

Genesis 49.1-28

“Your Choices in 2018 Count Forever!”

Bible BOOK about GOD – Our Creator, Provider, Protector Judge, Savior

BIBLE begins GENESIS “beginnings” – God’s BLESSING for All People

God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1.28

In 2 Short Chapters UNIVERSAL BLESSING was FORFEITED by SIN

Genesis 3 – Beautiful GARDEN of Eden – Surrounded by YELLOW TAPE

CRIME SCENE – Orange Spray PAINT on Sidewalk around Half-Eaten Fruit

God put Our PARENTS Wonderful World of JOY and OPPORTUNITY

ONLY 1 PROHIBITION > Eating FRUIT that Symbolized his AUTHORITY

Like MOTHS drawn to BURNING FLAME – That Forbidden Fruit Irresistible!

Eyes Open, SORTA Like God, Know G & E, but LOVE Evil and HATE GOOD

BLESSING turned to CURSE > Ran from the GOD who Alone can BLESS

SOON Firstborn SON MURDERED his LITTLE BROTHER ABEL

PEOPLE became SO EVIL Holy God destroyed them in FLOOD

8 SURVIVORS of Flood MULTIPLY by God’s BLESSING

Before Long BUILD TOWER – Try Reach Heaven > DEFY the God of Heaven!

Been READING First Chapters of Genesis New Year, ONE Thing Very CLEAR

BLESSING of God NEVER COME by what WE DO – GOD must SAVE US!

From Genesis 12 onward – word BLESSING 81 X’s, word CURSE 3 X’s

God choses ONE FAMILY to bring Blessing to EVERY FAMILY

Thru Them God CREATES One NATION bring Salvation to ALL NATIONS



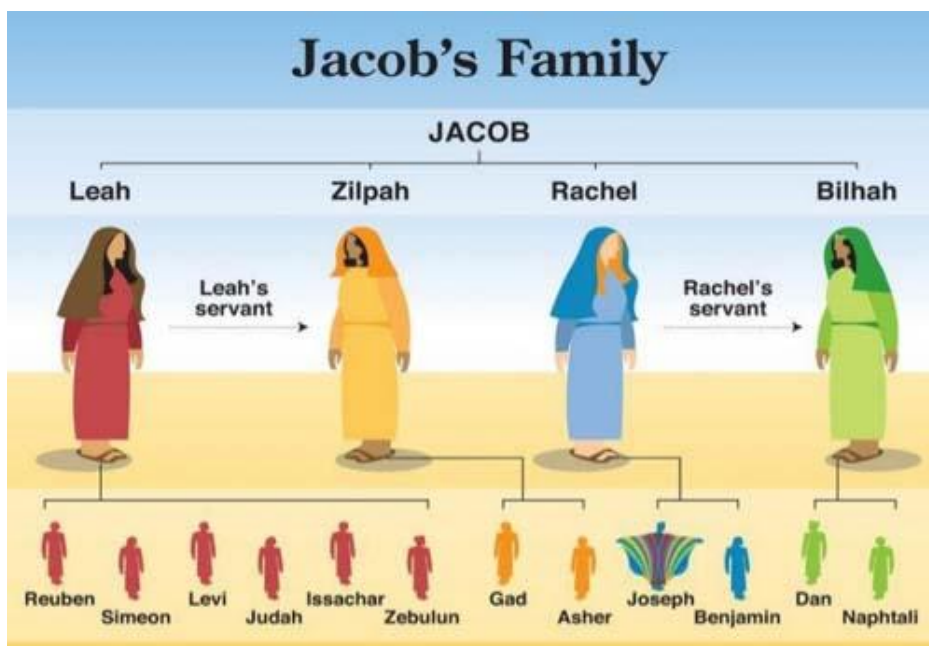
v. 28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him.

END of Genesis will be Blessing for WORLD Spoken by God in Genesis 1 > DELIVERED thru 12 Sons
Unlike Abe or Isaac – Jacob NOT See any of his SONS CUT OFF from Blessing

1. Bad Boys become Bad Men

NO ISHMAEL or ESAU among SONS of Jacob > does NOT Mean Good Boys

In TRUTH Ishmael and Esau MIGHT have been BETTER BEHAVED Them!



vs. 1,2 Then Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come. “Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father.

