

<p align="center">BIBLE TEXT New International Version</p>	<p align="center">OBSERVATIONS What does the text say?</p>	<p align="center">INTERPRETATION & QUESTIONS What does the text mean to all Christians?</p>	<p align="center">APPLICATION What does the text mean to me?</p>
<p>First IBS Division: Genesis 49:1-28</p> <p><i>Jacob Blesses His Sons</i></p> <p>¹ Then Jacob called for his sons and said: “Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come.</p> <p>² “Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob; listen to your father Israel.</p> <p>³ “Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, the first sign of my strength, excelling in honor, excelling in power.</p> <p>⁴ Turbulent as the waters, you will no longer excel, for you went up onto your father’s bed, onto my couch and defiled it.</p> <p>⁵ “Simeon and Levi are brothers— their swords^[a] are weapons of violence.</p> <p>⁶ Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed men in their anger and hamstringed oxen as they pleased.</p> <p>⁷ Cursed be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel! I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel.</p> <p>⁸ “Judah,^[b] your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons will bow down to you.</p> <p>⁹ You are a lion’s cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?</p> <p>¹⁰ The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet,^[c] until he to whom it belongs^[d] shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.</p>			

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<p>11 He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes.</p> <p>12 His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk.^[e]</p> <p>13 “Zebulun will live by the seashore and become a haven for ships; his border will extend toward Sidon.</p> <p>14 “Issachar is a rawboned^[f] donkey lying down among the sheep pens.^[g]</p> <p>15 When he sees how good is his resting place and how pleasant is his land, he will bend his shoulder to the burden and submit to forced labor.</p> <p>16 “Dan^[h] will provide justice for his people as one of the tribes of Israel.</p> <p>17 Dan will be a snake by the roadside, a viper along the path, that bites the horse’s heels so that its rider tumbles backward.</p> <p>18 “I look for your deliverance, Lord.</p> <p>19 “Gad^[i] will be attacked by a band of raiders, but he will attack them at their heels.</p> <p>20 “Asher’s food will be rich; he will provide delicacies fit for a king.</p> <p>21 “Naphtali is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns.^[j]</p> <p>22 “Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall.^[k]</p> <p>23 With bitterness archers attacked him; they shot at him with hostility.</p> <p>24 But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed^[l] limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,</p>			

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<p>25 because of your father’s God, who helps you, because of the Almighty,^[m] who blesses you with blessings of the skies above, blessings of the deep springs below, blessings of the breast and womb.</p> <p>26 Your father’s blessings are greater than the blessings of the ancient mountains, than^[n] the bounty of the age-old hills. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among^[o] his brothers.</p> <p>27 “Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he devours the prey, in the evening he divides the plunder.”</p> <p>28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them, giving each the blessing appropriate to him.</p> <p>Footnotes:</p> <p>a. Genesis 49:5 The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain.</p> <p>b. Genesis 49:8 <i>Judah</i> sounds like and may be derived from the Hebrew for <i>praise</i>.</p> <p>c. Genesis 49:10 Or <i>from his descendants</i></p> <p>d. Genesis 49:10 Or <i>to whom tribute belongs</i>; the meaning of the Hebrew for this phrase is uncertain.</p> <p>e. Genesis 49:12 Or <i>will be dull from wine, / his teeth white from milk</i></p> <p>f. Genesis 49:14 Or <i>strong</i></p> <p>g. Genesis 49:14 Or <i>the campfires</i>; or <i>the saddlebags</i></p> <p>h. Genesis 49:16 <i>Dan</i> here means <i>he provides justice</i>.</p> <p>i. Genesis 49:19 <i>Gad</i> sounds like the Hebrew for <i>attack</i> and also for <i>band of raiders</i>.</p> <p>j. Genesis 49:21 Or <i>free</i>; / <i>he utters beautiful words</i></p> <p>k. Genesis 49:22 Or <i>Joseph is a wild colt, / a wild colt near a spring, / a wild donkey on a terraced hill</i></p> <p>l. Genesis 49:24 Or <i>archers will attack ... will shoot ... will remain ... will stay</i></p> <p>m. Genesis 49:25 Hebrew <i>Shaddai</i></p> <p>n. Genesis 49:26 Or <i>of my progenitors, / as great as</i></p> <p>o. Genesis 49:26 Or <i>of the one separated from</i></p>			

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<p>Second IBS Division: Genesis 49:29-33</p> <p><i>The Death of Jacob</i></p> <p>²⁹ Then he gave them these instructions: "I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite, ³⁰ the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre in Canaan, which Abraham bought along with the field as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite. ³¹ There Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried, there Isaac and his wife Rebekah were buried, and there I buried Leah. ³² The field and the cave in it were bought from the Hittites. [p] "</p> <p>³³ When Jacob had finished giving instructions to his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last and was gathered to his people.</p> <p>Footnotes: p. Genesis 49:32 <i>Or the descendants of Heth</i></p>			
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Holy Spirit Space: Looking Back at Our Own Stories