

Genesis 49:1–28

Blessed by Grace in Our Eternal King

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Main idea: Blessing in this life indicates a grace that comes only in Christ, and points us to an infinitely greater blessing already begun.

¹ And Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

² “Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob,
And listen to Israel your father.

³ “Reuben, you are my firstborn,
My might and the beginning of my strength,
The excellency of dignity
and the excellency of power.

⁴ Unstable as water, you shall not excel,
Because you went up to your father’s bed;
Then you defiled it—
He went up to my couch.

⁵ “Simeon and Levi are brothers;
Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place.

⁶ Let not my soul enter their council;
Let not my honor be united to their assembly;
For in their anger they slew a man,
And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.
⁷ Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce;
And their wrath, for it is cruel!
I will divide them in Jacob
And scatter them in Israel.

⁸ “Judah, you are he whom
your brothers shall praise;
Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
Your father’s children shall bow down before you.

⁹ Judah is a lion’s whelp;
From the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He bows down, he lies down as a lion;
And as a lion, who shall rouse him?

¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes;
And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

¹¹ Binding his donkey to the vine,
And his donkey’s colt to the choice vine,
He washed his garments in wine,
And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

¹² His eyes are darker than wine,
And his teeth whiter than milk.

¹³ “Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea;
He shall become a haven for ships,
And his border shall adjoin Sidon.

¹⁴ “Issachar is a strong donkey,
Lying down between two burdens;
¹⁵ He saw that rest was good,
And that the land was pleasant;
He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden,
And became a band of slaves.

¹⁶ “Dan shall judge his people
As one of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁷ Dan shall be a serpent by the way,
A viper by the path,
That bites the horse’s heels
So that its rider shall fall backward.

¹⁸ I have waited for your salvation, O LORD!

¹⁹ “Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him,
But he shall triumph at last.

²⁰ “Bread from Asher shall be rich,
And he shall yield royal dainties.

²¹ “Naphtali is a deer let loose;
He uses beautiful words.

²² “Joseph is a fruitful bough,
A fruitful bough by a well;
His branches run over the wall.

²³ The archers have bitterly grieved him,
Shot at him and hated him.

²⁴ But his bow remained in strength,
And the arms of his hands were made strong
By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob
(From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

²⁵ By the God of your father who will help you,
And by the Almighty who will bless you
With blessings of heaven above,
Blessings of the deep that lies beneath,
Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

²⁶ The blessings of your father
Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors,
Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.
They shall be on the head of Joseph,
And on the crown of the head of him
who was separate from his brothers.

²⁷ “Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;
In the morning he shall devour the prey,
And at night he shall divide the spoil.”

²⁸ All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

Introduction

Is this prophecy (v1) or blessing (v28)? Both. Prophecy as denouncing the sin of man. Prophecy as announcing the works of God. Blessing by grace.

1. How gracious all blessing is; v3–7, 14–15

- The retributive and consequential dangers of sexual immorality (Reuben), violence (Simeon and Levi), and laziness (Issachar)
- But not all of these prophecies are curses. Certainly, we know from our own sinfulness and from the Bible’s testimony about all men that if the Lord dealt with us according to our iniquities, none could stand.
- The one (Judah) who received the best may actually have deserved the worst!
- So, against all of this backdrop, one of the main teachings of the passage is that all of our blessing comes by God’s mercy and grace to sinners such as we are. All blessing, being gracious, ought to produce in you repentance and faith. All blessing, being gracious, ought to produce in you gratitude and praise. All blessing, being gracious, out to produce in you devotion and service.

