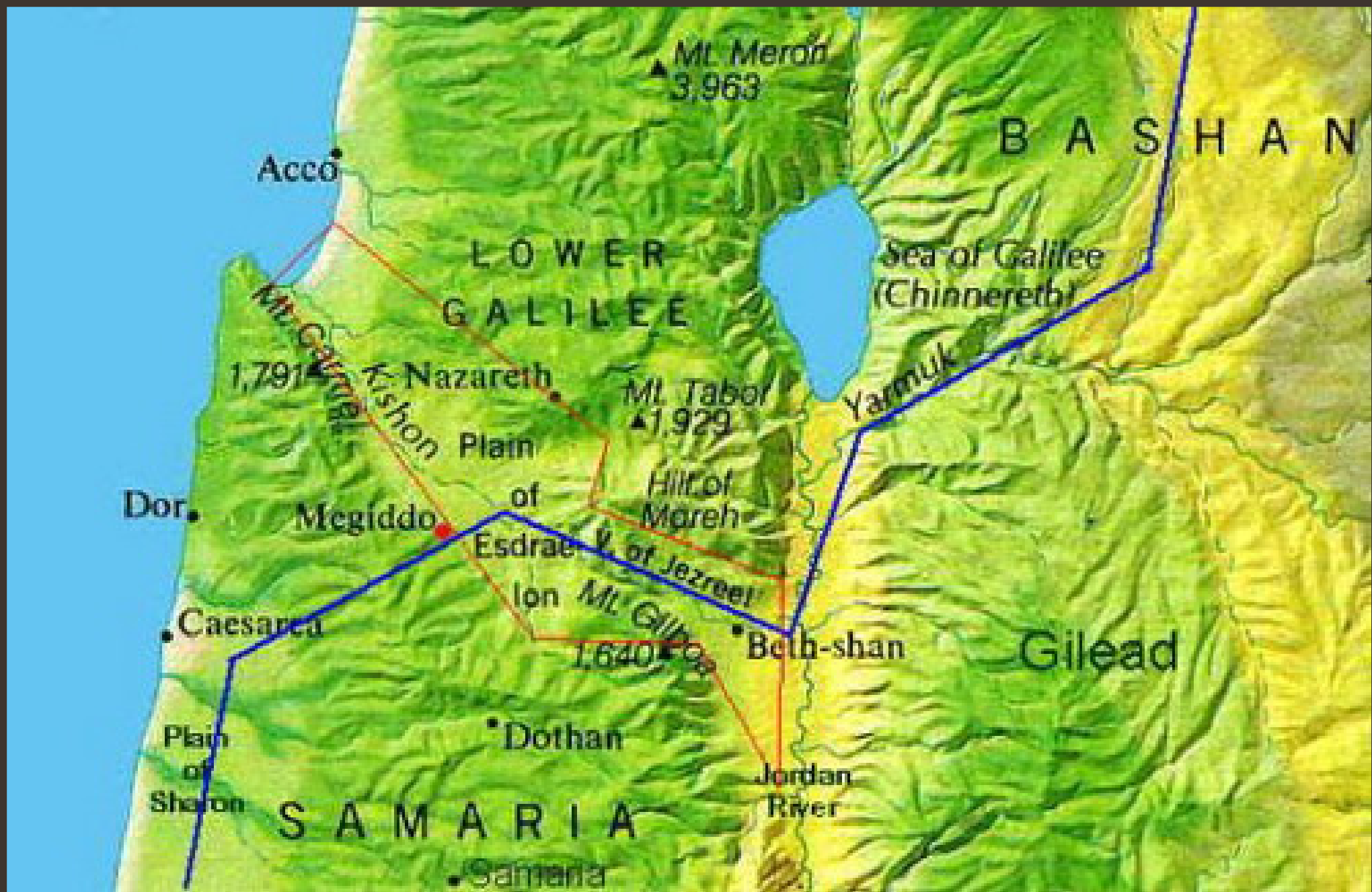
“Zebulun shall dwell at the haven  
of the sea...”

