

# God's Blessing on His People in their Diversity (Part 2)

Genesis 49:1-28

*Halifax: 5 March 2017, 10:30 AM*

## **Introduction**

We are rapidly coming to the end of our Genesis sermon series,

- Last time, we got into chapter 49 where we saw how wonderful Jacob, the patriarch who was now 147 years old—called his sons together to bless them.
  - How marvellously God had worked in this man's life to make him godly!
  - How marvellously he had seen the hand of God.
- The very fact that he was now able to call all twelve of his sons together when they had once been so divided, and when he and they had, in so many ways, been threatened with extermination...
  - And now, here they are, united, and all receiving the blessing of God!
  - And not a blessing that was just the wishes of dying man for his sons, or even a last will and testament, but a blessing that was a prophetic oracle from God Almighty!

Last time I showed you that even though Jacob spoke of lost privileges—even curses—that had fallen upon some of his sons,

- It was still the case that all twelve of them were blessed—all twelve were partakers of the eternal inheritance that God had bestowed on Abraham and his seed.
  - Each one of them were to become tribes, and each of these tribes was going to enter into the Promised Land—
  - The land was to be to them an eternal inheritance that they would be raised from the dead to receive in all of its fullness.
  - God was their God and they were His people.
    - There was no greater blessing in all the world!
    - They could rejoice above all else that their names were written down in heaven.
- Last time we saw how each of these tribes had a place.
  - Indeed, Reuben the firstborn lost the special privilege that belonged to the firstborn because of his immorality, but he still would inherit the land...
  - And though Simeon and Levi were both divested of having their own region in the land because of their cruelty, they were yet to enter with their brothers...
    - And I pointed out to you that Levi's loss was turned into a gain when his tribe used their fiery nature in the time of Moses for the LORD and were rewarded to serve as the priests of Israel, his scattering throughout the tribes enabling him to serve them as their priests and his provision being of the tithes...
  - And I showed you how Judah was given a very special blessing—the blessing of leadership would come to him in future years—
    - and then most wonderful of all, through him the Messiah would come!
    - This blessing is so important that I told you I had planned to devote a separate sermon to it—which I hope to do next week.
- After that, we looked at the less significant tribes.

- We only have sketchy histories of them, but from what we could ascertain from Jacob's prophecy about them as well as their future histories that we do know,
  - They each had a role to play in the preservation of their nation—
    - Whether providing food, trade, defense, dainties, or wise counsel; they were all part of this family that was to be the great nation that would bring the Messiah into the world,
      - and through whom God would reveal His great name to the nations.
  - What a blessing it was for each one of them to be a part of the family of God!
    - And so it is for each one of us today who are numbered with God's people!
    - Even though we are obscure like these other tribes, our blessings are inestimable!

And today, as we continue in this chapter, we are going to see more about the blessing that God has for His people—for them and for us!

- We are going to look at Rachel's two sons—Joseph and Benjamin—the two tribes that we did not get to last time.
  - There is some special material about Joseph that is worth spending extra time on because it shows us how God blesses us as His people, and then we will look at little Benjamin and the lessons we have from him.

I will once again read verses 1-28—

- Genesis 49:1-28.
- Please give me your reverent attention, even as Jacob in this very passage admonished his sons to listen, because this is the Word of God.

**Genesis 49:1-28:** And Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days: <sup>2</sup> Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, and listen to Israel your father. <sup>3</sup> Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity and the excellency of power. <sup>4</sup> Unstable as water, you shall not excel, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled *it* —he went up to my couch. <sup>5</sup> Simeon and Levi *are* brothers; instruments of cruelty *are in* their dwelling place. <sup>6</sup> Let not my soul enter their council; let not my honor be united to their assembly; for in their anger they slew a man, and in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Judah, you *are he* whom your brothers shall praise; your hand *shall be* on the neck of your enemies; your father's children shall bow down before you. <sup>9</sup> Judah *is* a lion's whelp; from the prey, my