2. How greatly we may be blessed in this life; v13, 16–27

- Many different areas in which we may be blessed: wealth (Zebulun, v13); heroism and tactical superiority (Dan, v16, 17); persistence and triumph (Gad, v19); affluence (Asher, v20); beauty (Naphtali, v21); diligence and intensity (Benjamin, v27).
- But Joseph stands out as being blessed with every earthly blessing whether in wealth (v22) or war (v23–24b).
 - The second half of v25 emphasizes the completeness of his blessing: from the highest heavens to the greatest deep, and especially image-bearers (blessings of the breasts and of the womb) who are the greatest blessings in this world.
 - Jacob—in whose life superiority of blessing has been very important—impresses even himself with the greatness of this blessing (v26a–b, cf. chs 27–28).
 - Such earthly blessing (indeed, all earthly blessing) has the God of heaven as its origin: the Mighty God of Jacob, the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel, the God of your father, the Almighty.
 - The Lord gives earthly blessing in different areas and different proportions; but, how greatly you have been blessed, and how great the God of your blessing has shown Himself in doing so! Our marvelous privileges ought make us marvel at Him, and failure to appreciate them despises His praise.

3. How infinitely greater is eternal blessing in Christ, v8–12

- The praise and power of Judah among Israel (v8–9) gives way to something far greater (v10) as the blessing looks forward to the royalty and atonement and beauty of the Forever-King (v11–12).
- v10 looks forward to the exceeding and eternal greatness of blessing that comes with the reign of Christ. “Shiloh” could be the place-name where the tabernacle would be for a time. Indeed, Christ is our tabernacle! But it’s simplest to read as “tribute to Him” so that the whole idea is, “Until tribute to Him comes, and to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples.” This looks forward to that forever-reign of Christ in a New Earth after the sun and moon have expired, but Christ’s reign is just getting started.
- Are you looking forward to this blessing? As you begin to enjoy the new creation that exists already in your new nature, you are enjoying something greater than all the blessings of this age. You recognize that all that you are and all that you have belongs to Him as tribute. You render Him obedience as your King.

Conclusion

Blessing in this life indicates a grace that comes only in Christ, and points us to an infinitely greater blessing already begun.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

We come now to worship God and hearing of his work preached.

Turning our copies of that word to Genesis chapter 49.

To Mrs. 49 with our Bible's open let us ask God for his help.

My God in heaven father son and Holy Spirit, we thank you that you have revealed yourself to us most of all in Christ and by means of this word what you Holy Spirit have carried Moses along to write and which you have preserved pure and entire for your church throughout the ages.

We thank you that you have given it to us not only that we might have it in our ears. But also the promise that you write your word on our hearts we ask that you would do that now. We pray for your help for Him who preaches so that it would be Christ to whose blood speaks better than that available who would speak to us from heaven.

We pray that the hearing would be mixed with faith in us so that we would not refuse him who speaks. We pray that he would be shaking Heaven and earth and even by this means of our hearing your word proclaimed. Be bringing us safely into the unshakable kingdom. We pray that you would be glorified as your word is proclaimed and as we hear it with faith cause it we pray to accomplish that purpose for which you have sent it out, which we pray according to your own promise and Jesus' name.

Amen.

Let us rise. So here the word of God read.

Genesis 49 verses 1 through 28, these are God's words. And Jacob called his sons and said gather together that I may tell you what shall be for you in the last days. Gather together and hear your sons of Jacob and listen to Israel your father. Ribbon you are my firstborn my might and the beginning of my strength.

The excellency and dignity of dignity and the excellency of power. Unstable as water you shall not excel. Because you went up to your father's bed, then you defiled it. He went up to my couch. Simian and Levi our brothers. Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place. Let not my soul enter their counsel.

Let not my honor be United to their assembly. From their anger, they slew a man in their self-will they hemstronged an ox. Cursed be their anger. For his fierce. And their wrath for this cruel. I will divide them in Jacob. And scatter them in Israel. Judah you are he whom your brothers suffraise.

Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies. Your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's wealth from the prey my son, you have gone up. He bows down he lies down as a lion and there's a lion who shall rise him. The scepter shall not depart from Judah nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh comes.

And to him shall be the obedience of the people. Binding his donkey to the vine and his donkeys cult to the choice vine, he washed his garments and wine. And his clothes and the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine. And his teeth whiter than milk. Zebulon shall dwell by the haven of the sea.

