

A Fruitful Bough

March 18, 2012
Genesis 49:22-26

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)
Pastor Mark W. Turner

Jacob's Sons:

Reuben (Leah 1) - Lust/passion lost status as 1st born

Simeon (Leah 2) - anger/passion caused tribe to be scattered

Levi (Leah 3) – anger caused scattering, but God changed into blessing: priests

Judah (Leah 4) - though sinful repented & God blessed with Messiah

Zebulun (Leah 10)

Issachar (Leah 9)

Sons of Concubines:

Dan (R-Bilhah 5) **Gad** (L-Zilpah 7) **Asher** (L-Zilpah 8) **Naphtali** (R-Bilhah 6)

Sons of Rachel:

Joseph (Rachel 11)

Benjamin (Rachel 12)

Joseph:

- favorite son of favorite wife of Jacob
- almost as if Jacob 'ransacks heaven' for this blessing

22-26

Beautiful Images:

A fruitful bough, archer under attack

- Attacks: brothers, Potiphar's wife, Potiphar, prison struggles
- Arms made agile by...

The Mighty One of Jacob:

- Jacob was never mighty, but His God was

The Shepherd:

- Jacob was shepherd and understood the title
- Sheep are wayward, stubborn, helpless and often stupid
- Shepherds care faithfully even when sheep don't return affection

The Stone of Israel:

- Strength, Shelter – Psa 18:2
- God pictured as a Rock: Isaiah 28:16; Eph 2:19-22; 1 Pet 2:4-5

The God of Your Father:

- Personal, experiential
- Passing on the faith – do you pass on that faith?

The Almighty - El Shaddai:

- Provider, sustainer, nourisher – from root word meaning breast
- Jacob knew better than most how faithful a provider God was even though he had not been

Secret to the Blessings:

- Know how to be a fruitful bough –
- abide in the vine... don't trust in own self: John 15:1-8
- Rm 8:10-11; Phil 1:6; Phil 2:12
- Abide in Him to get the blessings of Joseph

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