son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him? <sup>10</sup> The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people. <sup>11</sup> binding his donkey to the vine, and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes. <sup>12</sup> his eyes *are* darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk. <sup>13</sup> Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; he *shall become* a haven for ships, and his border shall adjoin Sidon. <sup>14</sup> Issachar is a strong donkey, lying down between two burdens; <sup>15</sup> he saw that rest *was* good, and that the land *was* pleasant; he bowed his shoulder to bear *a burden*, and became a band of slaves. <sup>16</sup> Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. <sup>17</sup> Dan shall be a serpent by the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that its rider shall fall backward. <sup>18</sup> I have waited for your salvation, O LORD! <sup>19</sup> Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, but he shall triumph

at last. <sup>20</sup> Bread from Asher *shall be rich*, and he shall yield royal dainties. <sup>21</sup> Naphtali is a deer let loose; he uses beautiful words. <sup>22</sup> Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall. <sup>23</sup> The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot *at him* and hated him. <sup>24</sup> But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), <sup>25</sup> by the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty who will bless you *with* blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that

lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. <sup>26</sup> The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers. <sup>27</sup> Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.” <sup>28</sup> All these *are* the twelve tribes of Israel, and this *is* what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

May the LORD bless the reading of His holy Word.

Let me draw your attention to the unique blessing that is pronounced on Joseph...

- Not only does it rank with Judah’s in being significantly longer than the others,
  - But it is also unique in that it speaks of how God had blessed Joseph in the past—none of the other tribes have any history with their blessing...
  - There was such an important work that God had already done through Joseph that special attention is given to it.
- So we will look at Joseph’s blessing under two headings...
  - First, that Joseph’s blessing aids us in looking back at God’s faithfulness in the past.
  - And secondly, that Joseph’s blessing shows us the fullness of God’s blessing that is to come in the future...
  - Then, thirdly, we will look at the blessing of little Benjamin.

TRANS> So let us proceed with our first heading...that...

**Joseph’s blessing reminds God’s people of how faithful God has been to us in the past.**

The deliverance that Jacob and his sons had just recently experienced by Joseph was so great that it was still fresh in the minds of the whole family.

1. In giving this prophecy, Jacob recounts for us what God had done for them all.
  - Jacob had interrupted his prophecies of his sons back in verse 18 to tell the LORD how he had waited for His salvation!
    - But one of the reasons that Jacob was especially encouraged to wait for future salvation was because he had experienced past salvation through Joseph.
    - Past salvation always causes us to hope even more for future blessing.
2. You will remember what had happened.
  - The LORD had sent a severe famine in all of Canaan (where Jacob was with his eleven sons) and in all of Egypt.
  - And the way that God had provided for Jacob and his whole household was through Joseph.
    - By him, the LORD sustained His church—He provided both food and safety for them in the land of Egypt.

3. Isn't it true that whenever God's people have had remarkable deliverances, it brings great encouragement to them to look for future deliverance? To wait for His salvation!

Look at how God's deliverance by Joseph is described in verses 22-24 in our text.

