

Instruments
of
Cruelty

Genesis 49:1-15



~ There will be one final report after this one from Genesis; and then our Spiritual Safari will be led off to the Gospel of Matthew. This expedition through the entire Word of God is an elite tour as we move forward on two fronts at all times. We will weave from the Old Testament to the New Testament – back and forth – Genesis, Matthew, Exodus, Mark, Leviticus, Luke – and so on. I am convinced this is the practical way to go through the Bible properly, correctly and completely. I know it's supernatural to our learning process – there is simply no question about that for me – and if you will study Scripture carefully with me then the Holy Spirit Himself will anoint you as an absolute authority in Holy Writ. I can promise you those things, friends; because God promises you those things – in His Word.

Today, we have come to the deathbed of Jacob. Jacob was very near the end of his life in our last report, and he isn't going to make it through this chapter. When we left Jacob last time he was strengthening himself just to sit up in bed to talk to Joseph. After this the rest of the sons came into the room. We see Jacob here surrounded by all twelve of his sons and he is going to give his farewell message right now. We're going to start with the eldest son and just go right down the list. This is a very important portion of Scripture to consider. When a man makes a statement on his death bed he is highly likely to speak the truth. Naturally, that's where the term "deathbed confessions" comes from. Many people wait until they're nearly dead to confess; and they generally tell the truth at that time....

1 And Jacob called unto his sons, and said; Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.

~ This is a very important expression – "the last days" – and we need to know what we're dealing with when we see this in the Bible. This is one

phrase, among others, that reoccur myriad times in the Word of God. The “last days” in the Old Testament always refers to the last days of the nation Israel. That is completely different and totally disconnected from the last days of the church. The church is not the nation Israel, and the nation Israel is not the church – not spiritually, not physically – not in any way, shape or form. Until you learn and accept the difference between the nation Israel and the church body of believers you can never comprehend the truth of prophecy and you will remain hopelessly confused in your theology. We have a razor-sharp distinction that must be worked out in our minds before we can proceed in this safari. Those who want another interpretation: this is where your safari ends. I don’t compromise in my Bible teaching – I divide – harshly, if necessary!

If you care to have credibility in handling the Word of God, and if you wish to be believable in your witness for Christ, it requires a great deal of Bible study. If you deign teach theology you had better make ABSOLUTELY sure you know what you are talking about - or someone is going to take your spiritual sword away from you and run it right through your heart. If you want to add something new to a Godly conversation you’re going to have to have had the Holy Spirit teaching you from the Bible recently – VERY recently. That means even MORE Bible study is required. Are you studying to show yourself approved? How much?

There are several wonderful publications available that examine the prophecies of the sons of Jacob. I would recommend any serious student of Scripture look into them. Deuteronomy will reveal how Israel had become tribes; each tribe containing thousands of people. Moses has a great deal to say about them. If you’ll take this prophecy Jacob is giving, and the one in Deuteronomy, and follow them through, you’ll make a startling discovery: God reveals something about each one of these tribes of Israel. Not only has the prophecy of the nation Israel been literally fulfilled, but the prophecy of each individual tribe has been mostly fulfilled. There are alarmingly few pieces that remain unfulfilled. This remarkable revelation will likely bore most people to tears – but – to some it will open the Bible up as it has never been opened before. We’re talking about the last days of Israel in Genesis. That, my friends, is super-duper-natural! It should literally blow your mind looking at it this way....

2 Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.

~ The pictures I have seen depicting Jacob on his death bed all appear as if he is ALREADY dead. Jacob is leaning on his staff now – we saw that earlier; in fact, he can't even get out of bed anymore. Jacob was a mobile man and this incapacity had to have been just plain embarrassing. See, death is an embarrassing moment, friends; it will find you at a time when you desire to live the most. All of your appointments are broken by your death! All of your plans become obsolete. All of your accomplishments in this life become irrelevant to you. Some people make appointments years in advance – but – it's all conditional upon continuing to live, of course. We don't know if we'll see tomorrow or not. Jacob is finding out he will soon be breaking his appointments; but Jacob isn't ready to break his appointments. He truly was remarkable....

3 Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:

~ Like father, like son; so, they say. It was the same in the days we're studying. This blessing so far makes Reuben seem like a rather noble and worthy man. Mankind always recognizes himself in his offspring. Reuben never won the blue ribbon, though; he always got red or white. Many wonderful Christians are like that today and they are perfectly content with their unremarkable finish in their work for the Lord. They could have taken their discernment to an unprecedented level, but they settled for second best. Reuben had no desire to do or be anything except what Reuben wanted to be. Today, if we are in the will of God, then we aren't going to be what we want to be; because God's plan for our lives and our plan for our lives are two totally and completely different things – every time – and our plan is second best - and you can just write that down. Maybe Reuben could have been a wonderful writer – but he just didn't care about that. He didn't want to be that. So, Jacob says to Reuben he won't excel; and he never did....

4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.