ORDER of Wives
Sons 1st WIFE LEAH
Sons of Servant Women
Sons of WIFE RACHEL

1st Long POEM in BIBLE – One of OLDEST Poems in HISTORY

12 SONS are DESCRIBED by their RELATIONSHIP to God

a. Consequences of Sin > Boys are GROWN MEN – GRANDPARENTS

vs. 3,4 “Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it—he went up to my couch!

Begins with Pronouncement about his Dignity and his Preeminence.

All this Hopefulness about 1st Born > Great Potential is Disappointed

Thinks he DESERVES Things Simply because he was BORN

1stborn should get DOUBLE Portion! REUBEN Not LOYAL to Father or God

Years Ago SEX w/ Dad's CONCUBINES in Dad's BED > NO Repentance!

OLD MAN but Not Yet MATURE Man - Who he WAS is who STILL IS

Jacob's PROPHETIC PRONOUNCEMENT More of an ANTI-BLESSING!

BLESSING: Keep TURBULENT Man w/ Uncontrolled Sex Drive from Leader

vs. 5,6 “Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company. For in their anger they killed men, and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen.

SIMEON & LEVI – 2 Barrels of a GUN > MURDERED Whole TOWN

CRIPPLE the OXEN to Watch it SLOWLY DIE > Kids that HANG CATS

TORTURE Animals – No Excuses – Not Say they'll OUTGROW It!

Chapter 34, Moses makes no comment about the rightness or the wrongness of the that massacre that was perpetrated by Simeon and Levi

HISTORY Not Always MORAL ANALYSIS – DRAG out STORY – Boring!

But AS READ Biblical History > SUPPOSED to Make OWN Moral Analysis

READ thru LENSES of LAW – “Do Not Murder” – MASSACRE NOT RIGHT!

OPEN REBUKE in Presence of OTHER SONS > So they can REBUKE too

Do NOT get SHARE of the INHERITANCE – NOT SAFE to be WITH

Jacob had BIBLICAL Mentality NOT an ENTITLEMENT Mentality

Does NOT give them EQUAL Share – Gives them their EARNED Share

We LOVE All People – But we DO NOT TREAT All People the SAME

FORMULA for COVENANT BLESSING was SIMPLE...

“And *if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God*, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And *all these blessings shall come upon you* and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out...

“But *if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God* or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then *all these curses shall come upon you* and overtake you. Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out...

Deuteronomy 28.1-6, 15-19

SIMPLE Formula: BLESSING if we OBEY – CURSING if we DISOBEY

Some might SAY “Not any More” Not UNDER those OLD REQUIREMENTS

PAUL makes CLEAR what we DO as Xtians MATTERS – Now and Forever

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Galatians 6.7

b. Complexity of Sin



Message to Sons not just Good GUESS from BEHAVIOR
 Jacob speaking PROPHECY, God's Word about FUTURE
 Much of what SAYS here will Come to Pass 400 yrs Later
 MOSES will lead them TO PROMISE LAND
 JOSHUA leads Tribes INTO Appointed TERRITORIES
 EMBRYONIC Tribes will Come from these 12 SONS

PROPHECIES Skillfully based on WORD PLAYS with Names of Sons

OFTEN there is COMPARISON with ANIMALS or PLACES of Importance

“It is fitting that the Book of Genesis which opened with the creative power of the divine word, closes with the notion of the effective power of the inspired predictive word of the patriarch”
 N. Sarna

v. 13 “Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon.

LEAH'S 6th Son – JACOB'S 10th Son – Listed BEFORE Lazy Brother Issachar

ZEBULUN is More ENERGETIC and More PROSPEROUS

Will later get PRIORITY in DRAWING LOTS for PARCEL of Promised LAND

Will have LARGEST FORCE in DAVID'S ARMY

Will live Near Enough to Coast to be Enriched by Sea Trade

vs.14,15 “Issachar is a strong donkey, crouching between the sheepfolds. He saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant, so he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant at forced labor.