1. First, we are told that Joseph is a fruitful bough.
  - a. He was extremely fruitful in Egypt—
    - so fruitful that he named his second son who was born to him in Egypt *Ephraim*, which means *fruitful* because he said, **God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction** (Gen 41:52)!
  - b. He is said to have been planted by a well of water—so that he was able to be fruitful...
    - And he is said to have grown so great that his branches went up over the top the wall—he was extremely fruitful!
  - c. He was so fruitful that he was able to provide for Jacob's entire household in the famine—with ease!
    - He was able to provide them with food, and with land for the flocks in Egypt, and with security and protection from Pharaoh.
    - It was a fruitfulness like that of Christ—not just for himself, but for all of His people...
      - Jesus has bread and refuge for all of us without which we would surely perish!
2. And to make all this even more remarkable, Joseph had this fruitfulness even though there were many who wanted to destroy him!
  - a. Verse 23 speaks of his enemies as archers who tried to destroy him...
    - **“The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him.”**
    - You remember the story—
      - 1) Joseph's brothers envied him because he was such a faithful and beloved son to their father...
        - And because they hated his prophecies that told of how he would be their ruler and deliverer in the days of come.
        - They would have left him to die in a pit if a band of Ishmaelites had not come by in a caravan to Egypt.
          - These Ishmaelites gave them the idea of selling him into slavery so they could make some money instead of leaving him to die.
      - 2) And then in Egypt, you know how Joseph's master's wife also shot at him with her arrows, even though he had shown great faithfulness...
        - First she tried to seduce him, but because he would not give in to her, she falsely accused him of trying to rape her—
          - Normally, it would have been a capital offense—if Joseph's master had not loved him and sent him to prison instead.
      - 3) And then Joseph was, as far as anyone could tell, destined to spend the rest of his days in the prison house...

- Even after he showed himself to be a faithful prophet by interpreting the dreams of two of Pharaoh's high servants who had been cast into prison...
    - Even though Joseph had asked one of them to put in a word for him to Pharaoh, that servant at first forgot him!
    - He was left there to die.
- b. But through all of these trials, God remarkably sustained him and kept him alive!
- In verse 24 Jacob describes this of Joseph, again using archery terms: **But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob.**
- 1) The word translated *strength* emphasises endurance—something that is ever flowing or perennial...
    - Even though others were trying to shoot him down, Joseph just kept on going!
    - He stood firmly in his integrity with patience—maintaining his hope and faith in God...
  - 2) But it was not so much that he was a mighty man!
    - It is something much better than that when it comes to giving us encouragement—
      - It was that he was upheld by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob!
      - That is what Jacob says!
        - What made the difference was that Joseph was in the strong hands of the Mighty One of Jacob!
      - The word translated *mighty* here is used only six times in the Bible—always of God—and always with Jacob or Israel's name.
        - And always it refers to the LORD as the champion of His people—the Mighty One who is invincible and who surrounds His people so that they are invincible!
- c. By including this part about Joseph's enemies trying to take Joseph down, we are reminded that service to God is not without tribulation!
- Jacob wants his sons to know—or rather the LORD who spoke by Jacob wants them and us to know what Paul told the fledgling church in Acts 14:22:
    - **“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”**
    - And what Peter also says in his first epistle, 1 Pet 4:12-14: **Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.**

- The LORD tells us this so that we will know that tribulation is part of His plan that we might see His hand strengthening *our* bow...
  - That we might learn to pray to the Mighty One of Jacob that He would sustain His church today!
3. And then we are told at the end of verse 24—“**from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel.**”
- a. It is difficult to tell for sure who these words refer too...
    - for certainly, the LORD is our Shepherd and our Stone upon whom the church is built in every age...
  - b. But these words might just as well refer to Joseph as the shepherd and the stone that God raised up.
    - For he most certainly was that by the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob!
    - As we have seen, God made him fruitful so that he was able to provide food and support for all of Israel...
      - Joseph and his sons were raised up by the LORD to carry Israel through these early years in Egypt when they were few in number.
      - Joseph was the tribe that was appointed to take care of them all through the famine and through the years ahead in Egypt.
  - c. So really, it doesn't matter whether we call the LORD the shepherd and the stone, or Joseph the shepherd and the stone,
    - because in either case, God was the Shepherd and the Stone who raised Joseph up as a shepherd and a stone for His people.
    - That is the history that Jacob points to for the encouragement of his sons!

My brothers and sisters, we have an even greater history to look back on and draw encouragement from!

