**Lesson 29 Genesis 49**

**Jacob Blesses His Sons**

1. As you read through this chapter, list Jacob’s sons and the most important prediction made about each. (Genesis 49:1-27 is on back page)

2. Which prophecy points to the Messiah who will rule the nations?

3. How did the Lord turn the original curse of Levi (Genesis 49) into a blessing? (See Deut. 33:8-10 and Numbers 18:20)

Deut. 33:8-10

8 Of Levi he said: Give to Levi your Thummim,your Urim\* to your faithful one; Him you tested at Massah, contended against him at the waters of Meribah.

9 He said of his father and mother, “I have no regard for them”; His brothers he would not acknowledge, and his own children he did not recognize. For they kept your words, and your covenant they upheld.

10 They teach your ordinances to Jacob, your law to Israel. They bring incense to your nostrils, and burnt offerings to your altar.

Numbers 18:20

20 Then the LORD said to Aaron:\* You shall not have any heritage in their land nor hold any portion among them; I will be your portion and your heritage among the Israelites.

4. If we are conscious of having experienced the consequences of a former sin, what comfort could we receive from Levi’s ultimate position?

5. In Deuteronomy 33:13-17 (see back page) we find that Joseph’s blessings are now transferred to his two sons that have formed tribes bearing their names. List some of the blessings transferred to Ephraim and Manasseh.

6 Give four verses in Chapter 33 of Deuteronomy from which we could take comfort and spiritual strength.

**Genesis 50**

7. What do you make of the brothers fear described in verses 15-18? Is it justified?

15 Now that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers became fearful and thought, “Suppose Joseph has been nursing a grudge against us and now most certainly will pay us back in full for all the wrong we did him!”

16 So they sent to Joseph and said: “Before your father died, he gave us these instructions:

17 ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph: Please forgive the criminal wrongdoing of your brothers, who treated you harmfully.’ So now please forgive the crime that we, the servants of the God of your father, committed.” When they said this to him, Joseph broke into tears.

18 Then his brothers also proceeded to fling themselves down before him and said, “We are your slaves!”

8. What outstanding characteristic of Joseph’s life would you like to make a part of yours?

9. In review, using Genesis Chapter 1 through Chapter 11, what particularly impressed you concerning:

A. Creation?

B. Fall of Adam & Eve?

C. Cain & Abel?

D. Noah?

10. What to you stands out most of all in this study of Genesis? Could you share with the group any real change this study has made in your life or what has been Genesis’ significance been to you?

Genesis 49:1-27

1 Jacob called his sons and said: “Gather around, that I may tell you what is to happen to you in days to come.

2 “Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob, listen to Israel, your father.

3 “You, Reuben, my firstborn, my strength and the first fruit of my vigor, excelling in rank and excelling in power!

4 Turbulent as water, you shall no longer excel, for you climbed into your father’s bed and defiled my couch to my sorrow.

5 “Simeon and Levi, brothers indeed, weapons of violence are their knives.

6 Let not my person enter their council, or my honor be joined with their company; For in their fury they killed men, at their whim they maimed oxen.

7 Cursed be their fury so fierce, and their rage so cruel! I will scatter them in Jacob, disperse them throughout Israel.

8 “You, Judah, shall your brothers praise—your hand on the neck of your enemies; the sons of your father shall bow down to you.

9 Judah is a lion’s cub, you have grown up on prey, my son. He crouches, lies down like a lion, like a lioness—who would dare rouse him?

10 The scepter shall never depart from Judah, or the mace from between his feet, Until tribute comes to him, and he receives the people’s obedience.

11 He tethers his donkey to the vine, his donkey’s foal to the choicest stem. In wine he washes his garments, his robe in the blood of grapes.

12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk.

13 “Zebulun shall dwell by the seashore; he will be a haven for ships, and his flank shall rest on Sidon.

14 “Issachar is a rawboned donkey, crouching between the saddlebags.

15 When he saw how good a settled life was, and how pleasant the land, He bent his shoulder to the burden and became a toiling serf.

16 “Dan shall achieve justice\* for his people as one of the tribes of Israel.

17 Let Dan be a serpent by the roadside, a horned viper by the path, That bites the horse’s heel,

so that the rider tumbles backward.

