

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

(j) Naphtali, 49:21

(k) Joseph, 49:22-26

i. His Fruitfulness, 49:22

ii. His Foes, 49:23

iii. His Faith, 49:24

iv. His Fullness, 49:25-26

Tonight, we head toward the conclusion of Gen. 49, the last days of Jacob as he finishes 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 Joseph. Tonight, we continue by considering Benjamin. 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:

Tonight, we finish Jacob's evaluation of his sons by observing his comments on Benjamin.

(I) Benjamin, 49:27

i. His Character – 49:27a

“Benjamin shall ravine *as* a wolf...”

❖ Benjamin's birth was both a blessing and a sorrow:

Gen. 35:16 And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.

17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.

18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.

Original Word: בֶּן־אֹנִי **Transliteration:** Ben-oni

Definition: "son of my sorrow", or "son of my pain."

Rachel's name for Benjamin

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/1126.htm>

❖ When Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, Benjamin became Jacob's favorite son and Jacob was protective of him.

Gen. 42:3 And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.

4 But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.

Gen. 42:36 And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved *of my children*: Joseph *is not*, and Simeon *is not*, and ye will take Benjamin *away*: all these things are against me. ...

38 And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

Deut. 33:12 *And* of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him; *and the LORD* shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.

❖ See Josh. 18:11-28 for the description of Benjamin's inherited boundaries.

❖ Jerusalem was within Benjamin's territory:

Josh. 18:28 And Zelah, Eleph, and **Jebusi, which is Jerusalem**, Gibeath, *and* Kirjath; fourteen cities with their villages. This *is* the inheritance of the children of Benjamin according to their families.

- ❖ Jacob prophesied that his youngest “shall *ravin* as a wolf.” The word translated *ravin* comes from a verb which means *to tear*.
- ❖ A wolf is the fifth animal used by Jacob to characterize the future course of his sons’ descendants. Judah is a lion (v. 9); Issachar is a donkey (v. 14); Dan is a serpent (v. 17); Naphtali is a deer (v. 21); and Benjamin is a wolf (v. 27).
 - ii. His Conquests, 49:27b “...in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.”
- ❖ The “morning” could refer to Saul, the first king, and “at night” could refer to Saul of Tarsus.

❖ Jacob thus declared that Benjamin would be characterized by a vicious and warlike attitude. That Jacob spoke thus of his youngest, of whom he was so fond, is a striking surprise to many. His words must have arisen from the Spirit of God and not just from the tender feelings which he undoubtedly had for young Benjamin. Matthew Henry eloquently declared, “It is plain that Jacob spoke by prophecy and not by natural affection, else he would have spoken with more tenderness of his beloved Benjamin.”

Did Jacob's prophecy come true? Did Benjamin's descendants evidence such a ravenous, wolf-like spirit? To answer these questions requires that we take a look at the son Benjamin and also at the tribe Benjamin.

[https://israelmyglory.org/article/benjamin-a-ravenous-wolf/#:~:text=Jacob%20prophesied%20that%20his%20youngest%20%20shall%20ravin%20as,verse%2C%20%20%20Benjamin-a%20wolf%20which%20tears%20in%20pieces%20..."](https://israelmyglory.org/article/benjamin-a-ravenous-wolf/#:~:text=Jacob%20prophesied%20that%20his%20youngest%20%20shall%20ravin%20as,verse%2C%20%20%20Benjamin-a%20wolf%20which%20tears%20in%20pieces%20...)

❖ The tribe of Benjamin produced Ehud, King Saul, Jonathan, Saul of Tarsus (Paul) and many other warriors.

Judges 20:16 Among all this people *there were* seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; **every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss.**

1 Chron. 12:1 Now these *are* they that came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish: and they *were* among the mighty men, helpers of the war.

2 *They were* armed with bows, and **could use both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows out of a bow**, *even* of Saul's brethren of Benjamin.

Judges 3:15 But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, **Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded**: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab.

Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.

Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Phil. 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, ***of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews***; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Summary

- ❖ The “family meeting” with Jacob and his sons was private and pointed.
- ❖ Jacob’s “judgment seat” had been painful for some and pleasant for others, but overall, perfect in each case.
- ❖ An overlying principle is that each one reaped what had been sown.
- ❖ The same principle will be repeated at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Conclusion

Job 4:8 Even as I have seen, **they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.**

Hos. 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for [it is] time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

2 Cor. 9:6 But this *I say*, **He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.**

Gal. 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for **whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**
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.**