



## Genesis Chapters 49 and 50 The Unfolding Plan

Before we begin our venture into the last couple of chapters of the book of Genesis, it's important that we explain some things that pertain to the brit Hadasha (also known as the New Testament) and the heritage of a modern-day Christian.

What we will learn here today will build an invaluable foundation that will help us to understand not only the rest of our Father's Torah, but also the rest of the Bible itself, as well as his unfolding plan for you and I.

And so, before we look at Genesis chapter 49, I'd like to give all of our brothers and sisters a little bit of insight concerning the unfolding plan of our Father in heaven and how we as modern-day Christians fit into the picture, as well as our Jewish brothers and sisters.

In order to do that, we must first understand the definitions of some very important keywords that we find all throughout the Bible. **(scrn 1)**

### Key Word Definitions:

Faith ..... Believing In The Promises of God  
Righteousness ..... Doing What Is Right In The Eyes of God  
Justice ..... Doing What is Right w/ Mercy and Truth  
Sacrifice ..... Payment / Substitution Demanded By Justice  
Salvation ..... Life

As we read through our Scripture, we can replace these words with these definitions and have the proper understanding of any given Scripture. For example, no matter where in your Bible you see the word "faith"... you can exchange that word "faith" with "believing in the promises of God" and you will have the proper understanding of that Scripture.

No matter where in your Bible you see the word "righteousness", you can replace the word "righteousness" with "doing what is right in the eyes of God" and you will have the proper understanding of that Scripture, and so on and so forth. And it's important for us to understand the definitions of these words so that we can properly understand who we are as modern-day Christians, and what we have been grafted into.

What today's modern-day Christian must understand is that the heritage of Abraham clearly shows us the unfolding plan of the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for today's Christian. And although we could spend the rest of this session explaining how the heritage of Abraham shows us the unfolding plan of God for today's Christian, I'm going to try to condense this for the sake of time here this evening, so that we can move along in these next couple of chapters. With that being said, I want us to understand that Abraham was a Hebrew. In fact, Abraham was the first person in the Bible to ever be called a Hebrew.

The reason that Abraham was the first person called a Hebrew, is because the very word "Hebrew" means "Crossing over" or "from the other side of the river". Joshua chapter 24 verse three:

**Jos 24:3** Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.

This Scripture is extremely significant concerning the fact that Abraham was not a Jew, nor was Abraham an Israelite. Abraham at that time was a simple Gentile who came from the land of Ur, which was a region east of the Euphrates River. You see Abraham had to cross over... And follow the truth of God's word in order to become what we know today as the father of all nations. Once again, the word "Hebrew" which essentially means to "cross over" has great significance when we consider how we as Christians crossed over from sin to righteousness in order to follow the instructions of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

After our Father in heaven designates Abraham as a "Hebrew", we see that his descendants are also known as "Hebrew people". From here I like us to go visit Genesis chapter 12 verses one through three:

**Gen 12:1** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

**Gen 12:2** And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

**Gen 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

As we can see here very clearly, it is written that our Elohim will bless those who bless Abraham, and that he will curse those who curse Abraham, and through Abraham, all of the families of the earth shall be blessed. Once again, if we have "faith" we as Christians believe in the promises of Yahovah. And so, I want us to be clear about what the promises of Yahovah were to Abraham. And to find that, we can turn to Genesis chapter 22 versus 15 through 18:

**Gen 22:15** And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven

**Gen 22:16** and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have

done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

**Gen 22:17** I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,

**Gen 22:18** and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

As we can see here in Genesis chapter 22, our Father in heaven promised to multiply Abraham’s offspring as the stars of heaven, and as the sand that is on the seashore, and he goes on to promise Abraham that in his offspring... all the nations of the earth will be blessed. And so, the next question for today’s modern-day Christian is who is the offspring of Abraham? And in order to find the answer to that we need to turn to the New Testament and read Galatians chapter 3 versus 27 through 29:

**Gal 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**Gal 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Gal 3:29** And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Now... I want everyone within the sound of my voice to understand that if you are a true God-fearing, cross bearing, Messiah following Christian... then you are Abraham’s offspring, and you are heirs according to the promises that Yahovah made to Abraham.

With that being said... I want to very quickly jump to the wrongful, and shameful teaching that so many of today’s modern-day pastors, priests, bishops, and popish leaders preach from behind their pulpits today that proclaim that the law of God and his Torah has all been done away with.

Today’s modern-day professing Christian has been wrongfully, and shamefully taught that because their version of “Jesus” fulfilled the law... they don’t have to. They have been wrongfully, and shamefully taught that because their denominational version of “Jesus” has fulfilled the law, they don’t have to be bothered with the law. But I would submit to you my friends that if this is true, then your denominational leadership has just done away with righteousness.

Think about it my friends... What is the definition of righteousness? The very definition of righteousness is doing what is right in the eyes of Yahovah. Not what is right in the eyes of men. Doing what is right in the eyes of men is exactly what our Messiah absolutely hated and detested about the Pharisees and the scribes who had made void the word of God in order to hold onto their own traditions.

If you are preaching and teaching against the holy place of Jerusalem, and the law of

Yahovah... then according to our God breathed scripture... you... are a false witness. I want us to turn to acts chapter 6 versus 12 through 14:

**Act 6:12** And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council,

**Act 6:13** and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law,

**Act 6:14** for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.”

I want us to notice what is written here in these three Scriptures. According to the book of Acts chapter 13, the Pharisees and the scribes had setup and I quote, “false witnesses” ... to speak against the Messiah and to lie about him saying that he spoke against the holy place and the law.

In other words, my friends... If you believe that our Messiah spoke against the holy place and the law... Then you are a false witness. Not says I... But says your own God breathed Scripture. Our Messiah never spoke against the holy place or the law at any time during his ministry.

