

THE FATHERLY BLESSINGS OF ISAAC AND JACOB

Genesis 27, 49

In Genesis 12-50, the chapters which give the history of the Age of the Patriarchs, there are very few literary selections preserved for us. Those we do have, however, are strikingly similar. Study them below:

A. Isaac's Blessings on His Two Sons: Read Genesis 27:

1. What did Isaac plan to do to his son Esau? Genesis 27:4e

2. What blessings did Isaac have that he could pass on to his sons? Genesis 12:1-3, 17:19

3. Which of Isaac's sons had God said would be stronger? Genesis 25:23

4. Yet to which son did Isaac plan to give the best blessing? Genesis 27:24

5. Read Genesis 27:27-29, remembering to *see* what took place, to *feel* what each person must have felt, and to *think* about what is being said.

6. Re-read this speech again, marking every parallelism you can find.

7. What part of Esau's blessing was the same as Jacob's? Genesis 27:39-40

8. What part of it was the exact opposite of Jacob's? Genesis 27:39-40

9. Do you know how Genesis 27:40 has been fulfilled in history? Ask someone.

B. Jacob's Blessings on His Twelve Sons: Read Genesis 49:

1. After Jacob had received the blessings from his father, to whom would he ordinarily pass them on? See Geneses 49:3

2. Why would Jacob not give the blessings to Reuben? Genesis 49:4

3. Which son received the right to rule the family? Genesis 49:8a, c

4. What kind of people did Jacob predict would be descended from this son? Genesis 49:10a-b and THINK!

5. What would be the final fulfillment of this prediction? Genesis 49:10c-d

2 Bible Discoveries: Literature of the OT Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
Book 1 Before the Nation Began through Era of the Judges

6. To what son did Jacob give a double portion of his material wealth? Genesis 48:21-22, 49:22-26
-
7. Find two parallelisms in Jacob's blessing on Simeon and Levi: Genesis 49:5-7.
-
8. As you read Jacob's predictions concerning his other sons, seek to *see* the word-pictures he is painting of them. To what does he compare
- a. Judah? Genesis 49:9 _____
 - b. Zebulun? Genesis 49:13 _____
 - c. Issachar? Genesis 49:14 _____
 - d. Dan? Genesis 49:17 _____
 - e. Naphtali? Genesis 49:21 _____
 - f. Joseph? Genesis 49:22 _____
 - g. Benjamin? Genesis 49:27 _____
9. What do these word-pictures teach you about human nature? **THINK!**
-
10. How could a study of these world-pictures help you in your own speech and writing?
-
11. How do these writings reflect in a special way the nature of the age which produced them?
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

- 1. Who guided in the giving of each blessing, and the fulfillment of each prediction? See Numbers 23:19
-
- 2. Can I trust the hand of God to guide me surely toward the fulfillment of His perfect purpose for my life? Proverbs 3:5-6
-