

Midrash Vayechai ("And He Lived")

Genesis 47:28 – 50:26

Jacob Makes a Request of Joseph

Genesis 47:28–31

"Do not bury me in Egypt, but let me lie with my fathers" (in Canaan)
Only Joseph had the authority (in Egypt) to make this happen
Suggesting that Israel was not free to leave on their own
When Joseph agreed:
He proved his allegiance is to Jacob, not Pharaoh
Then Jacob bowed to him – fulfilling Joseph's 2nd dream

Jacob Transfers the Birthright

Genesis 48:1–22

Manasseh is the elder; Ephraim is the younger
God chose the younger over the elder

"Joseph brought them from beside his knees" (verse 12)

Sign of adoption - Jacob was adopting *Manasseh & Ephraim*

Jeremiah 31:33

Jacob's (physical) eyes were dim (verse 10)....but his spiritual eyes were 20/20!

He deceived Isaac into giving him the Blessing of the Firstborn

Genesis 27:18-29

....but here he willingly gave the Firstborn Blessing to the younger

"multitude of nations" (v19) same Greek phrase as *"fullness of Gentiles"* in Rom 11:25

Jacob's Death (Skipping 49:1-28 for the time being)

Genesis 49:29 – 50:21

Jacob was embalmed ⇨ Israel is preserved among the Nations!

Large entourage of Egyptians to Jacob's internment in Canaan

To show support for Joseph ... or to insure Israel's return to Egypt???

Joseph's brothers were worried after Jacob's death

verse 15

....and sent a "message from Jacob" for forgiveness --- and bowed before him AGAIN!

Joseph's Death

Genesis 50: 22 – 26

Was Joseph the first of his brothers to die???

Assured them *"God will bring you out of this land..."*

Same words that Moses used

Exodus 3:16

Genesis began with God creating the earth ...and ended with Joseph in the earth (in Egypt)

Jacob Blesses His Sons (Returning to Chapter 49)

Genesis 49:1 – 28

Reuben - "Behold a Son"

Forfeited his birthright:

(I Chron 5:1- & Gen 35:22)

Double Portion to Joseph

Priest of Family to Levi

"King" of Family to Judah

Then to *Manasseh & Ephraim*

Ultimately to Yeshua as

Priest & King (Melchizedek)

"Shall not excel"

Involved in *Korah's* Rebellion

Numbers 16

Settled East of the Jordan

Exodus numbers declined slightly (46,500 to 43,730)

No Judge, King or Prophet from Reuben

"Unstable as water"

Shouted curses from Mt *Ebal*

Deut 27: 12-13

Simeon ("Heard") & Levi ("Joined To") (Moses is from Tribe of Levi)

"Instruments of Cruelty" – Defiling of Dinah

Genesis 34

Levi carried out Golden Calf punishment

Exodus 32

& *Phinehas'* Judgment

Numbers 25:6-9

"Divided & Scattered"

Simeon was absorbed into Judah's land allotment

Joshua 19:9

Levites were scattered throughout the Land - given the cities

Joshua 21:2

Judah - "Praise"

Incest with Tamar

Loyal to House of David during Revolt of 10 Tribes

Led the march in the Exodus

Commissioned by God to lead the conquest of the Promised Land

Royal Line (I Chron 5:2, "*nagid*", compare with Daniel 9:26)

"Scepter shall not depart" from Shiloh (Messiah)

Deposition of *Archelaus* in 6 AD

Genesis 38

I Kings 12:20

Numbers 10:14

Judges 1:1-3; 4-21

John 18:31

Zebulun - "Exalted"

Where the Galilee is located

11 of the 12 Disciples came from the Galilee

When Yeshua felt unsafe in Jerusalem, He fled to "Zebulun"

John 7:1

Issachar - "Hireling"

His land would be prosperous – the *Jezreel* Valley!

Strong – among the largest tribes entering The Land

Submitted to Canaanite invasion rather than fight

Dan - "Judge"

Judge of Israel – Samson was from Dan

First to fall into idolatry

Judges 18:30

Jeroboam set up two golden calves in Dan & Ephraim

Slighted in the genealogies:

Names of sons omitted ("*Hushim*")

Gen 46:23; Num 26:42

Name blotted out

I Chron 1-10; Rev 7

Name mentioned last

Num 10:25; Josh 19:47 & I Chron 27:16-22

Gad – "Troop"

East of Jordan – exposed to attack & 1st one to go into captivity

Fierce and warlike

I Chron 12:8 & 5:18-22

Elijah was from Gad

Gad will overcome

Jer 49:1-2; Zeph 2:8-9

Asher - "Happy"

"Royal Dainties" may refer to materials & workmen for Solomon's Temple

....or fertile land – Carmel along the Mediterranean Sea

Only one to keep Passover under Hezekiah

II Chron 30:1, 10-11

Prophetess Anna from Asher

Luke 2:36

Naphtali – "Wrestling" - Hind or deer

Capernaum, Chorazin & Beth Saida all located in Naphtali

Matt 4:13; 11:21-24

Joseph - "Added"

Favored, Despised, Sold, Humiliated, Imprisoned, then Exalted

Genesis 37-50

"A fruitful son, Joseph is a fruitful son by a spring; his daughters run over a wall."

Benjamin - "Son of My Right Hand"

Was the youngest & dearest

This implies ferocity

Judges 19; II Sam 2: I Chron 8 & 12, II Chron 17

History as archers and slingers

From Benjamin:

Ehud

Judges 3

King Saul & Jonathan

I Samuel 9 & 22

Saul of Tarsus

Romans 11:1

As we finish reading these final verses of Genesis, we say:

Chazak, chazak, ve-nitchazek! **Be strong, be strong, and we shall be strengthened!"**

Haftarah:

I Kings 2:1-12

King David's last words to Solomon

Brit Chadashah:

John 14:10-14

Yeshua's "Deathbed" words to His Disciples (& to us, also)