

# 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

(f) Issachar, 49:14-15

(g) Dan, 49:16-18

(h) Gad, 49:19

(i) Asher, 49:20

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

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

(j) Naphtali, 49:21

- i. His Natural Wildness – “**Naphtali is a hind let loose...**”
- ii. His Notable Wisdom – “...he giveth goodly words.”

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:

## (k) Joseph, 49:22-26

❖ Jacob has had ten of his twelve sons come before him and now addresses his two favorite, born to him by Rachel, his favorite wife. He begins with Joseph in his longest oracle in addressing his sons.

Gen. 30:1 And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, **Give me children, or else I die.**

22 And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.

23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach:

24 And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.

**Original Word:** יוֹסֵף; **Transliteration:** Yoseph

**Definition:** "he increases", a son of Jacob, also the name of several Israelites (Jehovah has added)

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3130.htm>

- ❖ Courage, strength, and wisdom all have their rewards, but it is Christlikeness in us that will be the most important at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- ❖ Jacob addresses four characteristics of Joseph reflective of Christ: fruitfulness, foes, faith, and fulness.



## i. His Fruitfulness, 49:22

Gen. 49:22 Joseph *is* a fruitful bough, *even* a fruitful bough by a well; *whose* branches run over the wall:

❖ Joseph named his second son Ephraim, a testimony of God's blessing of fruitfulness.

Gen. 41:52 And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

❖ Joseph was blessed with fruitfulness in spite of his experience “in the land of my affliction.”

Deut. 33:13 And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the LORD *be* his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,

14 And for the precious fruits *brought forth* by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon,

15 And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills,

16 And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and *for* the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: **let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.**

17 His glory *is like* the firstling of his bullock, and his horns *are like* the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they *are* the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they *are* the thousands of Manasseh.

## ii. His Foes, 49:23

Gen. 49:23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot *at him*, and hated him:

❖ Joseph, like Jesus, was a target of persecution, lies, and hatred.

## iii. His Faith, 49:24

Gen. 49:24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty *God* of Jacob; (from thence *is* the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)

- ❖ The source of Joseph's strength was his knowledge of the true God.
- ❖ Five titles of the Lord are mentioned in this passage. Each illustrates some aspect of His character:
  - “the mighty *God* of Jacob” (v. 24)
  - “the shepherd” (v. 24)
  - “the stone of Israel” (v. 24)
  - “the “God [El] of thy father (v. 25)
  - the Almighty” (v. 25).

- ❖ Although each of these titles bears precious truth, the last one, “Almighty” is the Hebrew word *Shaddai*, which carries the idea of *All-Sufficient One* or *Sustainer*.
- ❖ The “shepherd” is a reference to the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent of Christ and the “stone of Israel” is a reference to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Christ.

1 Pet. 5:4 And **when the chief Shepherd shall appear**, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Heb. 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead **our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep**, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Mt. 21:44 And **whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken:** but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

#### iv. His Fullness, 49:25-26

Gen. 49:25 *Even* by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb:  
26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and **on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.**

- ❖ The words “bless” and “blessings” are used six times in these two verses.
- ❖ Joseph “was separate from his brethren” is the first use of the Hebrew word “nazir.”

**Original Word:** נָזִיר **Transliteration:** nazir

**Definition:** one consecrated, devoted

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/5139.htm>

Num. 6:13 And this *is* the law of the **Nazarite**, when the days of his **separation** are fulfilled: he shall be brought unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:

❖ The patriarchal blessing, normally reserved for the firstborn son, was imparted instead to Joseph.

1 Chron. 5:1 Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he *was* the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, **his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph** the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.  
2 For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him *came* the chief ruler; but **the birthright was Joseph's**:  
(See Gen. 49:3-4 & Deut. 21:17)



## Summary

- ❖ Jacob addresses four characteristics of Joseph reflective of Christ: fruitfulness, foes, faith, and fulness.
- ❖ The “shepherd” is a reference to the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent of Christ and the “stone of Israel” is a reference to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Christ.
- ❖ The Christlikeness of Joseph opened the door of God’s blessing upon him.

## Conclusion

Gen. 45:4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I *am* Joseph your brother, **whom ye sold into Egypt**.

5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, **that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life**. ...

7 And **God sent me** before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 **So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God**: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.