

JACOB'S FAMILY MEETING
(Genesis 49:1-33)

- I. Jacob's ORACLE (Gen. 49:1-28)
 - A. The CONTENT of the message (49:1-2)
 1. POETIC in form
 2. PROPHETIC in nature
 - B. Messages for the sons of LEAH (49:3-15)
 1. Reuben is UNSTABLE and will not EXCELL (vv. 3-4)
 - a. Jacob knows of his SIN
 - b. He will not receive the BIRTHRIGHT
 2. Simeon and Levi are cruelly VIOLENT and willfully ANGRY, so they will be DIVIDED and SCATTERED "in Israel" (vv. 5-7)
 - a. Simeon will be ABSORBED by JUDAH
 - b. Levi will assume the responsibility for the PRIESTHOOD
 3. Judah, STRONG and COURAGEOUS, will be PRAISED by his brothers, VICTORIOUS over his enemies, and will RULE (vv. 8-12)
 4. Zebulun's promise is DIFFICULT (v. 13)
 5. Issachar's promise is also DIFFICULT (vv. 14-15)
 - a. May mean he will be strong and hard-working, but UNAMBITIOUS

- b. May mean that he would tackle physically DAUNTING tasks
 - C. Messages for the sons of the HANDMAIDS (49:16-21)
 - 1. Dan will “JUDGE his people” (vv. 16-17)
 - * An “interlude” of CONFIDENT PRAISE (v. 18)
 - 2. Gad will be OVERCOME by “raiders” but that he would overcome at the END” (v. 19)
 - 3. Asher is promised agricultural BOUNTY (v. 20)
 - 4. Naphtali will be swift and success in BATTLE and eloquent in SONG (v. 21)
 - D. Messages for the sons of RACHEL (49:22-27)
 - 1. Joseph will be FRUITFUL but HATED, yet made STRONG by God (vv. 22-26)
 - 2. Benjamin is a ravenous WOLF which DEVOURS prey in the morning and DIVIDES the spoil at night (v. 27)
- II. Jacob’s LAST WORDS (Gen. 49:28-33)
- A. Jacob’s FAMILY emphasis
 - 1. Identifies these as the “twelve TRIBES of ISRAEL”
 - 2. Included ALL twelve sons in his BLESSING
 - B. Jacob’s final CHARGE to BURY him in CANAAN
 - 1. He anticipates both his DEATH and his future RESURRECTION
 - 2. He expects his burial to be a TESTIMONY of his FAITH