The heritage of Abraham points directly at our Messiah, and proclaims the Majesty of his kingship for those who have the eyes to see, and the ears to hear. I'm sure we've all heard about Abraham taking his only begotten son Isaac to the top of mount Moriah to sacrifice him as God commanded. This once again, was a shadow picture of our Father in heaven having to allow the sacrifice of his only begotten Son for the sins of mankind. As we read the story of Abraham taking his son to the top of that mountain, we read that Abraham bound Isaac, and that Abraham had raised up the knife that he was going to sacrifice Isaac with, and was ready to truly sacrifice his only begotten son when Yahovah stopped him and provided a ram whose horns were stuck in a thicket.

Once again, just like our Messiah, Isaac was raised back up off of that sacrificial altar. Salvation came to Isaac through the sacrifice of the goat that Yahovah had provided. And so, Isaac was once again raised up off of the altar of sacrifice just like our Messiah was raised up and resurrected, and salvation was shown not only to him alone... but to the rest of the world because of what our Messiah had done at that cross. Our Messiah was indeed our Passover Lamb, who died on Passover day... not... and I repeat not... on some roman rooted Good Friday. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, all agree that our Messiah was crucified on Preparation day which was Passover day, which was also known as “the day of preparation” for the feast of Unleavened Bread which was a high Sabbath, and came the very next day.

And we could go through a multitude of different things that have to do with the heritage of Abraham that point directly to our Messiah, but for time's sake here today, I want each and every Christian to understand what it is that we're reading here in these last three chapters of the book of Genesis. If we will remember from last week, Genesis chapter 48 verse 19 told us that

Ephraim would be greater than Manasseh, and that Ephraim would become the fulness of gentile nations. Let's go back and read that very quickly Genesis chapter 48 verse 19:

**Gen 48:19** But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations."

Once again, my friends the Hebrew word for "multitude" is the Hebrew word "Melo" which means "fulness, or that which fills", and "nations" is the Hebrew word "goy" which is where we get the Hebrew word "goyim" which translates to Gentile. So, what this scripture is telling us is that Ephraim and his offspring shall become the fulness of the gentile nations. We must remember that any "nation" outside of the 12 tribes of Israel were gentiles.

All right now... I want you to fasten your seatbelts because we're going to go through this rather quickly, but I don't want you to lose sight of what is being shown here. According to Genesis chapter 48 verse 19 Ephraim the younger brother would be greater than Manasseh his older brother, and he would become the fulness of the gentile nations. From here I would like us to turn to Hosea chapter 1:

**Hos 1:1** The word of the LORD that came to Hosea, the son of Beer, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

**Hos 1:2** When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD."

**Hos 1:3** So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

**Hos 1:4** And the LORD said to him, "Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel."

**Hos 1:5** And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

**Hos 1:6** She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, "Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all."

**Hos 1:7** But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen."

**Hos 1:8** When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son.

**Hos 1:9** And the LORD said, "Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God."

**Hos 1:10** Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea,

which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.”

**Hos 1:11** And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

Now I want us to understand what’s going on within this Scripture because it is tectonically important for us to grasp this before we can move forward. The first thing that I want us to understand is that Yahovah tells Hosea to take a wife of whoredom, and to have children of whoredom. Why does he tell Hosea to do that? The answer is in the very next sentence... he says and I quote, “*for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking Yahovah*”.

And so, I want us to understand that Gomer who was a prostitute, and the wife of Hosea, represents the house of Israel who was playing the whore with other pagan gods.

Now I want to stop right here for just a moment to explain exactly who the house of Israel is. The house of Israel is Ephraim. If you’ll remember correctly, we talked about this a little bit last week, but I want to once again go over this for the sake of anyone who might just be watching this video presentation for the first time. **(scrn 2)**

The 12 tribes of Israel had a Civil War within their ranks. The house of Israel had actually split into two separate kingdoms. The northern kingdom consisted of 10 tribes of the house of Israel and was also known as “Ephraim”. The southern kingdom was known as the kingdom of Judah, and it consisted of the tribe of Judah, and the tribe of Benjamin, along with a few Levites.

The northern kingdom of Ephraim Israel, continuously played the whore, and chased after other gods, and profaned the Sabbaths, and the Moedim, which were the appointments of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. And because Ephraim Israel (also known as the northern kingdom) was continuously dancing with the devil... Yahovah our Father in heaven gave her a certificate of divorce, and through them out to of the house of Israel, and he scattered them to the four corners of the earth.

The southern kingdom of Judah on the other hand... found mercy in the eyes of our Father in heaven and I’ll show you why that was here in just a moment, but before I do I want to take you back to Hosea chapter 1: **(READ RED HIGHLIGHTED SCRIPTURE)**

**Hos 1:1** The word of the LORD that came to Hosea, the son of Beer, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

**Hos 1:2** When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.”

Hos 1:3 So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

Hos 1:4 And the LORD said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.

Hos 1:5 And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

Hos 1:6 She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, “Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all.

Hos 1:7 But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”

Hos 1:8 When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son.

Hos 1:9 And the LORD said, “Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”

Hos 1:10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.”

Hos 1:11 And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

As we read through chapter 1 of the book of Hosea I want us to pay attention to what I have highlighted in red. In verse two we're told that the land of Israel commits great whoredom by forsaking Yahovah. In verse four, we find that Yahovah says and I quote, “*I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel*”.

Now my friends, that's pretty clear, and I don't think we need to decode what we're being told very plainly here in verse four. Yahovah, our father in heaven tells Hosea that he is going to put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. What does that mean? It means that the kingdom of the house of Israel... also known as “Ephraim Israel, the northern kingdom”... is going to be put to an end.