He shall become a haven for ships and his border shall adjoin sidon. Is a car is a strong donkey. Lying down between two burdens. He saw that the rest that rest was good and that the land was pleasant. He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden and became a band of slaves.

Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent by the way a viper by the path that bites the horses heals, so that it's riders of all backward. I have waited for your salvation, oh Yahweh. God a troop shall tramp upon him.

But he shall triumph at last. Bread from Asher shall be rich. And he shall yield royal dainties. Nastily is a deer, let loose he uses beautiful words. Joseph is a fruitful bow a fruitful bow by a well his branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him shot at him and hated him but his bow remained in strength and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob from there as the shepherd the stone of Israel.

By the God of your father who will help you and by the almighty who will bless you. With blessings of heaven above. Blessings of the deep that lies beneath. Blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills, they shall be on the head of Joseph and on the crown of the head of him who is separate from his brothers.

Benjamin is a ravenous wolf. In the morning he shall devour the prey and at night he shall divide the spoil all these are the twelve tribes of Israel. And this is what their father spoke to them and he blessed them he blessed each one. According to his own blessing.

The sends this reading of God's inspired and an errant word, please be seated.

I wonder if in some of your houses it's similar to how it is in my house when we get to English class we have several children now who have

gotten to the point where they have to write papers and they very much dislike that part of English class. Ah and yet one of the things that you're doing when you're right papers is similar to what hopefully we're doing when we write and preach serpent sermons sometimes as you tell in the beginning what it's going to be about you probably are expecting that at the end of the introduction you're going to hear a few headings and along the lines of a main idea and that as we go through there'll be some sense of where we are and that when we conclude.

The at the end there'll be some summary statement of what we have just said, if in English class you did what Jacob does here you might get marched down because he begins by introducing it as a prophecy. Jacob called his sons and said gather together that I may tell you what shall be for you in the last days, but then when he concludes a he concludes by referring to what has just come as the blessing.

All these are the tall tribes of Israel, this is what their father spoke to them when the Moses summarizes for us and he blessed them he blessed each one according to his own blessing so what is it that comes in between is it a prophecy or is it a blessing and all the math students said yes?

It is both prophecy and blessing in Scripture prophecy does to things especially at denounces the sin of man as you go through the prophets much of it is like a legal case exposing what man and especially what God's people but also condemning the sins and the wickedness of others as it announces the judgment of God that will come upon them, but if, Especially prophecy when it turns to God does not just announce his judgment which from the the identifying of the sins of man, you're expecting the judgment you're expecting the condemnation but one of the marvelous things about Bible prophecy is it keeps announcing blessing it keeps announcing blessing for sinners and especially through the Christ who would come and indeed he did come so prophecy denounces the sins of man prophecy announces the works of God and prophecy especially announces blessing that.

Comes by Christ and that is what this chapter is doing it shows us how gracious all blessing is by denouncing several of the sins past and also sin future in the case of this occur of God's people and as it demands as the sin and identifies consequences that God is going to bring in his providence on several tribes among the people of God, it does force us to scratch our heads and, Say.

Is it because all these brothers were better than the ones who received not really blessing but curse is it because they were better and of course the answer is no we know what these brothers have been like and the blessing comes by grace and so when we consider especially the denouncing of the sin of Reuben and Simeon and Levi and Issachar and what will come upon their descendants their tribes as a result.

We're also amazed at how gracious God is then that this chapter is also full of blessing for those who are also sinners so first be considering how gracious old blessing is and then as we consider that this blessing is not only gracious but as we consider some of the earthly blessings that that Jacob prophesies over his sons and the tribes that are.

Coming from his sons now we'll see that not only is the earthly blessing gracious but it can also be very great we may be greatly blessed with earthly blessing in this life, in fact blessing that is so great even in this life that it testifies to the greatness and the glory of the God who blesses us but then returning especially to consider Judah and verses 8 through 12, we'll see how infinitely greater is that earthly blessing that is in.

