



Grades 4-5 • Lesson 49

Israel's Blessing

Genesis 49:8-10, 49:22-24, 50:24-26; Exodus 1:8-11

12 Sons of Israel

Israel used different animals and objects to describe each son's tribe. Read the description next to each name and draw a line to match it to the correct symbol.



Reuben
unstable as water



Simeon
took his sword and
came against the city



Levi
priest's breastpiece
with 12 stones



Judah
lion



Zebulun
haven for ships



Issachar
strong donkey



Dan
serpent in the way



Gad
troop



Asher
rich food and
royal delicacies



Joseph
fruitful branch



Naphtali
doe let loose



Benjamin
ravenous wolf



Name _____

Memory Verse

Fill in the blanks to complete the verse.

And we _____

that _____ those who

_____ God _____

things _____ together

for _____, for

those _____ are

according to his

Romans 8:28

What You Heard *In the Word*

- Israel blessed Joseph's sons and his 12 sons. The promise of the Messiah was given to his son Judah.
- God blessed Israel's family by giving them many descendants. A new king in Egypt came to power and was afraid of the Israelites because they were so numerous. He made them slaves.

OutWord *For Family Discussion*

Suppose your friend says that he never bothers reading the Old Testament because those books aren't important.

What could you say?

Actually, the Old Testament is important for understanding the New Testament. For example, Genesis explains how God created everything, but man corrupted it by sinning. It's because of Adam and Eve's sin that we sin today and need a Savior. God promised to send a Savior, his Son Jesus, back in Genesis! Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah all received the promise of the Savior being born to their descendants. When Jesus was born, he fulfilled this promise because his parents were from the tribe of Judah. The Old Testament gives many prophecies like this that were fulfilled with Jesus. If we don't read and know these promises, we can miss God's faithfulness and mercy.

HomeWord *For Parents*

God used a famine to bring Jacob and his family to Egypt where Joseph could provide food for them. God promised Jacob that he would make him into a great nation and bring his descendants back to the land of Canaan (Genesis 46:3–4). The family settled in the land of Goshen where they could tend their flocks. During the remaining years of famine, Joseph provided food for his family (Genesis 47:12) and sold grain to the Egyptians.

Jacob lived in Egypt for 17 years. Before he died, he blessed Joseph's sons Manasseh and Ephraim and named them as his own sons, giving Joseph a double portion as his inheritance (Genesis 48:5–6, 48:22). Israel had more blessings to give, and he called all 12 of his sons to him before his death. The blessings he gave in Genesis 49 are prophetic regarding his sons' future tribes. Judah was chosen to receive the promise of the Messiah, to whom belongs "the obedience of the peoples" (Genesis 49:10). Judah's tribe was also chosen to lead as kings. Joseph received a special blessing of fruitfulness and abundance (Genesis 49:22–26). Jacob's other sons also received the blessing of being a part of the nation of Israel, even those who received rebuke for past actions (e.g., Reuben, Simeon, Levi).

A key message in Israel's blessing is that his sons' actions would affect their descendants. The goal of Israel's message was to encourage them to live their lives in purity and holiness for God and their future generations. They were not meant to remain comfortably in Egypt but to return to Canaan and claim God's promises. The growth of the tribes and their enslavement in Egypt were steps in God's perfect plan to prepare the Israelites to be his chosen people, a nation of priests.