Furthermore... in verse six of the book of Hosea chapter 1, we're told that Yahovah will have no more mercy on the house of Israel to forgive them at all. In verse nine he tells us that the northern kingdom of Ephraim Israel is not his people, and that he is not their God.

Now, I want to stop right here for just a moment and I want us to think about what we're being told here. If the northern kingdom of Ephraim Israel, is going to come to an end... and if our Father in heaven is not going to have any more mercy on them to forgive them at all... and if they are not his people... and he is not their God... then what have they become?

If you are **not** part of the house of Israel then what are you? You are a goyim... A Gentile. And so, at that point in time when our Father in heaven divorced the northern kingdom, also known as Ephraim Israel... they became spiritual Gentiles. And yet... what are we told in the very next verse in verse 10?

**Hos 1:10** Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

I want us to understand what's going on here my friends because this pertains directly to today's modern-day Christian. Ephraim has become a nation of Gentiles divorced from God. He put an end to their kingdom, and he says very clearly that they are not his people, and that he is not their God. And so, this nation... these 10 tribes... this northern kingdom... was completely and utterly cut off from the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

They wanted to live like Gentiles, they wanted to make themselves friends of the world, they wanted to assimilate themselves into a pagan Gentile society and culture... and so... Yahovah gave them exactly what they wanted. He cut them off, and he scattered them into the four corners of the earth. Completely divorcing them from the house of Israel.

And yet... he says in verse 10 that "*The number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea which cannot be measured or numbered*". And he goes on to prophecy that "*In the place where it was said to them "you are not my people", it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."*" So, in other words, even though Yahovah has divorced the Northern Kingdom of Ephraim and scattered them into the four corners of the world... Yahovah already had a plan to bring them back more numerous than the sand of the sea which cannot be measured or numbered.

Now, with that in mind, I want us to pay close attention to Hosea chapter 1 verse seven:

**Hos 1:7** But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen."

So now what we have here, is the house of Israel that was 12 tribes... has just been diminished down to 2 ½ tribes. Remember the southern kingdom of Judah included both the Jews and what was left of the Benjamites, along with a few Levites. And so, at this point in time God's children were the southern kingdom of Judah. And those that lived within this region called the kingdom of Judah, call themselves Jews... Even though they may have been from the tribe of Benjamin, they were considered to be Jews because they lived in the southern kingdom of Judah. The apostle Paul himself was a Benjamite, who often times refers to himself as a Jew because he lived in the southern kingdom of Judah.

And I want us to make note of how Yahovah was going to save them, or more importantly... how he was not going to save them. He said that we would not save them by bow, or by sword, or by war, or by horses, or by horsemen. Why? Because it was his only begotten Son that he would save them through, who would come from the house of David and the very tribe of Judah.

And so, the 10 tribes of Israel have been divorced, cut off, and for all intents and purposes rejected by the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. And yet, once again, he says *“even though I have divorced them, even though I have called them... “not my people” even though I have refused to show them mercy” ... the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “you are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.””*

Even though they committed great whoredom by forsaking Yahovah... even though he put an end to their kingdom... even though he showed them no mercy... even though he proclaimed that they were not his people, and that he was not their God... he tells Hosea very clearly that the number of the children of Israel will be like the sand of the sea which cannot be measured or numbered, and that they will be called the children of the living God in the end.

Think about this for just a moment. How does this affect today’s modern-day Christian? Who is today’s modern-day Christian? In most cases are we not Gentiles who have committed great whoredom by forsaking Yahovah? Yes indeed, in most cases... we were the spitting image of the northern kingdom of Ephraim Israel. Were we not practicing the Roman rooted pagan Festivals of Christ mass, and her Roman rooted Good Friday, Easter, Halloween, and her Roman rooted first day of the week Sunday Sabbath? You bet we were.

The northern kingdom of Ephraim Israel, is a representation of the Gentile nations of the world that our Elohim sent his divorced people into. That divorced northern kingdom had no right to call themselves the children of God any longer. They had no right to claim themselves as part of the house of Israel any longer. They had no right to claim themselves as the beloved bride of Yahovah any longer. He had sent them away with a certificate of divorce, into a world full of pagan Gentiles to become pagan Gentiles themselves.

But once again my friends, I would submit to you that the reason that he sent them into a world of pagan Gentiles to become assimilated into this world of pagan Gentiles is because they themselves wanted to become pagan Gentiles. This is not what Yahovah wanted... it was what they wanted. Yahovah simply gave them what they wanted. The question then becomes how does the Northern Kingdom of Ephraim, and the lost sheep of the house of Israel play into the grafting in of the gentile nations? Why do you suppose one person is chosen and the other one not? Why do you suppose that some people hear the word of God and accept it and others don’t? Why did our Messiah want some people to understand and others not to understand? Who was he calling? Who did he say that he was sent for? Matthew 15:21-24

**Mat 15:21** And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

**Mat 15:22** And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”

**Mat 15:23** But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.”

**Mat 15:24** He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

I can not tell you how many times I have heard my brothers and sisters ask the question, “why me? Why do I understand what no one else around me can understand? Why do I hear the word of God so clearly when no one else seems to hear it, or see it?” Who are you... who am I? Food for thought?

But Judah he kept for himself. Why? In order to know why he kept Judah for himself even though she also played the whore... we need to jump ahead just a little bit and turn to Genesis chapter 49 verse 10:

**Gen 49:10** 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.

It is written that the scepter shall not depart from Judah, and each and every single solitary Christian today should know and understand that their Messiah Yeshua Hamashiach, also known in the Greek as Jesus the Christ... was, and is a Jew... who came from the house of David and the tribe of Judah. He was raised up and created, “begotten” ... from the very body of David just as Yahovah our Father in heaven promised David in second Samuel chapter 7. Otherwise God is a liar and you might as well through the whole book into the fire.