Christ which comes to us by grace, but which he earns is rightly is and he accomplishes and it belongs to all those who are in him and so first. How gracious all blessing is how gracious all blessing is it sounds like it's starting out well first born son of the first wife in the order and that is how the arrangement is here it is according to the the mother they are grouped together the first one son was Ruben he says Ruben you are my firstborn and we're getting ready for a good blessing because the firstborn gets the double port.

Ion my might and the beginning of my strength sounds good so far the excellency of dignity and the excellency of water.

Unstable. Sorry the excellency of power did I say water the excellency of power unstable as water? You shall not excel. Because you went up to your father's bed. Then you defiled it. He went up to my couch. And that's it.

Not a great warning. Against sexual sin. Against lust. Against the indulgence of it the being okay with lusting. And then actions that can come from it. How very many ministers? Have. Labored and done work that others found helpful written books was on recently many of you probably know who it is, that's immaterial.

I won't be recommending anything he's written. I won't be pointing you to any of his skillfully handled conversations and apologetics. Because he committed a sin like Ruben committed. He destroyed. His entire legacy. How great are the possible consequences? Both retributive God judicialist judicially punishing for it and the natural outworkings of it how many families have been destroyed by a father.

My mother who failed to be a husband wife. That they ought to have been. And not their just their lives with the lives of their children and their grand children.

You may be given a great position. You may start out seemingly well. And then you would end up like ribbon. How about Jacob prophesies here in this curse upon him, it does come true. Ribbon is one of the two and a half tribes that ends up on the other side of the Jordan when the east side and he has tribe receives one of the smallest allotments and no one who ever comes from Reuben is known for anything good.

You know who the most prominent people are from the tribe of room in the rest of the Old Testament Dayton and, The ones who in the rebellion against Moses end up having their entire families swallowed up by the ground. And wiped out. How great is the danger of sexual immorality, but also a violence.

Simeon and Levi. Verse five Simeon and Levi our brothers. Instruments of cruelty are in their glowing place let not my soul enter their council let not my honor be united to their assembly for in their anger, they slew a man in their self-will they hamstrung and ox cursed to be their anger for it is fierce and further and their wrath for this cruel.

I'll divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel, you remember the incident. But check them and tell they deceived him and told them well you can marry our sister if only you will be circumcised first and then they used that as the opportunity to slaughter the entire city and take what was theirs.

Children many of you have difficulty with your temper.

Violence and wrath and anger and notice that it is anger and wrath and verse 7 and not just the action of violence but that inner violence that Jesus denounces in Matthew 5 as being like unto murder that is condemned here cursed be their anger for it is fierce and their wrath for it is cruel a violent temper that burning within you indulging it as a sin that can have great consequence.

Both because God hates violence you remember back in Genesis chapter 6 with all the wickedness of the earth at the time when he's sending the flood and he repeats several times that it was full of violence you look at the people that God hates and the sin that God hates in the psalms and how often it's especially the violent that our named this is part of that nature that you have from our first father.

Adam that must be. Put to death in fact as long as you are struggling with this self-control, you shouldn't take your own counsel it is important to note here that those who are quick tempered and vindictive those who are hateful this takes place, especially among ladies with those who are gossiping who are often have in their mouths something demeaning about someone else those are not the ones with whom you ought to keep

Company. Those who are who are violent and raffle and hateful you should not let yourself take their counsel don't go to them for advice if they give you unsolicited advice don't listen to them there's a hatefulness in them that is the opposite of the kind of godly counsel that you should be getting from those who are your friends and those who are your companions don't be jointly joined to them.

God punishes Simeon and Levi by scattering them, in fact, one of the marvelous things that God does is he takes from this joint curse this joint punishment, he takes Levi to be the tribe who are going to be the priests. So that will not look and say oh how wonderful the levites must be that God decided that they would be the ones who did the labor and came the nearest in the worship of God because who's the other one who's joined to Levi Simeon, what do you hear about Simeon and the rest of the Old Testament well next to nothing he's mentioned in censuses, but they lose their territory they end up being blended in.