- ❖ All of the apostles come from the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.
- ❖ Zebulun's inheritance appears to run from Galilee to the seaports of Phoenicia, including the seaports Accho and Achzib near Mt. Carmel, north to Sidon.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/636626097299823841/>





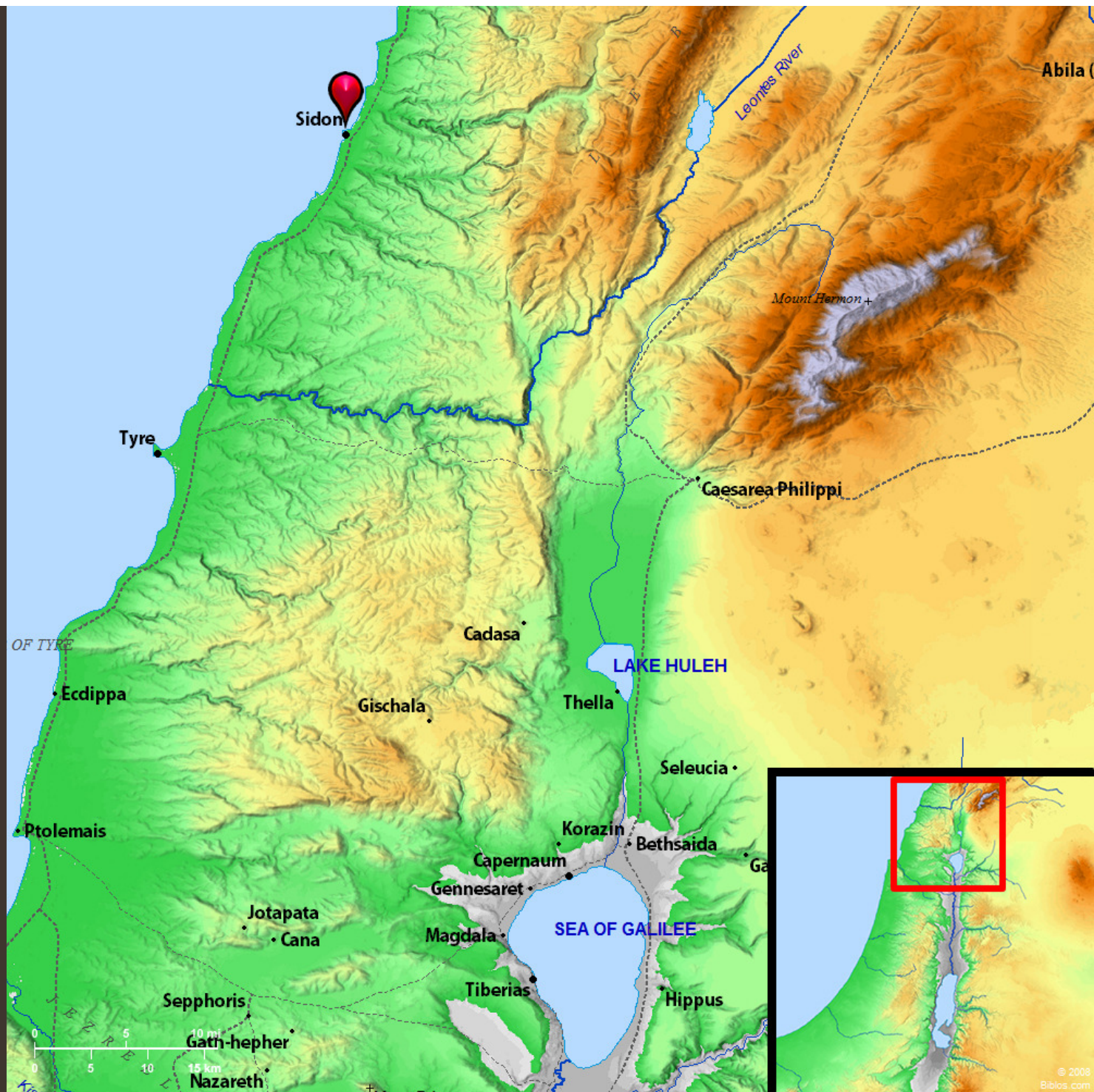
( See Josh. 18-19)

<https://www.britam.org/Kings/1Kings18.html>

ii. His Commercial Interests, 49:13b  
“...and he *shall be* for an haven of  
ships...”