And so, the scepter has not departed from Judah, and the ruler’s staff has certainly not departed from between his feet.

I would submit to you my friends that you and I, that were once Gentiles just like the northern kingdom of Ephraim, have become part and parcel of the House of Israel.

The chosen Gentiles around the world can now return to our Father in heaven through faith in our Messiah Yeshua Hamashiach. And in this way, the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them “you are not my people,” it shall indeed be said to them, “Children of the living God.” Once again Genesis chapter 22 versus 15 through 18:

**Gen 22:15** And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven

**Gen 22:16** and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have

done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

Gen 22:17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,

Gen 22:18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

You see this is why Jacob crossed his hands and put his right hand on the head of Ephraim. Jacob knew that Ephraim, would indeed become greater than his younger brother Manasseh. It will indeed be those of us who will be counted as the house of Ephraim, who were made Gentiles just like us, that the promise has been given to.

I want us to also return to Genesis chapter 48 verse 19 for just a minute:

The bottom line is that Ephraim was prophesied by Jacob to become the fullness of the Gentiles, in other words, Ephraim was going to be some special, and important type of blessing to non-Hebrew Gentiles. And 1200 years after the prophetic cross handed blessing of Jacob upon his sons Ephraim and Manasseh... Ephraim was indeed made a Gentile nation itself, and then scattered into the Gentile nations of the world, by the Assyrians.

Romans chapter 9 verses six through eight:

Rom 9:6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,

Rom 9:7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

Rom 9:8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

And once again who are the children of the promise that are counted as offspring? Galatians chapter 3 verse 29:

Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Hosea chapter 2 verse 23:

Hos 2:23 and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’; and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”

Let's take a look at these same Scriptures in the New Testament quoted by the apostle Paul found in Romans chapter 9 verses 25 through 29

**Rom 9:25** As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'"

**Rom 9:26** "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

**Rom 9:27** And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved,

**Rom 9:28** for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay."

**Rom 9:29** And as Isaiah predicted, "If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah."

It's important that today's modern-day Christian understands that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way... all Israel will be saved. Let's turn to Romans chapter 11 verses 25 through 29:

**Rom 11:25** Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

**Rom 11:26** And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";

**Rom 11:27** "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

**Rom 11:28** As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.

**Rom 11:29** For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

I want us to see very clearly what the apostle Paul is trying to tell us here in these Scriptures. We're told very clearly... that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in. And in this way, we are clearly told, "*all Israel will be saved.*" As regards the gospel of our Messiah... the Jews are our enemies for our sake. But as regards election, the Jews are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. Why? Because the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

You see it doesn't matter whether or not the House of Israel kept their end of the covenant or not. Yahovah had made a promise, and Yahovah does not break his promises. They are indeed irrevocable. There will always be a remnant that our Fathers keeps for himself.

Moving forward... there's something else that I want us to see that can be found in Revelation chapter 7 versus one through eight:

**Rev 7:1** After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree.

**Rev 7:2** Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea,

**Rev 7:3** saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”

**Rev 7:4** And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

**Rev 7:5** 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad,

**Rev 7:6** 12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,

**Rev 7:7** 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,

**Rev 7:8** 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

I want us to look closely here, and make note of the fact that two names are missing from this list of the tribes of Israel, and an old name has been added back in. Ephraim, and Dan are missing, and Joseph and Levi are added back in. Why?

As we begin reading chapter 49 to study the blessings of Jacob upon his 12 sons, we’ll see that Dan is apparently going to have a serious ongoing problem with idolatry. And so, this may be the reason that Dan is left out of the 144,000. The next logical question is where is Ephraim? But we have to remember that in Ezekiel chapter 37, we see that in the end times Ephraim and Judah are reunited.

Next, we see that in place of Ephraim, Joseph is added back in. To suddenly see that Ephraim was deleted, and Joseph was added back in tells us that something dramatic is happened... But what? Let’s turn to read Genesis chapter 7 versus nine through 14:

**Rev 7:9** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

**Rev 7:10** and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

**Rev 7:11** And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and

the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

**Rev 7:12** saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

**Rev 7:13** Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?”

**Rev 7:14** I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

What we need to remember here is that Ephraim and Judah come back together before the great tribulation, also called the time of Jacobs trouble. This happens in the end days but before the world enters that time of trouble. The other group of people that we find in Revelation chapter 7 are described as being from every nation, tribe and tongue. These are people who would have been true believers, who were martyred during the tribulation. Who are these people in white robes? Could this be a portion of Ephraim who is suddenly missing from the listing of the 12 tribes? John asks the Angel in verse 13... “*Who are they and where are they from?*” We know from an earlier verse that they are from every nation, tribe, and tongue.

Something else that I want us to make note of is that the tribes of Ephraim Israel (also known as the lost sheep of the house of Israel) are the bulk of the hundred and 44,000 listed in the book of Revelation chapter 7.

Another question that may be asked is why are the Levites being included back in as a tribe of Israel here in the book of Revelation? We have to remember that there is no more need for a special priestly tribe to officiate temple services. The only men who will survive the tribulation in one form or another, are believers, and all men will be as priests. There is no more need for an earthly man to serve at the temple or to provide sacrifices. The Levites role is complete, and so they are returned to their heritage, as part of the house of Israel.