- 1. For now the LORD has sent His only Son, Jesus Christ to be our Shepherd and our Stone!
  - He has upheld Him and sustained Him when the archers tried to take Him out and He has overcome archers that Joseph never met!
  - He has overcome the world, the flesh, the devil, death, and hell for us!
    - By Him, we have hope.
    - He is so fruitful in the land of His affliction that He has come forth to glory with bread for eternal life that we may eat and never die...
      - And He is the rejected stone that God raised up to be the head of the corner—we are built on Him forever.
        - This is the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God, eternal in the heavens!
- 2. Come to Him and you will never be disappointed.
  - Look back and see how fruitful He was for us on the cross...
    - And how by His sufferings, we have all that we need for eternal life.
    - Thanks to the mighty God of Jacob!

- Jacob teaches us to look back and see how the LORD has marvellously raised up Jesus for us!

TRANS> And what does this do but lay a firm foundation for us to look to the Lord for the blessing that He has promised in the future!

- And that is our second point today...

**Joseph's blessing also shows us how full God's blessing is for us in the future.**

As Jacob turns his prophetic eye from Joseph's past to his future, there is definitely one word that stands out!

1. The word *bless* or *blessings*—it is used six times in verses 25 & 26!
  - Bless, blessings, blessings, blessings, blessings, blessings!
  - This is a rhetorical device to get a particular point across...that the LORD wants us to know with certainty that He intends to bless Joseph!
2. Verse 25 declares to Joseph that the same God who had helped him in the past would help him and bless him in the future...
  - a. Jacob says, (verse 25): **By the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty who will bless you...**
    - You see that Jacob is here giving the one he had just called the Mighty One of Jacob a very wonderful name that points to the future...
      - He calls Him **the God (El in Hebrew) of your father who will help you...**
      - And in parallel with that: **the Almighty (Shaddai in Hebrew) who will bless you...**
  - b. There are no two ways about it—
    - This oracle from Jacob does not say that El Shaddai, the Mighty God, *might* help Joseph or that He *might* bless him...
    - He declares in a very absolute way that God *will* bless him!
  - c. **Bless** has been a key word all the way through Genesis, so now here it is at the end of Genesis!
    - When God created us, He blessed us and told us to be fruitful and multiply.
    - We fell into sin, but God came back to us and again promised to bless us and called us to be fruitful and multiply.
    - He promised this to Noah after the world had fallen into such wickedness that He sent a great flood to wash away the filth of mankind with the exception of Noah and his family...
    - Then after the corruption of Babel, He came to Abraham and promised to bless him and to make him fruitful,
      - And told him that through him, all the families of the earth (the families that had just been separated at Babel) would be blessed.

TRANS> Blessing, blessing, blessing, all around!

Three beautiful characteristics of this coming blessing are presented to us!

- Jacob's heart is soaring into the heavens here as he announces this blessing!

- This is the salvation that he said he is waiting for!
1. First the coming blessing is shown to be pervasive—
    - It is a blessing that completely overtakes us, completely surrounds us and fills us in every way...
      - When the ancient Hebrews wanted to emphasise something, they repeated it.
    - And you see how the rest of verse 25 shows that **blessing** is to come from everywhere for Joseph!
      - He says that God: **will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb.**
      - Blessings will come down from heaven, up from beneath, and from his offspring!
        - Our great assurance is that God Almighty knows how to bless us.
        - Even if you were given a genie so that you could have whatever you wanted, you would not even know how to bless yourself...
          - Praise God that He knows how to do it and that He it is going to totally saturate us with blessing from every direction.
  - So that is the first of the three characteristics—that the blessing is all pervasive.
  2. The second characteristic of this blessing is that it is a superlative blessing.
    - Jacob declares in v. 26 that, as he says to Joseph, the blessings of your father **have excelled the blessings of my ancestors...**
      - As history unfolds, the blessings become greater and greater—
      - Here is Jacob, who thought his family was ruined, now with all twelve of his sons destined for the kingdom of God—destined for eternal life!
        - He has seen the mighty hand of God in his dealings with Joseph.
    - And this superlative blessing that God has given him now falls on the head of Joseph—on the crown of his head...
      - I will explain that in just a moment, but first, let's see the third characteristic of this blessing...
  3. Not only is it all encompassing, not only does it surpass all that has been given already, but it also endures forever!
    - You see that verse 26 says that reaches **up the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.**
    - Jacob does not die leaving the blessing behind...
      - Neither did Isaac, neither did Abraham...
      - They all died looking for the blessing that would keep on growing and expanding to eternity!
    - Don't worry about those who have died in this hope!
      - They have lost nothing—Christ came for them—He died for them and He was raised for them...



