

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #100

Genesis 49:8-12

Genesis 49 is a chapter of accountability; it is a chapter of judgment. Israel (Jacob), the father, is judging every son and sentencing each according to the prophetic plan of God and what one had done or said prior to this judgment determined his eternal inheritance.

Previously we have seen that: 1) Some sons lose rewards because of instability and immorality - as in the~ case of Reuben (49:3-4); 2) Some sons lose rewards because of hostility and cruelty, as in the case of Simeon and Levi (49:5-7). However, just as there are sons who lose their rewards, so there are those who gain them.

EVERY SON OF GOD WILL BE CALLED TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, DEPENDING ON HOW THAT SON LIVED LIFE, SOME WILL LOSE REWARDS AND SOME WILL GAIN REWARDS.

In heaven, when it comes to rewards, there will be winners and losers, vessels of honor and dishonor, those with crowns and those without crowns. All will be sons, but not all are winning sons.

JUDGMENT #3 - Some sons are rewarded with great leadership positions because of their faithfulness in dealing with sin and sacrificing for others. 49:8-12

In eternity there will be great positions of leadership held by those faithful in life (Luke 19:11-27). In this text it is revealed that in eternity, **Judah** will be THE most honored tribe in Israel.

Question #1 - What exactly did Judah do to earn these rewards?

Judah was certainly no sinless saint. He was the fourth son of Leah (Genesis 29:31-35) and he had been somewhat of a womanizer, as illustrated by that episode with Tamar, who pretended to be a prostitute (38:2, 15-18). But there are three qualities that made him an award winner:

(Quality #1) - He was a brother who looked out for the welfare of other brothers. 37:26-27

While the rest of the brothers were looking out for their own self-centered interests, Judah was looking out for Joseph.

(Quality #2) - He was a brother who honestly admitted and judged his own sin. 38:26

When he realized he had committed immorality with Tamar, he judged himself and did not try to make excuses or explanations, nor did he try to cover his sin, he dealt with it and never did it again.

(Quality #3) - He was a brother willing to sacrifice his own life for his brother. 43:8-11; 44:33

Jacob knew he could trust Judah with Benjamin and when it was all on the line, Judah would sacrifice his own life for him.

Here is the key in eternity - award winners have dealt with sin, by confessing it and turning from it and they will have invested their lives for others. One who covers sin or is content in sin and only looks out for self, will never be a great award winner in God's eternity.

Question #2 - What were the rewards that Judah earned? 49:8-12

(Reward #1) - Judah would be the son of highest rank. 49:8a

The tribe selected by God to produce His son will be esteemed in rank forever by all brothers.

(Reward #2) - Judah would be the son of victorious conquering. 49:8b

No enemy will have dominated Judah, but he will have had the enemy by the throat.

(Reward #3) - Judah would be esteemed by the other sons. 49:8c

1 Chronicles 5:2 says: "Judah prevailed over his brothers and from him came the leader."

(Reward #4) - Judah will be a mighty son. 49:9

Two courageous, mighty leaders came from Judah: David (Matthew 1:1-2) and Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:1-2).

(Reward #5) - Judah will be a judge. 49:10

Shiloh: 1) Specific place (I Samuel 4:12); 2) Specific person; 3) Specific rest-giver; 4) Messiah. The idea is that Judah will be recognized as the tribe which rules right up until the Messiah comes who will judge the world and give rest to the world.

(Reward #6) - Judah will be a rewarded son. 49:11-12

These verses describe a couple of things: 1) Judah has the best of everything – the choicest vines; 2) Judah was willing to suffer and sacrifice in life, which earned him all of this.

- 1) One may lose rewards because of instability.
- 2) One may lose rewards because of immorality.
- 3) One may lose rewards because of uncontrollability.
- 4) One may lose rewards because of cruelty.
- 5) One may earn rewards because of honesty.
- 6) One may earn rewards because of victory.
- 7) One may earn rewards because of sacrifices.