LEAH'S 5th Son – JACOB'S 9th Son --- BIG, STRONG, and LAZY!

Maybe WINSTON CHURCHILL was from this TRIBE...

“Mr Churchill, to what do you attribute your success in life?

Conservation of energy. Never stand up when you can sit down. And never sit down when you can lie down.”
Winston Churchill

Tribe SWALLOWED Up by CANAANITES in Book of JUDGES, ENSLAVED

Has GREAT POTENTIAL but does NOT FULFILL his Potential

STRONG Words > Tells them to FACE REALITY

v.16 “Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward.

Word of Judgment on Dan for its Sins > Will ATTACK to Defend JUSTICE

Treachery of DAN seen Judges 18 > Stealing of Micah's Idols

Dan Not Mentioned by Apostle John in Book of Revelation > NO Eternal Future

Jacob Knows his Son's Wayward Heart: "For Thy salvation, I wait, O Lord."

Jacob PRAYING for God to be MERCIFUL in His Covenant Promises

v. 19 “Raiders shall raid Gad, but he shall raid at their heels.

Gad will Settle in the Transjordan > Would be Victim of Border Raids

Gad would Overcome RAIDS and himself RAID those RAIDERS

GAD – Going to have DIFFICULTY – but God will give them VICTORY

v. 20 “Asher's food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal delicacies.

Asher will Inhabit Rich & Valuable Part of Promised Land

Some TRIBES drew SHORT Straw – Land Arid, Stony, Dangerous – Not Asher

ASHER had the RICH LAND and GOT FAT from Royal Delicacies

v. 21 “Naphtali is a doe let loose that bears beautiful fawns.”

Naphtali > Highland Tribe, in the Mountains of the PROMISED Land

Naphtali won a name under Deborah and Barak as they served as Judges

NAPHTALI – God will Bless you with BEAUTIFUL KIDS

v. 27 “Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey and at evening dividing the spoil.”

Rather Piercing and Fierce Word of Future to Pronounce upon his Son

Violent Tribe > Many Great Men – Ehud the Judge, Saul 1st King, Paul Apostle

Prophecies are Retrospective and Prospective > Look Back and Look Forward

Look Back > Characteristics of 12 Sons – DEEDS Done, Good and Evil

Look forward into Future > How those Characteristics going to Come to Pass

These blessings show us the complexity of sin. Sin can be socially reprehensible...sleeping with your father’s concubine...massacring a city...it can be socially lauded...rich delicacies for foreigners...sin has multigenerational consequences...for their children and their children’s children Iain Duguid

STUFF of Life – Careers, Choices, Families, Futures – CHOOSE WISELY

NO Small Decisions – Shape your FOREVER and Forever those who Follow

all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment Isaiah 64.6

Our BEST PRAYERS could SEND us to HELL

God sees ALL our THOUGHTS, MOTIVES, INTENTIONS, WORDS, DEEDS

You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong Habakkuk 1.13

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Romans 7.15,19

2. Merciful God makes New Men

God has 2 Over-Arching Providential Purposes in Story of Joseph

1st How Israel got to Egypt – 2nd How God fulfilled Promises to ABRAHAM

Greatest Prophecy in Length and Range > **JUDAH** > Stretches far into the Future

a. Humble received Grace

vs. 8-9 “Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?”