❖ Being an “haven for ships” indicates location on sea  
coasts.

iii. His Continental Interests, 49:13c  
“...and his border *shall be* unto Zidon.”



<https://bibleatlas.org/full/sidon.htm>

- ❖ If Zebulun's inheritance extends north to Zidon (Sidon), it was located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, and extends eastward to Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee.
- ❖ From a prophetic perspective, Zebulun (Zabulon) and Naphtali (Nephthalim) are mentioned in Matthew as a quote from Isaiah.

Mt. 4:12 Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;  
13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:  
14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,  
15 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, *by* the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;  
16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.



Isa. 9:1 Nevertheless the dimness *shall* not *be* such as *was* in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict *her by* the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.

2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

❖ The next son to appear before Jacob is Issachar.

## (f) Issachar, 49:14-15

i. His Strength, 49:14a “Issachar *is* a strong ass...”

❖ Issachar means “there will be recompense” or “son of hire.”

Gen. 30:15 And she said unto her, *Is it* a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes.

16 And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must come in unto me; for **surely I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes.** And he lay with her that night.

17 And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son.

18 And Leah said, **God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar.**



- ❖ Issachar was the 9th son of Jacob and the 5th by Leah his first wife and the progenitor of a tribe by his name
- ❖ The symbol for strength may not be flattering, but the emphasis is strength, not wisdom and represents reliability and usefulness.
- ❖ The future generations of Issachar reflected a positive testimony.

1 Chron. 7:5 And their brethren among all **the families of Issachar were valiant men of might**, reckoned in all by their genealogies fourscore and seven thousand.

1 Chron. 12:32 And of **the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do**; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

ii. His Satisfaction, 49:14b-15a  
“...couching down between two burdens: 15 And he saw that rest *was* good, and the land that *it was* pleasant...”

❖ Issachar was not a warrior, but a burden-bearer. He was satisfied to live humbly in the background as a servant to his brethren.

iii. His Servitude, 49:15b “...and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.”

❖ Having a servant's heart, like the Lord Jesus, was a blessing to the nation, along with Zebulun and Naphtali, provided whatever Israel needed.

1 Chron. 12:40 Moreover they that were nigh them,  
*even* unto **Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali**,  
brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules,  
and on oxen, *and* meat, meal, cakes of figs, and  
bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and  
sheep abundantly: for ***there was joy in Israel***.

## Summary

- ❖ Each son gave a personal account of his actions to his father, Jacob.
- ❖ Each child of God will give a personal account of actions to His heavenly Father, at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Mt. 12:36 But I say unto you, That **every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.**

Rom. 14:12 So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

- ❖ The men of Issachar “...**were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do;**”
- ❖ Questions for believers to consider:
  - ✦ What is the nature of the world in which I am living?
  - ✦ What are the challenge(s) of my generation?
  - ✦ What direction is this culture headed?
  - ✦ What is the nature of the world's great crisis?

- ✦ How should I then live? How do I live a life of meaning, consequence, impact and influence for the cause of Christ?
- ✦ And most of all, how should our church take its place in the vanguard of cultural engagement and missional force.
- ✦ Consider two options:

Prov. 24:10 ***If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.***

1 Cor. 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, **quit you like men, be strong.**

## Conclusion

Phil. 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for **I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 **I can do all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.



15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

17 **Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.**

18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, **wellpleasing to God.**

19 **But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

20 Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.