18 “I long for your deliverance, O LORD!

19 “Gad shall be raided by raiders, but he shall raid at their heels.

20 “Asher’s produce is rich, and he shall furnish delicacies for kings.

21 “Naphtali is a hind let loose, which brings forth lovely fawns.

22 “Joseph is a wild colt, a wild colt by a spring, wild colts on a hillside.

23 Harrying him and shooting, the archers opposed him;

24 But his bow remained taut, and his arms were nimble, By the power of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,

25 The God of your father, who helps you, God Almighty, who blesses you, With the blessings of the heavens above,the blessings of the abyss that crouches below,The blessings of breasts and womb,

26 the blessings of fresh grain and blossoms, the blessings of the everlasting mountains, the delights of the eternal hills. May they rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers.

27 “Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; mornings he devours the prey, and evenings he distributes the spoils.”

Deuteronomy 33

Blessing upon the Tribes.

1 This is the blessing with which Moses, the man of God, blessed the Israelites before he died.

2 He said: The LORD came from Sinai and dawned on his people from Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran.

With him were myriads of holy ones; at his right hand advanced the gods.

3 Indeed, lover of the peoples, all the holy ones are at your side; They follow at your heels, carry out your decisions.

4 Moses charged us with the law, as a possession for the assembly of Jacob.

5 A king arose\* in Jeshurun when the chiefs of the people assembled, and the tribes of Israel united.

6 May Reuben live and not die out, but let his numbers be few.

7 Of Judah he said this: Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, and bring him to his people. His own hands defend his cause; be a help against his foes.

8 Of Levi he said: Give to Levi your Thummim,your Urim\* to your faithful one; Him you tested at Massah, contended against him at the waters of Meribah.

9 He said of his father and mother, “I have no regard for them”; His brothers he would not acknowledge, and his own children he did not recognize. For they kept your words, and your covenant they upheld.

10 They teach your ordinances to Jacob, your law to Israel. They bring incense to your nostrils, and burnt offerings to your altar.

11 Bless, LORD, his strength, be pleased with the work of his hands. Crush the loins of his adversaries and of his foes, that they may not rise.

12 Of Benjamin he said: The beloved of the LORD, he abides in safety beside him; He shelters him all day long; the beloved abides at his breast.

13 Of Joseph he said: Blessed by the LORD is his land with the best of heaven above and of the abyss crouching beneath;

14 With the best of the produce of the sun, and the choicest yield of the months;

15 With the finest gifts of the ancient mountains and the best from the everlasting hills;

16 With the best of the earth and its fullness, and the favor of the one who dwells on Sinai. Let these come upon the head of Joseph and upon the brow of the prince among his brothers.

17 His firstborn bull, majesty is his! His horns are the horns of a wild ox; With them he gores the peoples, attacks the ends of the earth. These are the myriads of Ephraim, and these the thousands of Manasseh.

18 Of Zebulun he said: Rejoice, Zebulun, in your expeditions, exult, Issachar, in your tents!

19 They invite peoples to the mountain where they offer right sacrifices, Because they suck up the abundance of the seas and the hidden treasures of the sand.

20 Of Gad he said: Blessed be the one who has made Gad so vast! He lies there like a lion;he tears the arm, the head as well.

21 He saw that the best should be his, for there the commander’s portion was assigned; he came at the head of the people. He carried out the justice of the LORD and his ordinances for Israel.

22 Of Dan he said: Dan is a lion’s cub, that springs away from a viper!

23 Of Naphtali he said: Naphtali, abounding with favor, filled with the blessing of the LORD, take possession of the west and south.

24 Of Asher he said: Most blessed\* of sons be Asher! May he be the favorite among his brothers, and may he dip his foot in oil!

25 May the bolts of your gates be iron and bronze; may your strength endure through all your days!

26There is none like the God of Jeshurun, who rides the heavens in his power, who rides the clouds in his majesty;

27The God of old is a refuge; a support are the arms of the Everlasting. He drove the enemy out of your way and he said, “Destroy!”

28Israel abides securely, Jacob dwells apart, In a land of grain and wine, where the heavens drip with dew.

29 Happy are you, Israel! Who is like you, a people delivered by the LORD, Your help and shield, and the sword of your glory. Your enemies cringe before you; you stride upon their backs