- And He will return for them just as much as He will return for us, and He will raise them up just as much as He will raise us up...
- And they will be with Him in glory just as we will—forever and ever...
  - This is a blessing that never stops giving and giving!

But why does the oracle say that the blessing will be **on the crown of the head of Joseph who was separate from his brothers?**

1. The idea is that in the next few generations, Joseph and his sons are the ones who will step into Jacob's place as the leader of Israel.
  - The point is not that Joseph will have this blessing and that his brothers won't.
  - The point is that just as it has been in the past, Joseph will have this blessing for the sake of the whole family...
    - He was made exceeding fruitful so that they could all be sustained by him.
    - He had lots of bread so that they could have lots of bread.
    - He has this rich blessing that Jacob is celebrating because Israel was to share in the inheritance...
      - It went to the head of the family for all the members of the family.
2. My dear brothers and sisters, do you see how this applies!
  - a. Where has that blessing gone now?
    - Later, it went to the tribe of Judah—that is what we will look at next week...it was upon the crown of the head of David and his house...
    - And where did it go from there?
      - It went to the head of Jesus Christ!
        - He is the one who inherits this all pervasive, all superlative, ever enduring blessing.
        - He is blessed above all others with the inheritance of glory.
  - b. But we have no need to envy Him...because He is the head of the church!
    - If you have come to Him and cast yourself upon Him,
      - Then this all pervasive, all superlative, ever enduring blessing is yours through Him!
    - Jesus Christ brings us into His glorious inheritance, just as Joseph brought his brothers into his inheritance in Egypt.
      - God blessed Joseph for their sake...
      - And now the fullness of that blessing, greatly expanded, is upon Jesus Christ for our sake and for the sake of Jacob and Joseph and Ephraim and Manasseh and Issachar and Asher and Gad and Naphtali and Judah and Simeon and Levi and Dan and all the nations who have come to Jesus Christ.
        - It is in Him through faith in Him that we have the inheritance of blessing that is all encompassing, that surpasses all others and that endures forever!

TRANS> Surely we have reached a climax here—indeed we have...

- But there is yet little Benjamin...
- The Holy Spirit saw fit to put him after Joseph...and there is a reason for it.

**Little Benjamin's blessing shows how God uses even the least of us to bring about His purposes for His people. No one will be left out.**

Little Benjamin—

1. Who is he, next to his brother Joseph who is carrying the blessing for all?
  - Yes, even more so, who is he next to Christ who carries the blessing that has reached such fullness as it has now for the entire worldwide kingdom?
  - And who are you, my brothers and sisters?
    - Who am I and who are you, but little brothers—little Benjamin, living in shadow of Joseph, and in future days in the shadow of Judah.
      - Benjamin was the tribe that was associated with Judah when the rest of Israel followed after Jeroboam and his calves.
      - What a blessing to be under the shadow of those blessed by God.
2. What does Jacob say about little Benjamin in verse 27...
  - **“Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.”**
  - a. What does this mean?
    - Well that is part of the beauty of it—there is an obscurity to it—yet still he is not forgotten.
    - Neither are any of us.
      - Jesus always remembers the least in His kingdom.
      - He never fails to bless a single one.
  - b. But we can understand something about this little brother...
    - He is a fierce little brother—
      - A ravenous wolf that kills, as wolves usually do, more than it is able to eat.
      - He devours the prey and then has leftovers to share with others.