And so, as we move into Genesis chapter 49 and 50, I want us to be aware of these things as we are reading the blessings that Jacob (also known as Israel) gives to his 12 sons. Knowing these things... Let’s now read Genesis chapter 49

**Gen 49:1** Then Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come.

**Gen 49:2** “Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father.

**Gen 49:3** “Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power.

**Gen 49:4** 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!

*Gen 49:5 “Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords.*

*Gen 49:6 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.*

*Gen 49:7 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.*

*Gen 49:8 “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.*

*Gen 49:9 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?*

*Gen 49:10 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.*

*Gen 49:11 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.*

*Gen 49:12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.*

*Gen 49:13 “Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon.*

*Gen 49:14 “Issachar is a strong donkey, crouching between the sheepfolds.*

*Gen 49:15 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.*

*Gen 49:16 “Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel.*

*Gen 49:17 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.*

*Gen 49:18 I wait for your salvation, O LORD.*

*Gen 49:19 “Raiders shall raid Gad, but he shall raid at their heels.*

*Gen 49:20 “Asher's food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal delicacies.*

*Gen 49:21 “Naphtali is a doe let loose that bears beautiful fawns.*

*Gen 49:22 “Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall.*

*Gen 49:23 The archers bitterly attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him severely,*

*Gen 49:24 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),*

*Gen 49:25 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.*

*Gen 49:26 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.*

*Gen 49:27 “Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey and at evening dividing the spoil.”*

*Gen 49:28 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.*

*Gen 49:29 Then he commanded them and said to them, “I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,*

*Gen 49:30 in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place.*

*Gen 49:31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah—*

*Gen 49:32 the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the Hittites.”*

*Gen 49:33 When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people.*

If we don't understand anything else from Genesis chapter 49, I want us to understand that Israel is prophesying about the 12 tribes of Israel things that will take hundreds of years to come into fruition. But these things to do indeed come to fruition. And what we can take from this is the absolute inerrancy and the literal nature of Bible prophecy.

When we see things that are written in the Scripture hundreds of years before they actually take place, we can know for sure, and without a doubt that the Scripture that we're reading is indeed God breathed. And that's extremely important to us in our time because there are still many prophecies about the tribes of Israel that are in the process of being fulfilled as we speak, and others that will soon come to fruition, possibly in our time. And I would submit to you that some of these prophecies are a little obscure, and their meeting might be a little bit cloudy, but the veil is indeed starting to lift. And if we study the book of Revelation, and we connect the dots, and the connections between these prophecies that we find in the beginning of our Fathers Torah, and the end of his written word... there will be little doubt left in our minds that the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob is indeed the author of life itself.

In verse one Jacobs begins by saying something extremely important. He told his sons to gather themselves together so that he could tell them what was going to befall them in the last days. Some English versions of the Bible translated it as “in the days to come” or “in the latter days” but the original Hebrew words here are “Acharit-hayamim”... Which means “at the end”, or “in the last days”.

About 1000 years after this blessing... 10 of the tribes of Israel would vanish. The only tribes left would be Judah, and what was left of Benjamin, and a few of the Levites that were part of the southern kingdom of Judah. However... we do know that Ephraim, who represents all those

lost tribes of the world, does mysteriously reappear in some form in the book of Revelation. And so, these prophecies that Israel speaks to his 12 sons is extremely important when we take into consideration what we already know in hindsight about the 12 tribes of Israel.

For most of us that have been studying our Bibles for some time now, we already know that prophecy tends to create patterns as much as they foretell future events. Many prophecies repeat themselves almost as a warning to make ourselves ready for what is to come. And as we already know, our Father in heaven always does things in patterns. This is why year after year he continuously reminds us to keep his appointments. These appointments... and the substance of these appointments are a pattern that not only help us to remember what has already happened... but to also prepare us for what is about to happen. And so, with that being said, let's examine the blessings given to each of Israel's sons.

If we read through versus three and four, we can clearly see Israel both admonishing and rebuking his firstborn son Reuben for being his firstborn... and yet not being able to control his passion. Clearly, Israel had not forgotten that Ruben had climbed into his father's bed and slept with one of his concubines, and brought shame to his bed. And as we research the Scriptures, we find that the tribe of Reuben did not produce even one single military leader. The tribe of Reuben did not produce one King, not one prophet, and not one judge. Not one of Reuben's descendants are mentioned in the Bible as having any particular value of honor or accomplishing anything of any significance.

We also find that after Moses led the 12 tribes into the promised land of Canaan... the tribe of Reuben decided not to enter the promised land, but rather, decided to take some territory as their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan River outside of the land of Canaan. We even find that Ruben's tribe began to steadily decline in their numbers... so much so... that Moses prayed in Deuteronomy chapter 33 verse six that Yahovah would let Reuben live and not die, and let not his men be few.

Next, we read about the prophetic blessings of Simeon and Levi. In verses five through seven we find another harsh verdict concerning these two sons. We have to remember what Simeon and Levi did to the land of Shechem because of the rape of their sister Dinah. Simeon would become the smallest tribe by the time of the census of numbers chapter 26, and just like Reuben, the tribe of Simeon struggled to stay in existence and to maintain a separate tribal identity. In the census reported in the book of numbers Simeon had a population of 59,300. Within a mere 40 years, the census of numbers 26 showed their population had shrunk by over 50% to 22,200.

We also find that when Moses was officiating over the handing out of the tribes land inheritances... Simeon was given territory within Judah's territory. And so, the territory of the tribe of Simeon was like the bull's-eye in the center of the target. They were completely surrounded by the tribe of Judah, and worse yet, the area that they occupied within Judah was primarily the Negev... which was an arid and dry desert.

Simeon was probably the first tribe to be completely absorbed by the other tribes with some of them joining with Judah, and others joining with what would eventually come to be known as the 10 tribes of Ephraim Israel the northern tribe. In fact, there is even some mention in first Chronicles of some members of the tribe of Simeon leaving the holy land altogether and joining with Edom... who were the descendants of Esau, Jacob's twin brother. Jacob said that they would be scattered, and this turned out to be an extremely true prophecy. And so, the first three brothers didn't fare so well concerning their father's blessings. Let's move on now to the blessing of Judah.

