

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #99

Genesis 49:5-7

Genesis 49 is a chapter of judgment. Many years before this chapter, literally many miles before, Jacob's sons had done certain things. Some of those things were very positive and gained Jacob's blessings and some were negative and gained Jacob's judgment. **All sons were judged and what each son had previously done in life determined his future destiny.**

### **GOD BLESSES A BELIEVER ON EARTH AND IN ETERNITY IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO HIS FAITHFULNESS.**

What a son of God chooses to do in life determines the gaining of an inheritance or the loss of it. It would be well for us to remember that the last time we saw that all sons were called to face judgment (49:1-2).

As we looked at the first judgment, the judgment of Reuben (49:3-4), we saw that he lost his rewards because of instability and immorality. Reuben just kind of forgot about his sin for about forty years, but eventually his sin found him out. Unfortunately for Reuben, his sin was exposed at Jacob's final judgment, which meant there was no more opportunity for repentance. Reuben-types try to cover their instability and immorality. **Reuben-types do not confront their sin, they condone their sin.**

**JUDGMENT #2** - Some sons lose rewards because they react emotionally and violently.  
49:5-6

There are those in God's family who are emotional reactionaries. They have temper explosions and they do not care if they destroy others. This is the case of Simeon and Levi.

The background for this judgment is Genesis 34. Shechem wanted to marry Dinah after he had raped her (Genesis 34:2, 15-18). Dr. S. L. Johnson sets the historical situation well: "The historical background of this section is the incident recorded in chapter thirty-four, the slaughter of the men of Shechem and the spoiling of the city, because Shechem, the son of Hamor, had taken Dinah, the daughter of Leah, and defiled her by illegal intercourse" (S. L. Johnson, *Genesis*, Study #64, p. 3).

Obviously, Genesis 34 was not viewed by Jacob as being a holy war. He viewed it as ruthless vengeance, and because of this violent temper tantrum, both lost their rewards.

**Fact #1** - They were brothers. 49:5a

Simeon and Levi were in the family of God and what this tells us is that it is possible for those in the family of God to have violent tempers. Simeon and Levi-types are not deeply spiritual but they are extremely emotional.

**Fact #2** – They were cruel. 49:5b

The words “instruments of violence” mean they were violent men. In fact, the word “cruel” (v. 7) is one that indicates these two would violently oppress and injure others and would even use sacred instruments, like circumcision knives or anything else as a weapon (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 288).

**Fact #3** – They were angry. 49:6b, 7a

The word “anger” is one that means these two would become so angry that it would affect their breathing and facial expressions (Ibid, p. 69). These were hot-tempered men. Instead of being in control, they were out of control.

**Fact #4** - They were self-willed. 49:60

The idea of being self-willed is the idea of doing things because it satisfies, delights or pleases self. Simeon and Levi were not interested in doing what pleased God, but their own will.

**Fact #5** – They were fierce. 49:7a

The word “fierce” is one that means these were strong, fortified and firm men (Ibid, p. 616). This word is the opposite of being flexible, teachable and pliable. They would not bend.

**Fact #6** – They were wrathful. 49:7b

The Hebrew word “wrath” is intriguing because it literally refers to a boiling heat in the mind and heart (Ibid, p. 782). This word means that these two were always angry or mad at something or someone. Hot tempered, angry people have a mind problem and a heart problem. They are self-centered, not God-centered.

Jacob never wanted to be like Simeon and Levi, and actually prayed that his soul would not be like theirs. He pronounced his judgment that they would be divided and scattered and not receive any specific inheritance of their own.

Simeon ended up scattered within the family of Judah (Joshua 19:1-9). They did not have an inheritance of their own, but shared one with Judah. Levi was scattered all over Israel and did not have any inheritance either, but shared in that of Israel (Joshua 21:-1-3, 41).

An interesting post script to this story is Levi. The Levites took a strong stand against idolatry and as a result were allowed by God to become the priestly family (Exodus 32:26-29). It is possible to change and there is still time. If you have a temper problem, deal with it: 1) Confess it to God; 2) Make decisive choices to yield to God’s spirit, not yours; 3) Seek God’s will, not your will.