

Genesis 49 Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - A Passing Pleasure, But at What Cost? Genesis 49:4

Concerning Reuben, Jacob declared “Uncontrolled as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father’s bed; then you defiled it” (Gen. 49:4, cf. Gen. 35:22). “Reuben was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father’s bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph” (1 Chron. 5:1). In one fleeting moment of sinful passion, Reuben threw away his birthright. Christian, “This is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality” (1 Thess. 4:3). Read 1 John 2:16

☐ Tuesday - Generational Sins Broken. Genesis 49:7

Simeon and Levi were murderers (Gen. 34:25), and as a consequence of their sin they were given no inheritance in the land (Gen. 49:7). The descendants and tribe of Simeon would live in cities within Judah and were eventually absorbed by that tribe. But, by God’s grace, the descendants of Levi would become priests under the Old Covenant (Num. 3:5-13). Though the sins of the fathers are often imitated by subsequent generations (Ex. 34:6), God can break the cycle of generational sins. For later we read that that God raised up for Levi a son, Moses, who would deliver Israel from bondage in Egypt (Ex. 1-12), and to be the administrator of the Old Covenant (Ex. 19ff). Read Romans 12:1-2

☐ Wednesday - Worship Practice. Genesis 49:8

“Judah, your brothers shall praise you ... your father’s sons shall bow down to you.” This verse is fully realized, not in David, but Christ to whom, one day, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil. 2:9-11). On that day, even the impenitent will bow, cringing in terror before the One they have rejected all their lives. But the “Father’s sons,” as this verse calls them, bow in praise! To this last group He says “*well done*” (Mt. 25:21, 23), because their knees are *well*-calloused and their praises *well*-rehearsed by their daily practice of worship in this life. Read Psalm 95:6

☐ Thursday - Shiloh. Genesis 49:10

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples” (Gen. 49:10). Judah did not receive the scepter of leadership for over 640 years until David was crowned king of Israel. Yet the Judean kings were at best placeholders “until Shiloh comes” (Hebrew: *Shiloh* means “to whom it belongs”); that is, Christ. For “of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end” (Isa. 9:7). Christ has *already* ascended His throne (Heb. 1:3, 12:2). He is crowned with many crowns (Rev. 19:11-13). He has been coronated King of kings (Rev. 17:14, 19:16). His kingdom, now invisible (Lk. 17:21, KJV), will one day encompass the whole universe (2 Pet. 3:8-13). Dear friend, is He King of all the kingdoms of your heart? Read Isaiah 9:6-7

☐ Friday - He Speaks Beautiful Words. Genesis 49:21

Jacob declared, “Naphtali is a doe let loose, he gives beautiful words” (Gen. 49:21). We know that the tribe of Naphtali settled in the region near the Sea of Galilee (Josh. 19:32-39). Perhaps this prophecy anticipates the teaching ministry of Christ in this area (Matt. 4:12-16). Read Luke 4:22