Judah is the lion, and the new leader of Israel. The very name Judah means "praise", and Judah will indeed have the praise of his brothers, and eventually the praise of the whole world, because out of Judah would come our Father's anointed kings of Israel, along with the last king of Israel who is our Messiah Yeshua Hamashiach.

The royal line of David will indeed come from Judah, and the scepter will indeed not pass from Judah until the return of our Messiah. In Genesis chapter 49 verse 10, Israel gives a prophecy concerning the coming of our Messiah through his blessing of the tribe of Judah. Israel tells his sons very clearly that men from Judah's family will be Kings. The sign that his family rules will not leave his family before the real king comes... and then many people will obey and serve him. Once again, a prophecy that we can clearly see was given 1000 years before it actually came to pass, and that final King is still yet to return very possibly in our time... to set up his soon coming kingdom.

As we move on to verse 13, we find the blessing of Zebulun. And although the tribe of Zebulun would be landlocked by the tribes of Asher and Manasseh, the descendants of Zebulun were close enough to the Mediterranean to feast on the abundance of the seas. Zebulun's destiny was to be in commercial ventures. Zebulun would become a merchant by trade, and his ancestors would have much to do with shipping and other maritime industry.

As we move on to the tribe of Issachar, we find that Issachar will be like a donkey that works too hard. Many of us may think that to compare the tribe of Issachar to a donkey would be an insult... but this was not the case back in that time. Donkeys were valued creatures, and were a combination of taxicabs and the trucking industry of that era. What we can take away from this particular blessing is that the tribe of Issachar was an extremely hard-working tribe, and that they would surely see that their land would be pleasant because of the hard work that they had done and their resting place would indeed be good.

Moving on to verse 16 we find that Dan will rule his people as one of the tribes of Israel. The treachery of a group of Danites later in time, is described in Judges chapter 18 verse 27 that bites the horse's heels. Sampson, who was from the tribe of Dan, would single-handedly hold the Philistines at bay in Judges chapter 14 through 16. And I want us to understand that the word "Palestine" is simply the Greek word for "Philistines". So, when we talk about the

Philistines of the West Bank, or the creation of a Palestinian state... what we're actually talking about is the Philistines of the West Bank, and the creation of a Philistines state. We must remember that Goliath of Gath himself was a Philistine. What's a little unnerving to know... is that the Bible tells us that this is exactly what's supposed to happen in the last days.

The very reason that Sampson was brought forth by our Elohim was to be a Deliverer for the tribe of Dan from the oppression of the Philistines. And I want us to know that even though all the biblical judges were called by the title of being a "judge" ... all of these judges performed different functions. For instance, some were prophets, some were military leaders, some were rulers, and some were deliverers just like Sampson. So, when we talk about "judges" in the book of judges... it's important to keep these things in mind.

Something else that's extremely interesting is to note is the mention of a serpent when Isaac described Dan's future characteristics. Although every tribe of Israel struggled with idolatry, none of them seem to be so sifted as the tribe of Dan. Even the great Judge Sampson, had a difficult time resisting the pagan influences of the Philistines. Even Sampson himself was drug into the trap of the Philistine prostitutes, and he loved to assimilate himself with these pagans, and he even had a fling with Delilah, and even married a Philistine girl.

The tribe of Dan was so worn down from battling the Philistines that they eventually gave up control over their land and their inheritance, and moved northward close to the border of modern-day Lebanon. The tribe of Dan conquered a city called "Laish" and renamed it "Dan". In fact... the ruins of this particular city are visible still today. As soon as they overtook the city they immediately set up a carved image as an Idol, and assigned priests to it, and the city became a center of pagan cult worship, and it stayed that way for the next several hundred years.

Dan's tribe diminished over time, and we can see, the tribe of Dan was not even mentioned in the Old Testament listing of tribal genealogies in first Chronicles chapter 2... and they were omitted in the New Testament listing of the tribes of Israel that will make up the 144,000 in the book of Revelation chapter 7.

But... with that in mind, this does not mean that Dan is to be extinct for all time, because we see in the millennial kingdom, the thousand-year reign of our Messiah is described in Ezekiel chapter 48, and we can clearly see that Dan does receive an inheritance. We need to remember that the timing of the 144,000 sealed Israelites takes place during... or actually just before... what we know as the tribulation period... also known by the Jews as "Jacob's trouble", and the millennial kingdom comes after that. So, we can see that Dan is around during the tribulation, but it could be that Dan is still practicing paganism and this is why there is not a single Danite worthy to be part of the 144,000 sealed witnesses. In the end... we'll just have to wait and see.

At the end of the prophecy of Dan, Israel makes a rather interesting statement in verse 18, where he says, "*Yahovah, I am waiting for your salvation*". It's unclear whether this has anything to do with the tribe of Dan, and the idea that they may repent in the end or not.

Biblical scholars have wrestled with this statement for generations. Is this Isaac saying, “*Yahovah I am waiting for your salvation*”, or is this Dan saying “*Yahovah I am waiting for your salvation*”? In the end... once again we’ll just have to wait and see.

The prophecy of Gad is extremely short, and simply says that Gad will be attacked but that Gad will chase them away. Gad will once again just like Ruben, be one of the tribes that decided not to enter the promised land. Instead... Gad’s descendants settled on the east side of the Jordan River. And the borders of Gad were extremely exposed to several longtime enemies including the Moabites and the Amorites who were descendants of Lot, and much like Dan.. The tribe of Gad found themselves constantly at war. But... on the other hand... this constant warfare led to the tribe of Gad becoming regarded as some of the most fiercest of warriors.

With that being said, Gad is also not credited in the Bible with any particular outstanding person belonging to that tribe. Elijah is said to be from the tribe of Gad, but that’s strictly legend and has never been verified. The most famous Gadite, would’ve probably been Jair, who was a judge and a leader over Gad for a period of time. In the Old Testament, from time to time we’ll occasionally run into the geographical name of Gilead... Galead and Gad are generally used interchangeably to describe where the tribe of Gad had settled.

