

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

(e) Zebulun, 49:13

(g) Dan, 49:14-15

i. His Position, 49:16

ii.His Poison, 49:17

iii.His Pardon, 49:18

(h) Gad, 49:19

i. Vanquished – “**Gad, a troop** shall overcome him...”

ii.Victorious – “...but he shall overcome at the last.”

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 from their Fathers. Last week we learned about Dan and Gad standing before their father, Jacob. Tonight, we continue by considering Asher and Naphtali as they stand before Jacob. Join us to learn more: remember...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 tonight with Asher.

(i)Asher, 49:20

Gen. 49:20 Out of Asher his bread *shall be* fat, and he shall yield royal dainties. (See Josh. 19:24-31.)



- ❖ Scripture tells that Leah felt that she could no longer conceive and give Jacob any more children. Leah made the decision to give her maid, Zilpah, to Jacob, so he would be able to have more children. Jacob and Zilpah had Asher.
- ❖ Afterwards, Leah became pregnant again. She thought her childbearing time was over, but God had other plans.
- ❖ Leah and Jacob had two more sons, Issachar and Zebulun.

❖ The mothers of **Jacob's 12 sons** (*Genesis 35:22-26*) are as follows:

- Leah, mother of: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun
- Rachel, mother of: Joseph, Benjamin
- Zilpah (Leah's maid), mother of: Gad, Asher
- Bilhah (Rachel's maid), mother of: Dan, Naphtali

i. Life's Routine Rewards – “**Out of Asher his bread *shall be* fat...**”

Gen. 30:12 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a second son.

13 And Leah said, **Happy am I**, for the daughters will call me **blessed**: and she called his name Asher.

Original Word: אָשֶׁר; **Transliteration:** Asher;

Definition: "happy one", a son of Jacob, also the tribe descended from him, also perhaps a city in Palestine.

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/836.htm>

- ❖ Jacob and Zilpah had a son whom they named Gad. Asher was their second son. They named him Asher because Leah said the women would call her happy.
- ❖ The *Beatitudes* are a picture of Leah's heart regarding "blessed" and "happy."

Original Word: μακάριος; **Transliteration:** makarios;
Definition: blessed, happy; **Usage:** happy, blessed, to be envied.

makários (from *mak-*, "become long, large") –
properly, when God extends His benefits (the advantages He confers); blessed.

makários ("blessed") describes a believer in *enviable* ("fortunate") position from receiving God's *provisions (favor)* – which (literally) *extend* ("make long, large") His grace (benefits).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3107.htm>

- ❖ Asher would be “blessed with children” and would be wealthy, “...and let him dip his foot in oil.”

Deut. 33:24 And of Asher he said, *Let Asher be* blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil.

25 Thy shoes *shall be* iron and brass; and as thy days, *so shall* thy strength *be*.

- ❖ To have “shoes *shall be* iron and brass” indicates strength and judgment.

1 Chron. 12:23 And these *are* the numbers of the bands *that were* ready armed to the war, *and* came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

36 And **of Asher**, such as went forth to battle, **expert in war**, forty thousand.

ii. Life's Royal Riches – "...and he shall yield royal dainties."

❖ The yielding of "royal dainties" are pictured in two ways:

(1) Asher's return to support King Hezekiah:

2 Chron. 30:1 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel. ...

10 So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them.

11 Nevertheless divers of **Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun** humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem.

12 Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the LORD.

(2) Anna's declaration in the Temple when Mary's days of purification were accomplished:

Luke 2:22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present *him* to the Lord;

36 And there was one **Anna**, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, **of the tribe of Aser**: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37 And she *was* a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day.

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

(j) Naphtali, 49:21

Gen. 49:21 Naphtali *is* a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words.

Gen. 30:7 And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son.

8 And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali.

❖ Naphtali was the sixth son of Jacob, born to him by Rachel's handmaiden Bilhah. His name means “wrestling.” He was the biological younger brother of Dan.

❖ “...a hind let loose...” is a doe that is set free to wander, to do God’s will.

i. His Natural Wildness –

“Naphtali is a hind let loose...”

Deut. 33:23 And of Naphtali he said, **O Naphtali, satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the LORD:** possess thou the west and the south.

❖ The tribe of Naphtali inherited one of the most fertile areas in the Promised Land (see Josh. 19:32-39).



❖ The tribe of Asher produced grain, wine, oil, and minerals.

ii. His Notable Wisdom – “...he giveth goodly words.”

❖ Naphtali’s “goodly words” would be include those to Deborah.

Judges 4:6 And **she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali**, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, *saying*, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?
10 And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet: and Deborah went up with him.

Judges 5:12 Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, utter a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam.

❖ Naphtali's "goodly words" would include those made by Jonah:

2 Kings 14:25 He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to **the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet,** which *was* of Gathhepher.

❖ Naphtali's "goodly words" are found best in Mt. 4:13-17 as the Lord Jesus begins His earthly ministry.

Mt. 4:13 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.

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Summary

- ❖ As Jacob continued his prophetic “judgment seat,” with Asher and Naphtali, the characteristics of each tribe was favorable.
- ❖ Not every statement of Jacob regarding the two tribes’ future will be clearly understood as it is yet to be fulfilled or completed.
- ❖ Believers, as children of the heavenly Father, will give an account to Him regarding representation of His legacy.
- ❖ Future inheritance, or loss of it, will be determined at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Conclusion

Rom. 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

11 For there is no respect of persons with God.