Dominion of Judah over other Tribes, over Their Enemies, over the WORLD

Reuben and Simeon and Levi > Chastised for Wickedness had Committed

In God's Grace, Blessing is Pronounced on Judah, in Spite of his Many SINS
Sold Brother into Slavery – Married Bad Girl – Sons so Bad God Killed Them

He REPENTED he was BORN AGAIN entered NEWNESS of LIFE

Made a LION – Symbol of ELEGANCE, MAJESTY and FEARSOME POWER

Judah 4th Son of Leah – Fulfills NAME “the praise of the Lord”

Brothers Praise Him, Bow Down, JUDAH SOLD Bro. Joseph for this CLAIM

Study of JACOB and his SONS – Repeating BASIC TRUTHS

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God... “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 4.4-9

The profound lesson for us here is that the Bible takes our sin neither too lightly nor too seriously...Sin is destructive...Yet sin shall not have the last word in our destiny...We may be broken in many different ways, but if we are joined to God's people in Christ, we can never be broken off and cast away. Iain Duguid

b. Holiness points to God

JACOB had NOT been LOYAL to God // SONS had Not been Loyal to Father

At DEATH Jacob demonstrates LOYALTY to God and BLESSINGS to SONS

Jacob could PREACH the GRACE of God because been PARDONED by Grace

vs. 5,6 Simeon and Levi...Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company.

BROKEN HEARTED Father needs STAY Away from Sinful Sons to be HOLY

Jacob says, my soul, my glory, is not going to dwell with you.

Holiness is Necessary for Fellowship with the Holy One

God's providence is explicitly and necessarily comprehensive and not merely reactive to the situations in which His people find themselves. He is the One who is guiding and creating the situations in which His people find themselves for their good and for His own glory. Ligon Duncan

Blessing and Headship HEAPED upon Joseph and younger son, Ephraim

Joseph – 11th son of JACOB – 1st son of BELOVED wife RACHEL

JOSEPH – Showed Great LOYALTY receives Greatest BLESSING

LOYAL to Father, Potiphar, Prison Guard, Pharaoh...AND to GOD

vs. 22-26 “Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall. The archers bitterly attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him severely, yet his bow remained unmoved; his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), by the God of your father who will help you, by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that crouches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of my parents, up to the bounties of the everlasting hills. May they be on the head of Joseph, and on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.

Blessing moves from Present to Past then back to Providential Decrees of God

Joseph > Fruitful Bow > In the summer of his Prosperity

Jacob recalls Joseph's Sufferings > Brothers, in Egypt - Trials and Tribulation

Thru all he ENDURED Joseph PREVAILED > God was his Shepherd

“the Stone of Israel” 24 NOT a NAME for God > Jacob’s TITLE for JOSEPH

Year before God appeared to JACOB and he MEMORIALIZED Event w/ Stone

Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. Genesis 28.18

Jacob saying GOD made Joseph STRONG thru all his AFFLICTION

Joseph STRONG like STONE thru TRIALS – RAISED to See like EBENEZER

Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him... the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were routed before Israel... Then Samuel took a stone and set it up...and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, “Till now the LORD has helped us.” 1 Samuel 7.9-12

PRAISE Not to Joseph > FATHER Reminds Favorite Son > FAVORED by God

vs. 24,25 the Stone of Israel, by the God of your father who will help you

Even though Joseph had already achieved greatness in Egypt and possessed wealth, status, power in abundance, Jacob still blessed him. The blessings that Joseph needed did not consist in things Egypt could give. Iain Duguid

c. Hope of the Gospel

In MIDST of PROPHESYING GRIM Anti-Blessings Jacob MOANS Prayer

v. 18 I wait for your salvation, O LORD.

ARROW Prayer shot up AMIDST Prophecy for BAD BOY DAN

But FATHER’S HEART Finally goes Out to all 12 – All his FAVORED Sons

Israel is not built on the foundation of righteous Joseph, or even transformed Judah, but on the foundation of all twelve patriarchs. Unstable Reuben, violent Simeon and Levi, comfort loving Issachar and dangerous Benjamin are all included as part of God's saving purpose to have a holy people for himself...There is no room in this list of ancestors for any boasting...From the start, our salvation has been entirely by God's incredible grace. Iain Duguid

FAMILY does not DETERMINE your Destiny > Your DECISIONS DO

“Your Choices in 2018 Count Forever!”

Sons could have BLAMED Father and Family for PROBLEMS

Do not NEED an EXCUSE, Need a PLAN to GET OUT of PROBLEMS

Father REBUKES Older SONS and they have OPPORTUNITY to REPENT

vs. 5,7 “Simeon and Levi are brothers...Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.