As we look at verse 20 of Israel’s blessing upon his son Asher, we find that Asher’s land will grow a lot of good food and will be food that will be fit for a King. Asher actually means “happy”. Asher’s portion of land was some of the most fertile land in the holy land, that stretched between the land of Tyre to mount caramel. The tribe of Asher had apparently shunned military conflicts and chose to live a very peaceful life of agriculture. And we once again do not find any great military commander, leader, or even a judge coming from the tribe of Asher..

As we get into verse 21, we read about the tribe of Naphtali who is like a deer running free and whose words are beautiful. The tribe of Naphtali was prominently mentioned in Judges chapter 5 in the song of Debra and Barack, where Barack and his tribe of Naphtali are singled out for the special acts of bravery in a significant military conflict between the Israelites and some of the Canaanite tribes. Something else very interesting to know, is that it was in Naphtali’s territory which is now part of the Galilee, that our Messiah recruited most of his disciples when he began his ministry. In chapter 9 verse one and two of Isaiah, we’re told that Isaiah prophesied that the insignificant territory of Naphtali, although they lived in darkness, would see a great light. They lived in a place as dark as death, but a great light would shine on them.

As we move forward into versus 22 through 26, we see Israel blessing his most beloved son Joseph and you can probably imagine by now what his brothers that were standing there in the room with him already knew. This... was going to be an extremely significant blessing.

Once again, we can see clearly that the blessings of Israel upon Joseph were indeed piled on as high as a mountain. We must remember that it is Ephraim whose descendants will be more than the sand of the sea, and although the house of Ephraim Israel will be divorced from the one true

God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob... we also know that Ephraim Israel, also known as the northern kingdom will indeed return with more descendants than can even be counted.

What's important to realize is that when Israel adopted Joseph's two sons Ephraim and Manasseh, he was giving Joseph a double portion of blessings. When Israel put his right hand on the head of Ephraim and he prophesied in Genesis chapter 48 verse 19 that Ephraim would become a fulness of gentile nations... these multitudes of nations will indeed become the legacy of Joseph. The fruitfulness of this blessing mentioned in verse 22 was to be carried forward primarily under the banner of Ephraim. The fruitfulness of Joseph does not only concern his personal life... it concerns the descendants of his destiny. And yet this very fruitfulness came at a very high cost.

I wonder how many of us would have been able to endure all those years in prison under false charges not only by Strangers, but by the hands of his own family. Joseph was rejected by the world, and yet he not only forgave them... he blessed those who had treated him so wretchedly. And it was this forgiveness that created the peace that they had between them. Which reminds me of the old saying that says "*two wrongs don't make a right.*" You cannot replace evil with evil. We must replace evil with good, and Joseph... because he walked with our Father in heaven was well informed about the spiritual warfare that he was in, and this is exactly why he was able to triumph over evil. I can only hope and pray that we would be able to learn from this lesson ourselves, and then teach them to our children and our children's children.

Our Father's blessing upon the Gentile world was predicated upon those who have benefited from identifying with Ephraim Israel. All of us have sinned. All of us have fallen short of the glory of our Elohim. Just like Ephraim, we were divorced from our Father in heaven clear back in the garden of Eden when Adam fell. And yet... the only begotten Son of Yahovah who was sent by Yahovah... has shown us the path back to the tree of life that we were once banned from in the garden of Eden.

It is we Gentile believers, who identify spiritually with Israel as Paul instructs us in Romans chapter 11... and it is we who have picked up our crosses, and have willfully decided to follow our Messiah, and to return to the laws, and to the commandments, and the precepts, and the appointments of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob... along with the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and along with the believing Jews... that are now inclusively identified as the house of Israel and the B'nai Elohim... the very children of God. The number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

And last but not least we turn to Genesis chapter 49 verse 27 and we find the blessing that Israel gave to his beloved son Benjamin. And if we really need any more proof that it is indeed the Ruach Hackodesh that is guiding these blessings from Israel... then Benjamin's blessing should be all that we require. I want us to notice in verse 27 that it says that Benjamin is a ravenous

wolf in the morning devouring the pray, and at evening dividing the spoil.

For those of you who do not know the story of the tribe of Benjamin you can find it in detail in judges chapters 19 and 20... But I'm going to summarize what happened to the tribe of Benjamin here for the sake of time this evening.

In the book of Judges chapters 19 and 20, it tells us about a very peculiar story that sounds a lot like why our Father in heaven destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. If we remember correctly, when the Angels came down to Sodom and Gomorrah to see if the men there were wicked are not, they found that the men had surrounded Lots house and were beating on the door demanding Lot to hand over the two Angels so that they could... "know them". In the end, they got to know these two Angels pretty good, and these two Angels were the last things that they ever saw because the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were burned to the ground because of their wickedness.

The story that we find about the tribe of Benjamin is much like the story that we find concerning Sodom and Gomorrah. A man from the tribe of Ephraim was temporarily staying in Gibeah, and an old man that was coming from his work in the field that evening saw the traveler in the square of the city. And the old man invites the traveler into his home because he knows it's not safe for him to be in the square of the city (once again, this sounds eerily the same as the story of Sodom and Gomorrah when Lot would not allow the Angels to spend the night in the square of the city). And so, the man takes the Ephriamite traveler into his home, when a bunch of Benjamites surrounded the house and started beating on the door demanding the old man to bring out the man who came into his house so that they could... know him.

What they were saying, was that they wanted this traveler so that they could have sexual relations with him, which is exactly why they wanted the Angels in Sodom and Gomorrah to come out of the house of Lot for. Again, these were wicked, and worthless men according to Judges chapter 19 verse 22.