~ We semi-skipped the sordidness of Reuben when it happened in our study, but no one escapes reaping what they have sown. I didn't go into it but I trust you read it. We said we would see it later and here it is. The reason we skipped it is because there is no place in our reports for what we can find in contemporary literature, movies, plays, television and on internet porn. There's plenty of sickness to go around. I am not going to perpetuate it in my Bible study. The liberal who denounces censorship and believes everything should be accessible to all people at all times, must even be getting, at least, a little tired of the filth in our society that we can hardly block out. We're told to think on those things that are pure, holy and righteous; and that's what we do in this so-called Spiritual Safari. Be not deceived, God is not mocked, whatsoever a man shall sow, that shall he also reap....

5 Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations.

6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.

7 Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.

~ We all remember suffering through the story of their sister Dinah and how these two brothers dealt with the men of Shechem. Jacob took note of that murder. What happened probably haunted him every single day since. Interestingly, Simeon is the southernmost tribe in Israel. You would think that would identify them with Judah and Benjamin, but it doesn't. Simeon is given a territory - but it is just going to fade on out into nothing. By contrast, in Levi, who was equally as complicit in the murder as the rest of them, we see the most marvelous grace of God; and I want to stress that this is the supernatural power of God manifest in Levi. God will take this man who is condemned of his father and make him the head of the priestly

tribe of his brethren! So, someone says, "...then whatever happens doesn't matter." Well, what happens in the family of God is: he who deigns teach the Bible shall receive the greater judgment. We ought to turn that over a few times in our minds, my beloved. The grace of God has made us a kingdom of sinners that will become priests, also, friends. Some day; not today. You became what you are by the marvelous grace of God today. Peter said, "...ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, "this speaks of those redeemed by the precious blood of Christ....

8 Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee.

9 Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

~ Now, they're all going to bow to Judah's children – not Joseph's. Why? Because Joseph's prophecies have been fulfilled in Egypt and the new prophecy here looks to the Lord Jesus Christ; and this prophecy found here in Genesis is, perhaps, the most remarkable eschatological truth in the entire prophetic canons of Scripture. It is literally never taught anymore. We have already been told that the seed of the woman will be the one that does the bruising of the serpents head. Then, that seed was confirmed to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Here next, Judah receives the confirmation that Christ is going to appear from the lineage of Judah. Shiloh means rest and tranquility. Christ is the only One that can ever bring peace and rest. Those who listened to Jesus but rejected Him when He was here on earth, He turned to them and said, "come unto Me all ye who labor and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest." That's Shiloh. Christ is also the One that shall hold the sceptre – and, my friend – the sceptre of this universe is in nail pierced hands right now....

10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

~ There's a whole lot more to this prophecy in verse twenty-four, "...from thence is the Shepherd; the Stone of Israel." Christ is the Shepherd. We also have in the same passage that Judah is called a "stone" – and Christ is the Rock, the Chief Cornerstone. Flip over to Numbers chapter twenty-four and we read, "...there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel..." Alright then, with the coming of Christ He is the Seed, He is Shiloh, He holds the sceptre, He is the Shepherd that gave His life, and He is the Chief Shepherd Who is returning one day! Christ is the Stone that the builders disallowed – but now – has become the headstone of the corner. Christ is the Star! – The Bright and Morning Star to His church today. This is the line from Adam. Abel was murdered and God raised up another. Seth took us to Noah. Shem took us from Noah to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and, now, Judah! You can be blind and still see this prophetic announcement – so don't miss it! ~

11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

12 His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

13 Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for an haven of ships; and his border shall be unto Zidon.

14 Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens:

15 And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.

~ So, what are we talking about when we read, "...His teeth white with milk and eyes red with wine?" This is Jesus Who rode into town on a donkey and offered Himself as the Messiah; the King and Savior who washed His garments in wine – the wine of His own blood! Isaiah gives a similar prophecy whereby, when Christ returns, the garments are washed

in the blood of His enemies – not His! His eyes are red with wine when Christ returns the second time to establish His Kingdom, friends – THIS is eschatology 101! This is also one of the most remarkable of all the remarkable prophecies we have in Scripture – and we have some very remarkable prophecy coming up! We can't hang around here all day today as we must keep moving in our safari. We read about Zebulun - but we're not going into all that. It's also a remarkable prophecy. Zebulun is on the coast in the North.

Then we have Issachar in verse fourteen and fifteen. These three northern tribes constituted the majority of the workforce of the nation. These are the workers in Israel – probably even today. That is the thought of burdens tribute servitude. When we look at TV, we don't see people like ourselves at all. We see weirdo's, frankly, doing weird things. Well, the truly "great" men and women are the peculiar and unusual crowd. They're never popular or accepted. They're the ones trying to get the Word of God in sound doctrine to a people that simply won't learn. It seems so pointless and unimportant – to others. The backbones of any nations are those unimportant people. These tribes we are passing over were the heart of Israel; and we will complete the Book of Genesis in our Spiritual Safari with our next report ~

