

Bible Stories for Adults

Jacob Blesses Judah

Genesis 49

Opening

Gathering: What should parents strive to leave their children in their inheritance?

Today's Focus: We are chosen by God not as a result of anything we do or who we are, but only by His grace.

Key Verses: *It is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.* Romans 9:8

This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 3:6

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Jesus' Parables (*Matthew 13*)

Why did Jesus speak in parables?

Matthew 13:10-16

Were the people before Jesus unable to understand God's plan because they weren't faithful enough?

Matthew 13:17

How long had people been unable to understand the mysteries of God's plan?

Matthew 13:34-35

God's Mystery (*Ephesians 3*)

Who believed he was specially chosen to reveal God's mystery to the world?

Ephesians 3:1-5

Was he chosen for this task because he especially deserved it?

Ephesians 3:7-9

What is this mystery?

Ephesians 3:6

Was this inclusion of non-Jews an afterthought?

Ephesians 1:4-5

Early Revelations of God's Mystery (*Genesis 1-10*)

Had God really planned to take the faithful to heaven since the beginning of time?

Matthew 25:34

How long did man wait before first hearing God's promise of saving grace through Christ?

Genesis 3:15

How did God reveal the mystery of His grace after condemning Cain for murdering Abel?

Genesis 4:15

What promise of grace did God give after destroying the wicked earth in a flood?

Genesis 9:8-11

What mark did God offer to remind mankind of this promise?

Genesis 9:12-15

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A Channel to Reveal the Mystery (*Genesis 11-12*)

What did man do next that invoked God's judgment?

Genesis 11:4, 9

What promise of grace did God give after scattering and confusing vain mankind?

Genesis 12:1-3

The First Generation (*Genesis 17:1-14*)

What did God do for Abram the year before Isaac would be born?

Genesis 17:1-2 (1-8)

What mark did God give as a permanent reminder of His promise?

Genesis 17:10-11

The Second Generation (*Genesis 17:15-21*)

Who would receive these eternal promises after Abraham?

Genesis 17:15-16, 19

Did Abraham agree with God's wisdom?

Genesis 17:17-18

Had God forgotten that Ishmael owned Abraham's legal birthright?

Genesis 17:20-21

What did the birthright mean to a firstborn son?

Genesis 27:29

Deuteronomy 21:17

Genesis 27:4

Aren't all of Abraham's descendants heirs to the promise given to him?

Romans 9:6-8 (1-9)

The Third Generation (*Genesis 27*)

Did God intervene in any way with the birth of the next generation?

Genesis 25:21

Did Isaac allow God to direct the covenant birthright of the next generation?

Genesis 27:30-33

When Isaac learned of his mistake, did he try to take back God's blessing and give it to Esau?

Genesis 27:34-40

Could Isaac have been more careful and made sure the covenant promise went to Esau?

Romans 9:10-16

The Fourth Generation (*Genesis 29:31-30:24*)

Did God intervene in any way with the birth of the next generation?

Genesis 29:31-35

How did Rachel, the loved wife, try to affect God's plans for the covenant family?

Genesis 30:1-8

What did Leah think of her sister's tricks?

Genesis 30:9-13

Did Leah regret doing this when God opened her womb again?

Genesis 30:17-21

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Rachel's Sons (*Genesis 35:16-18*)

What famous son did Rachel bear when she finally became pregnant?

Genesis 30:22-24

How did Jacob feel about this only son of the wife he loved?

Genesis 37:3-4

What happened when Rachel had her second son?

Genesis 35:16-18

Reuben, Jacob's Firstborn (*Genesis 49:1-4*)

Did Jacob try to give the covenant birthright to his firstborn, Reuben?

Genesis 49:1-4

Note: No judge, prophet or prince came from tribe of Reuben; Territory taken by Moab

What did Jacob refer to in his condemnation of Reuben?

Genesis 35:22

Was Reuben irresponsible as an eldest brother?

Genesis 37:19-22, 29

Simeon and Levi (*Genesis 49:5-7*)

Did the covenant birthright go to one of the next sons in line?

Genesis 49:5-7

What incident revealed Simeon's and Levi's violent sides?

Genesis 34:1-2, 11-15, 24-25

Jacob prophesied that the tribes of Simeon and Levi would be scattered in Israel. Did this happen?

Joshua 19:1

Joshua 13:33; 21:3

Joseph and Benjamin (*Genesis 49:22-27*)

Did Jacob give the covenant birthright to his favorite son or his youngest son?

Genesis 49:22-27

Note: Joseph's fruit included Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah (judges) and Samuel (prophet)

How did Jacob further bless his favorite son Joseph?

Genesis 48:5, 15-16

What did Joseph do when Jacob started to bless Ephraim over Manasseh, the firstborn?

Genesis 48:14, 17-20

How was the tribe of Benjamin later seen as a ravenous wolf?

Judges 20:12-14, 21

What happened to Benjamin as a result of this battle?

Judges 20:46-48

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Judah (*Genesis 49:8-12*)

How did Jacob pass on the covenant birthright to Judah?

Genesis 49:8-10

your hand will be on the neck of your enemies (Psalm 18:40)

father's sons will bow down to you (2 Samuel 5:1-3)

You are a lion's cub (Revelation 5:5)

Shiloh (Isaiah 9:6)

scepter will not depart ...until Shiloh comes (Luke 2:1)

obedience of the nations (Matthew 28:18-20)

How did Jacob describe the spiritual blessings and treasures brought by this scepter of Judah?

Genesis 49:11-12

tether his donkey to a vine

wash his garments in wine

eyes darker than wine, teeth whiter than milk

Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher and Naphtali (*Genesis 49:13-21*)

What blessings did Jacob have for his six other sons?

Genesis 49:13

Genesis 49:14-15

Genesis 49:16-18

Genesis 49:19

Genesis 49:20

Genesis 49:21

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What great insights and understandings has God given me into His mysterious plan?
(*Deut. 29:29; Matthew 11:25-27; Romans 3; 9:6-18; Galatians 3:21-29; Ephesians 3:6, 10-12*)
2. How and through whom have I gained insight and understanding into God's mysterious plan?
(*Deuteronomy 4:5-6; Daniel 2:19-23; 1 Corinthians 9:1-14; Galatians 1:6-9; Ephesians 3:1-5*)
3. When have I helped others understand the mysteries of God's plan for them?
(*Deuteronomy 4:9; Isaiah 43:10-13; Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 1:15-16; Ephesians 3:7-9; 1 Timothy 4:6-16; 1 Peter 3:15*)
4. What have I done that showed rejection of my birthright?
(*Genesis 25:34; 49:3-4; 1 Kings 19:10; Matthew 6:1-18; 23:1-15; Luke 10:16; Romans 10:1-3; 1 Peter 2:4-8*)
5. How has God blessed me when I clearly haven't deserved it?
(*Ezra 9:13; Job 33:27-28; Matthew 11:25; Romans 9-10; 5:6-8; Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 John 4:9-10*)