The old man protected the traveler in his house, and gave these wicked men his concubine, and he pleaded with these wicked Benjamites to take his concubine instead of the traveler that he was trying to protect. And so, these wicked Benjamites knew this concubine, and attacked her, and abused her all night long until the morning. As the dawn began to break, they finally let her go.

And as the sun rose, the woman came and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was... and she died. The old man at that point in time, cut her body up into 12 different pieces and sent them to the 12 tribes of Israel.

Now I want us to understand that nothing like this had ever taken place since the beginning of the house of Israel. This was such a heinous act, that the 12 tribes of Israel were enraged and they attacked the tribe of Benjamin and almost wiped out the whole tribe because of its perverse

wickedness. Needless to say, the tribe of Benjamin never fully recovered from that attack.

And so... the tribe of Benjamin had a very unique existence. Out of the tribe of Benjamin came Saul who God anointed as the first king of Israel. Esther and her cousin Mordechai were also both members of the tribe of Benjamin. The Jewish Festival of Purim was established in memory of the brave acts of Esther and Mordechai when they saved the Jews from extinction by overcoming Haman. And you can read about that story in the book of Esther.

Another very famous Apostle that came from the tribe of Benjamin was the apostle Paul. We have to remember that the apostle Paul was from the tribe of Benjamin, although because he lived in the southern kingdom of Judah... he often referred to himself as a Jew. And so, in the end we can see that the tribe of Benjamin had a rather schizophrenic history of both good and evil emanating from that particular tribe.

At the end of chapter 49 we see that Israel also known as Jacob, commands his sons to bury him with his fathers in the cave that Abraham had purchased from Ephron the Hittite, and the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, which was the same cave where Abraham buried Sarah his wife and where they had buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and where Israel buried his wife Leah. And these are the last words that we hear from Jacob (also known as Israel).

With that historical knowledge under our belts... Let's now go read Genesis chapter 50

**Gen 50:1** *Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him.*

**Gen 50:2** *And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel.*

**Gen 50:3** *Forty days were required for it, for that is how many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.*

**Gen 50:4** *And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying,*

**Gen 50:5** *'My father made me swear, saying, "I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me." Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return.'*

**Gen 50:6** *And Pharaoh answered, "Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear."*

**Gen 50:7** *So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,*

**Gen 50:8** *as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen.*

**Gen 50:9** *And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very*

great company.

*Gen 50:10* When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days.

*Gen 50:11* When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians." Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan.

*Gen 50:12* Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them,

*Gen 50:13* for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place.

*Gen 50:14* After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

*Gen 50:15* When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him."

*Gen 50:16* So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died:

*Gen 50:17* 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

*Gen 50:18* His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

*Gen 50:19* But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?"

*Gen 50:20* As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

*Gen 50:21* So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

*Gen 50:22* So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years.

*Gen 50:23* And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own.

*Gen 50:24* And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

*Gen 50:25* Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."

*Gen 50:26* So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Here in the last chapter of the book of Genesis we see that Joseph commands his servants and the physicians to embalm his father. There would be 40 days that it would take to embalm the body, followed by the customary thirty-day mourning period that Hebrews observed, giving us a total of about 70 days. And so, the brothers did indeed carry the body of their father Israel back to Goshen, and on up to the cave at Mekhpelah in Canaan.

This funeral procession that was fit for a King went on for about 200 miles, and I daresay that it must have been an extremely extravagant, and solemn event. All of the servants of Pharaoh went with them, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt went with them, as well as all the household of Joseph, and his brothers, and his father's household, all went with them. There were chariots and horsemen in this procession and we're told that it was a very great company.

And after the burial, we find that the brothers of Joseph are still in fear of their brother Joseph because of what they had done to him as a young boy, and they decide to tell Joseph that their father commanded Joseph to forgive them for their transgressions against him. But once again, Joseph reassures them that they have nothing to fear, because Joseph knew that everything that had unfolded had unfolded according to the plan, and the will of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

54 Years after his father died, Joseph also took his last breath at hundred and 10 years of age. Joseph also made his family promise that when the day came that Israel would finally leave Egypt for the promise land, that they would also take his bones with them. But until that time, Joseph was also embalmed, and his body was placed in a coffin to await the day that he too could join his ancestors in the land that God had promised to the Hebrews.

And... This ends our study of the book of BEGINNING's also known as... The book of Genesis.

The week after next on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November... we will begin our journey into the book of Exodus, and I want to invite you to be there for that because if you think that the book of Genesis had a lot of information to share with you... you're going to be excited to know that the book of Exodus is going to have even more information to share with you. And its information that today's modern day Christian needs to know.

And so, I want you to mark your calendars for November 28th at 7 PM Eastern standard time as we begin our journey into the book of Exodus.

With that being said, we will not have a Bible study next Wednesday evening on the 21<sup>st</sup>. We're going to be taking a break in between these two books, and old Pastor V. may try and get out and do a little hunting next week, not to mention the fact that I will be out of town from Wednesday to Thursday... and so please mark your calendars so that everybody knows that we will not be having Bible study next Wednesday evening, however I will be setting up a

fellowship for next Wednesday evening that you can join.

If you are already signed up for our fellowships at Holy Impact Ministries, you will automatically get an invitation for that fellowship. If you have not signed up for invitations to our fellowship sessions... all you have to do is email me at [pastorv@holyimpactministries.com](mailto:pastorv@holyimpactministries.com), and I'll send you an invitation to our fellowships schedule. Once you're on the list, you don't have to ask for another invitation because we will continuously send you an invitation each time we have a fellowship unless you request to be taken off of that fellowship mailing list.

And so... next Wednesday evening we are going to have a fellowship so be looking for that fellowship invitation in your email.