The year very little about Simeon in the rest of the Old Testament. Sexual sin violence. Laziness. Isn't interesting that in in the way that the Holy Spirit carried Jacob along he's prophesying here we know that even from what we just read in the Simeon and Levi at the end of verse 7 and he says, I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel, you can hear the Lord himself speaking on the lips of Jacob, but isn't it interesting that in the way that the Holy Spirit put these things together in this chapter?

For us laziness is the other great sin we'd normally wouldn't put adultery in fornication murder and hatred. Laziness. Is a great sin. It's a denial of your master, it's a denial of your creator, it's a denial of your purpose. It's a car as a strong donkey he's created that's not a put down the the donkey part there, in fact when Judah has donkey and verse 11 that's a kingly identification if you go and you read the book of judges there are a few judges who are named as having this many sons who wrote on this many donkeys, it's royal language.

And so it's a it's something that God has invested in him given to him that he wastes in verse 14. It's a car is a strong donkey, but what's the donkey doing? Lying down between two burdens. Not many of us have dealt with donkeys but when you're dealing with a donkey.

The stronger of the donkey is the more of a problem that becomes when it's determined not to work. Because suddenly that strength is working against you, isn't it? And it's all the harder to get it up and to get it to do what it's supposed to do. He saw that rest was good and that the land was pleasant.

So he bowed his shoulder to bear. They put the burden on him and he just laid down underneath it and makes a good cartoon because it's for some reason very amusing to us to see frustrating things in cartoons maybe because it's not happening to us at the moment but it makes a very sad and grievous comment.

This is all that is said about is a car here. Laziness is a great sin with great consequences and what comes to Issacar as a result. He became a band of slaves. So there's great warnings here against sexual sin against violence and against laziness indeed we could have if we were to start exploring these sins in the teaching of Christ and and in the rest of Scripture the you could have a sermon or a series on each of these.

And so there are curses here, but not all of the prophecies are curses. Certainly we know from our own sinfulness and from the Bible's testimony about all men that if the Lord dealt with us according to our sins, none of us could stand. The if we're being honest with ourselves and whether you're thinking about your work or whether you're thinking about your parenting whether you think thinking about your calling in the church, whether you're thinking about the effect that you have upon your neighbors and in your community when we come before God honestly, and we think of rash words that we have spoken when we think of thoughts and looks lustful thoughts and looks that perhaps even no one saw but God when we're thinking about times when we had something that we knew would have been right to do but sitting down and seemed plot more pleasant at the moment and we didn't redeem that time in the service of our of our Creator and of our Savior and of our King.

We're often coming before God asking for forgiveness asking that he would not bring upon us the the consequences that ought to come. From. Such sin as has been found in our hearts and expressed in our lives no mere man since the fall has been able in this life perfectly to keep the law of God but doth daily the commandments of God, but that daily break them and thought word and deed.

And you see children how even their catechism question that the Lord who made you and who sets Christ before you and who is redeeming you through faith in him it your quest. Ion your catechism question with a reminder that as we talk about the blessing and this chapter really is full of blessing that you would find it amazing that there is blessing for sinners like you are that as you cry out to God to preserve you from committing sins and from the consequences that come from them you're crying out to a God who offers you not just that preservation, but even blessing

blessing that you don't deserve.

Blessing that comes to you because he is merciful and then we'll see in the last place blessing that comes to you because he has given you Christ.

Judah receives the greatest blessing in this chapter. Jacob is really impressed with what he says about Joseph and he's probably planned to say this for a while Joseph, of course, we saw in last week's passage he adopts. Jacob adopts Joseph's two oldest sons so that he can give Joseph the double portion or a double portion as it were by.

By counting his his sons in in each as one in the blessing and he comes and he blesses Joseph here and he uses he uses Ephraim's name fruitful and he uses Manassas name or at least he he talks about how Joseph is attacked but the the blessing that comes that to make Joseph forget what has happened to him he survives at verse 24.