What do we see of this in Benjamin's history?

1. We see the fierceness of this little tribe in Judges 19-21.
  - Do you remember the story of Levite who stayed in their territory when the Benjamites came by night like the men of Sodom,
    - and took the Levite's concubine when they could not have the Levite and raped her until she died?
  - And remember how the Levite cut her body and pieces and sent her parts to the other tribes of Israel to protest against this wickedness?
    - And how all the tribes went to fight against them, and how fierce little Benjamin defeated them with their left handed slingers?
    - And then how the other tribes cried out the Lord and then nearly wiped Benjamin out completely so that they become smaller than ever?
2. This was not a very good start for Benjamin—little and fierce, but not godly.

- But they had received their inheritance in Israel next to Judah, where the temple was later to be built.
    - And then Israel's first king, Saul, was chosen from this tribe.
  - But once again, he was not a godly king.
    - He was fierce for his own interests, but not for the Lord's battles.
    - He was more intent on destroying David than he was on destroying God's enemies.
      - The LORD commanded Saul to destroy the Amalekites because God had cursed them, but Saul did not finish the job.
      - And because of that, the kingdom was taken from him and given to Judah—to David—to a man after God's own heart.
        - That is why Saul tried to destroy David, but God was with David and put him on the throne and soon Benjamin was by David's side.
        - Benjamin remained a fierce little wolf, now fighting at David's side as the little brother...
3. But the glory days of Benjamin came at the end of the exile.
- a. Do you know the book of Esther?
    - She and her uncle, Mordecai, were of the fierce little tribe of Benjamin when Israel was under the rule of Persia.
      - And Esther was chosen to be the wife of the King of Persia!
  - b. And God put her there to be a ravenous wolf for Him and for all of His people.
    - He put her there with her uncle to save the whole nation from an attack by an Amalekite named Haman...
      - This was the nation that the Benjamite Saul was supposed to wipe off the face of the earth...
      - And now Haman has hatched a plot to wipe the Jews off the face of the earth.
  - c. And if you know the story, it was Queen Esther who turned the table on Haman so that his evil plot was turned back on his own head.
    - He, along with his ten sons, was hanged on the very gallows that he had prepared for Esther's uncle Mordecai.
    - And then the King of Persia gave Mordecai and Esther the authority to slay all of their enemies—eventually 75,000 were killed.
      - They declared a feast to celebrate, and though they did not take the plunder from those they killed because they were doing it for the LORD, they exchanged gifts and rejoiced in their fortunes.
      - God took this fierce little wolf to save all Israel from those who were set to kill them.

And consider why God used Benjamin to wipe out their enemies in Persia.

1. He did that so that Israel would not be wiped out...
  - He saved this nation by Benjamin because he had promised that He would bring salvation to the nations from the Jews.

- That was the reason that He did not let their enemies destroy them.
  - If it had not been for Benjamin, Benjamin the little wolf, Israel would have been wiped out and we would have no Messiah.
- 2. Our lesson from this is that God uses all of us in His kingdom, no matter how small we are and no matter how checkered our history might be.
  - He has a use for every member in His body from Joseph to Benjamin.
  - He has a use for you now and for all eternity.
- 3. And the great purpose He has for us is the one we have seen today...
  - It is to bless us all in the one He has appointed to be our head, Jesus Christ!
  - Each one of us, if we are in Him by saving faith, has a sure blessing.
  - All of Jacob's sons and the tribes that came from them have it, and all of us from the nations who have trusted in Christ have it...
    - Upon us the blessing is pronounced and that means that we have a sure place and sure use in God's kingdom forever and ever!

**Conclusion:** So if we ask the question prompted from verse 1:

- What is the LORD going to do with each of us in the last days who are His people?
  - The answer is simple—He is going to bless us.
  - **Verse 28: All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.**