Jacob the Prophet SEES a NATION that bears his NAME

2 Tribes were Scattered > FULFILLED Prophecy

Tribe of Simeon almost Disappeared in the midst of JUDAH

Tribe of Levi scattered w/ HOLY Purpose, Ministering Priests of Promised Land

MOSES the Leader of NATION was from Tribe of LEVI

God's Prophecy > Different Destinies based upon Heart Response of People

1 Son/Tribe Scattered into Oblivion > Other Key Foundation of God's Nation

Speaks of Reign of Messiah > LION from TRIBE of JUDAH

HOPE Not in A, I, & J but in GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

vs. 10-12 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk

CRAZY TALK! Who Ties Animal to PRIZE WINNING ROSE BUSH?

WHO WASHES their Clothes in FINE WINE?

Only when ROSES will BLOOM FOREVER and WINE Never STOP Flowing

This is TIME of MESSIAH – PROSPEROUS Kingdom – Will Never END

Jacob the Prophet sees JESUS coming from his BAD BOY JUDAH

JUDAH would have PRIDE of Place for SEASON among Nation of ISRAEL

But he was Just STAND-IN Actor – Waiting for TRUE LION to Come Rule

v. 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, *until* tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

EVEN BALAAM got a DISTANT View SOMEONE Coming OUT of Jacob

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel
Numbers 24.17

1000 yrs Later Prophet EZEKIEL describes FINAL KING of Judah

Ends his REIGN in DISGRACE of Babylonian EXILE

And you, O profane wicked one, prince of Israel, whose day has come, the time of your final punishment, thus says the Lord GOD: Remove the turban and take off the crown. Things shall not remain as they are. Exalt that which is low, and bring low that which is exalted. A ruin, ruin, ruin I will make it. This also shall not be, *until he comes, the one to whom judgment belongs, and I will give it to him.*
Ezekiel 21.25-17

FULLNESS of TIME APOSTLE John saw HIM Face to Face

And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”
Revelation 5.5

JESUS the Lion become the LAMB to take Away our SINS

LION and LAMB Stands in Center of God’s Throne – All this Year...and Forever!

Genesis 49.¹Then Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come.

²“Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father.

³“Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power.

⁴Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it—he went up to my couch!

⁵“Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords.

⁶Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company.

For in their anger they killed men, and in their willfulness they hamstringed oxen.

⁷Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their wrath, for it is cruel!

I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.

⁸“Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you.

⁹Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up.

He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

¹⁰The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

¹¹Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes.

¹²His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

¹³“Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea;
he shall become a haven for ships,
and his border shall be at Sidon.

¹⁴“Issachar is a strong donkey,
crouching between the sheepfolds.

¹⁵He saw that a resting place was good,
and that the land was pleasant,
so he bowed his shoulder to bear,
and became a servant at forced labor.

¹⁶“Dan shall judge his people
as one of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁷Dan shall be a serpent in the way,
a viper by the path,
that bites the horse's heels
so that his rider falls backward.

¹⁸I wait for your salvation, O LORD.

¹⁹“Raiders shall raid Gad,
but he shall raid at their heels.

²⁰“Asher's food shall be rich,
and he shall yield royal delicacies.

²¹“Naphtali is a doe let loose
that bears beautiful fawns.

²²“Joseph is a fruitful bough,
a fruitful bough by a spring;
his branches run over the wall.

²³The archers bitterly attacked him,
shot at him, and harassed him severely,

²⁴yet his bow remained unmoved;
his arms were made agile

by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob
(from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

²⁵by the God of your father who will help you,
by the Almighty who will bless you
with blessings of heaven above,

blessings of the deep that crouches beneath,
blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

²⁶The blessings of your father
are mighty beyond the blessings of my parents,
up to the bounties of the everlasting hills.

May they be on the head of Joseph,
and on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.

²⁷“Benjamin is a ravenous wolf,
in the morning devouring the prey
and at evening dividing the spoil.”

²⁸All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him.