And he is not his no longer the one who is separated from his brothers he's forgotten the misery and diverse 26 and so there's shades of Ephraim and Manasseh even there so Jacob cries really hard but he's prophesying he's being carried along by the Holy Spirit he has to say what God puts into his mouth and much to bailix frustration right when he wants bail into curse Israel and God puts blessing in Balaam's mouth for Israel three times and Judah get.

S to be the one who is prophesied to be the one through whom Christ comes and he gets the greatest blessing but Judah might actually have deserved the worst. You remember when Judah was the one proposing how to make money off of murdering Joseph you remember when Judah was the one who decided to leave the covenant people and and go to all among the Canaanites and took a Canaanite wife and he had the the sons who were so wicked that God kept killing him and then he committed the same sin that Ruben here as I identified as committing but he committed it with a prostitute and then he was violent like Simeon and, I as soon as he found her thought he had found a way out of his predicament.

He was eager that has daughter-in-law whom he himself had impregnated would be burned. From what the Lord has told us about them and these of course are our judgments that belong to the Lord when you think about who is more sinful than whom but from what the Lord has told us about them.

Judah well could be the one who is deserved the worst, isn't he? Of the brothers here. And yet he receives the best. Because blessing comes by the grace of God. Curse does come as consequence for our sin, but blessing comes by the grace of God is after all God's grace that restrains our sin.

It's God's grace that gives a spiritual life. It's God's grace that gives us faith to believe into Christ. It's God's grace that gives us from Christ. His own character then to be worked out in us who believe in Him and have been justified in Him. So not only does the blessing come as a matter of grace good things for those who deserve only curse but even when the mechanism by which God brings the blessing into our life is goblins the goblins itself came from Him, which has been one of the marvelous things that we've been seeing about Judah.

And some of you here as you hear about laziness and as you hear about hatefulness and you hear about lust and your soul is being way down by the greatness of your knowledge of those sins in your life. You have presented before you hear Judah. From the Lord marvelously converted.

And in whom we've seen not just wonderful believing character, but now here you've he is given the greatest blessing in this chapter and you know that the God of Judah is your God. That you are gathered here in his assembly because he has brought you here to proclaim the good news of Christ in your hearing and to bless it to you by his spirit.

You cry out to him be unto me the God who gives blessing? My grass. So one of the main teachings of this passage is that all of our blessing comes by God's mercy and grace to sinners such as we are. And this ought to produce in us repentance and faith.

We're getting it all wrong if we say well blessing comes by grace it comes to the one who does not work. Therefore, I'm going to sin as much as possible no. The God who displays himself to you as a God of grace is all the more worthy of your hating this sin that is against him is all the more trustworthy of your resting in him and trusting him to be your God and following his instruction and walking with him.

The fact that blessing is by grace ought to produce in your repentance ought to reproduce in you. Faith not the carelessness. For which ribbon and Simeon and Levi and it's a car ought to be warnings to you. All blessing being gracious ought not just to produce repentance in faith but as God blesses you despite your sin and the sin that you have committed he does not cause it to bear fruit in your life and as he produces even in you the character of Christ and brings blessing through it that ought to produce in you gratitude and praise your boasting has been excluded.

Because he is the one who is working in you and who is rewarding you for what he himself has done in Christ. All blessing being gracious ought to produce enough devotion and service that were so thankful to belong to such a God as this that we pour out our lives and thanksgiving unto him.

And so the first teaching that we see in the passage this morning is the how gracious all blessing is and then we see also that we may be greatly blessed in this life. Look at all the different areas of blessing the the first three received curse. From Judah there's a play on words and his name his name means praise.

You remember as Leia was crying out to God and and praying that as God gave her these sons that her husband would see her and that her husband would hear her and be attached to her and then finally with Judah she just said I'll praise God. And had you there's that a wonderful release of giving up as it were on Jacob Grievous as that is but rejoicing in God.

But we'll come back to Judah after Judy you have these kind of staccato blessings Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea he shall become a haven for ships as border so join Sidon. That's wealth God is the one who gives us the power to wake wealth. God is the one who puts us in a

place where.

