**SDG - Lesson #27**

**Genesis – Chapter 49**

1. After blessing Joseph’s two sons, Jacob called his other 11 sons together for their blessing. However, Jacob does not call it a blessing. What does he call it? Why?

Jacob refers to it as telling them, “what shall happen to you in days to come.” This tells us that it is not Jacob’s wishes but rather what God had ordained for his sons.

2. What is meant by the phrase, “days to come?”

This is a phrase for the times or days of the distant future.

3. What does Jacob say to Reuben? Why?

Reuben would not be honored as the first-born (preeminence) because of what he did with Bilhah.

4. Why did Jacob put Simeon and Levi together?

Simeon and Levi are lumped together because of their sinful revenge on Shechem.

5. What is meant by the phrase, “I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel?”

The Levites received no land in the Promised Land. Instead they got the 48 sanctuary cities. Simeon received land within Judah. Neither tribe had power or influence.

6. Judah receives the most lengthy blessing. How would Judah’s brothers praise him?

This phrase introduces us to the dualistic nature of Judah’s blessing. Both the thrones of King David and Christ are in view.

7. What is the significance of the lion?

The lion is known as the king of the jungle and a sign of royalty.

8. What is the significance of the scepter?

The scepter was a bejeweled staff that symbolized royal authority.

9. “Until tribute comes to him” literally read, “until Shiloh comes.” Shiloh is a Hebrew word that means, “to whom it belongs.” So, the most literal translation reads, “Until to whom it belongs comes.” At first glance this might not make sense. To whom does everything belong?

(1st Cor. 15:25-27; Eph. 1:22; Heb. 2:8)

Everything belongs to Jesus.

10. Verses 11 and 12 describe what this person will do. What is meant by:

 Tying the foal or donkey’s colt to a choice vine – This is a reference to such abundance that a person would think nothing of tying their donkey to the choice vine and letting him eat it. It is reference to the Abundance of Heaven.

 Washing his garments in wine/blood – This is a reference to the great cost of redemption.

 Eyes darker than wine – represents deep wisdom

 Teeth whiter than milk – White is a symbol of righteousness. Teeth represent what is bitten off. Righteousness will prevail in victory.

11. What is said about:

 1) Zebulun -He will inherit the land to the north and be a coastal people.

 2) Issachar -He would compromise his principles and become a people enslaved.

 3) Dan -Dan means judge. Dan will be judged as one who falls away. Yet, those who trust the Lord will still be saved.

 4) Gad -Gad would be defeated. Ultimately, Gad will be victorious. This is probably a reference to salvation through the Messiah.

 5) Asher -Happy times were ahead for the tribe of Asher.

 6) Naphtali -Like Asher, there are brief words of hope and joy.

12. Just as Jacob had many words for Judah, Jacob has much to say about Joseph. Who were the archers that bitterly attacked him?

This is a reference to his brothers and their actions against him.

13. His bow remained unmoved and his arms were made agile. What is this a reference to?

Through all his trials, Joseph remained strong and pursued righteousness.

14. What enabled Joseph to do this?

God.

15. What are the 5 names/titles that Jacob used for God in his blessing of Joseph? What is the meaning of each?

 A – The Mighty God of Jacob – God is Almighty

 B – Shepherd – God leads and cares for His people. Even if one goes off, He is the Good Shepherd who will follow and seek to restore him.

 C – The Stone of Israel – The foundation of Israel

 D –The God of your father – The God of the patriarchs

 E – The Almighty – El Shaddai – This completes the circle and returns us to where we began. God is the Almighty One.

16. What would come from God to Joseph?

Jacob mentions bless/blessings six times.

17. Why was Joseph set apart? What other group of people were set apart in the Old Testament?

Nazirites were set apart to serve God. Joseph was set apart to serve God by saving his family from the famine.

18. What did Jacob say about Benjamin?

Benjamin is like a wolf. This is a warning. Wolves attack and are scorned. Benjamin would ultimately be almost totally wiped out by the other tribes.

19. What was Jacob’s final command to his sons?

Jacob commanded his sons to bury him in the cave where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah were buried.

**Chapter 50**

20. Embalming was not a Hebrew practice. Why did Joseph have his father embalmed?

Embalming was necessary to transport Jacob back to the Promised Land.

21. Twice Moses mentions that physicians embalmed Jacob. In the Egyptian culture the priests did the embalming. Why would Joseph have physicians do it instead?

Embalming was part of the religious practices of Egyptian theology. By having the physicians do this, Joseph is removing the religious act. It was therefore an act of practicality and nothing more.

22. What, if any significance, was it for the Egyptians to weep/mourn for Jacob over a 70 day period?

This was a practice that was reserved for royalty. Jacob was shown high honor.

23. What request did Joseph make of Pharaoh?

Joseph asked for permission to take his father back to Canaan.

24. Why would Joseph feel the need to ask Pharaoh for this favor?

Technically, Joseph was a slave. Even though Pharaoh had entrusted so much to Joseph, it was the proper thing to do.

25. In what ways did Pharaoh respond to Joseph’s request?

Pharaoh:

1. Gave Joseph permission to go
2. Sent his servants along
3. Sent the elders of his household
4. Sent the elders of Egypt
5. Sent chariots and horsemen along to provide an escort and guarantee safety.

26. Where was Jacob finally buried?

Jacob was buried in the cave of the field of Machpelah. This was where Abraham and Isaac were buried.

27. What concern did Joseph’s brothers have upon their return to Egypt?

They feared that Joseph might want to take revenge on them.

28. How did they address this concern?

It is interesting to note that the brothers sent a message to Joseph. Their fear was genuine, and they were afraid to even appear before Joseph. Their message was that Jacob had commanded them to ask Joseph for forgiveness on his behalf. Whether this was true or not, we do not know.

29. Why did Joseph weep when he received the message?

Joseph most likely felt sorry for his brothers and the guilt they continued to carry. It could also be that Joseph felt bad that he hadn’t sufficiently conveyed his forgiveness to them and to his father.

30. What is the significance of the brother’s actions in verse 18?

The brothers bowing before Joseph is another fulfillment of Joseph’s dream.

31. What is meant by the phrase, “Am I in the place of God?” (Deuteronomy 32:35)

Vengeance is an act of God. It is not to be the act of mankind.

32. What did Joseph acknowledge about what his brothers had done and their intentions behind their actions?

Joseph acknowledged that they had evil intentions.

33. What else did Joseph reveal about their actions?

God had turned what they had done into good.

34. How did Joseph reassure his brothers?

Joseph:

1. Spoke kindly to them.
2. Comforted his brothers.
3. Told the brothers he would provide for them and their families.

35. What was Joseph’s final request of his brothers?

Joseph had them take an oath that they would take his bones back to the Promised Land when God visited them and led them back.

36. Why would Moses end Genesis with this note?

This was an appropriate end because Moses and the people were being led by God to the Promised Land when Moses wrote Genesis and they were carrying Joseph’s mummy with them.