

BLESSINGS AND PROPHECIES — GENESIS 49

TRIBE		BIRTH	WIFE
1	REUBEN YOU SHALL NOT EXCEL — v.3-4 Reuben is Jacob's physical firstborn son. He forfeited that right because of immorality with his father's concubine Bilhah (Ge.35:22).	1	Leah
2-3	SIMEON & LEVI I WILL SCATTER THEM IN ISRAEL — v.5-7 - Because of Reuben and Levi's violence against the men of Shechem they will be scattered among the tribes. - The prophecy of dividing was a CURSE for Simeon, but a BLESSING for Levi.	2-3	Leah
4	JUDAH THE SCEPTER SHALL NOT DEPART — v.8-12 - Judah inherited the leadership aspect of the firstborn's inheritance. - The scepter belongs to Shiloh. Judah's descendants, including David, borrows it for a time. - Judah was to exercise leadership among the tribes until Shiloh came at which time Shiloh would extend Judah's rule to worldwide dominion.	4	Leah
5	ZEBULUN A HAVEN FOR SHIPS — v.13 - Zebulun would be enriched by seaborne trade with Tyre and Sidon. It did not actually border the Mediterranean Sea as Asher did (Js.19:10-11). - Zebulun supported David's army with the most soldiers.	10	Leah
6	ISSACHAR A STRONG DONKEY — v.14-15 - He would enjoy the good land assigned him but would not strive for it. - Oppressive foreign armies would put them into servitude ("band of slaves").	9	Leah
7	DAN A SERPENT BY THE WAY — v.16-18 - Dan was to provide justice ("Dan" means "judge"), but the tribe chose treachery, like a snake by the roadside. - Dan led Israel into idolatry (Judges 18) and was therefore similar to a serpent.	5	Bilhah
8	GAD HE SHALL TRIUMPH AT LAST — v.19 - Border raids were often experienced by the tribes settled east of the Jordan River (1Ch.5:18-19). - But he will go after them and retrieve the spoils.	7	Zilpah
9	ASHER HE SHALL YIELD ROYAL Dainties — v.20 Asher would be fertile and productive, providing rich food.	8	Zilpah
10	NAPHTALI HE USES BEAUTIFUL WORDS — v.21 Naphtali evidently would enjoy the admiration and appreciation of the other tribes in a special way (Judges 4-5).	6	Bilhah
11	JOSEPH A FRUITFUL BOUGH — v.22-26 Joseph is singled out among the sons of Rachel to receive the "material blessings," the double inheritance (i.e., Ephraim and Manasseh).	11	Rachel
12	BENJAMIN A RAVENOUS WOLF — v.27 Benjamin had a reputation for fierceness and cruelty. She produced many warriors (Ehud, Saul, Jonathan). In the NT Paul was cruel before he was saved.	12	Rachel

- The LEADERSHIP of the tribes went to Judah
- The PRIESTHOOD of the tribes went to Levi
- The DOUBLE PORTION (birth right) of the tribes went to Joseph