We can increase in wealth wealth is an earthly blessing and it comes from the Lord say is terrorism courage cleverness tactical superiority. Dan shall judge his people we think of that and we see someone in a black robe and with a wooden hammer a gavel in his hand and pronouncing judgment and certainly the word can be used that way but in the scripture the the judge was also the one who was who is responsible for.

Delivering his people who was responsible for for overthrowing those who were oppressing his his people but how was Dan going to do that because he is pictured here as a a comparatively small and weak and fragile reptile and the enemy is mounted on a very strong horse and you're expecting that the horse is just going to trap.

All the snake to death. Dan shall judge his people is one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent by the way a viper by the path that bites the horse's heels so that it's riders shall fall backward not all deliverance comes by strength sometimes deliverance comes by God given wisdom and the Jacob could have interjected verse 18 or something like it in any of the blessings but it's at this point in particular that the, Comes from in the prophecy of Deion as a judge is recognized as being directly from Yahweh directly from the Lord of weighted for your salvation, oh Yahweh, so perhaps the Lord has given you wealth perhaps the Lord has given you courage or cleverness perhaps he gives you persistence and triumph there's more plays on words here.

God a troop shall tramp upon him, but he shall try them at last and here there's, A all these different plays on his name God is raided by raiders but he raised them in the end or something to that effect he perseveres he goes through much but he perseveres perseverance is also an earthly blessing it's a kind of thing that makes wonderful history or story to read about the one who goes through.

So many things I don't like 19th century British literature there's too much persevering the guy who goes through yes 61 devastating things to make it to the end it's depressing and yet that is the way life often is which is probably why the way they they. They make you reason they make you read so much of it and the schools but perseverance is a blessing from God.

Because often in his providence, he does have much to bring you through. And here God receives the blessing of perseverance. This is something that you can add to what we heard last week at the end of Philippians chapter 1 and the and the evening sermon that to us has been granted not only to believe but sometimes it is granted to you to suffer and perseverance is another one of those blessings.

They overcome by the blood of the lamb. They love not their lives even unto death. So wealth heroism tactical superiority persistence and triumph and in God's case the enjoyment of luxuries bread from Asher shall be rich and shall yield royal dainties beauty nastily as a deer let loose he uses beautiful words and there's some translation issues about what's going on with the Hebrew word that is translated.

Word here. When the Newton when the Old Testament was translated into into Greek some centuries even before the Lord Jesus came they they thought it was a different Hebrew word, but there's no question about the word beauty. Is an earthly blessing and then you have the diligence and intensity of Benjamin this ravenous wolf in the morning he shall devour the pray at night he shall divide the spoil.

There's a diligence and a zeal and an intensity there. The Lord gives different people different blessings not to old as he give wealth not to all does he give great cleverness and tactical superiority not to all does he give the same persistence or success ultimate? Earthly triumph of God not to oral does he give the enjoyment of luxurious things on earth versus verse 20 not to all.

Does he give the same beauty or ability to produce beauty not to all does he give the same boundless energy or intensity? Dear children. Many of you we notice one or more of these traits in and we rejoice not only that God has given them to you but at what he might do with them.

But these are all earthly blessings and and indeed each one of them is to be valued, we're not to be embarrassed of them or ungrateful for them do not allow someone to use the word privilege with you as if being given wealth or be. Give. An ability or being given beauty or the ability to make beauty or being given perseverance or being given diligence would be a bad thing.

It is of course wicked to be ungrateful and those who do not recognize God as the creator of all and God as king over all things sovereignly appointing to each his gifts and to each his place. If you have no view of God like that, then you don't have the the you don't have the ability in your thinking to recognize the goodness of it in a way that praises him and serves him and that.

Is much of what is behind the abuse of the word privilege in gratitude to God and and the breaking of the 10th commandment coveting desiring that God's providence to someone else would have been God's providence to you the violence against the 10th commandment has become in our culture a new moral good by those to those who hate God.

It must not be so among you. You should see earthly blessing and call it good and be thankful and employ it for the glory of God and for the good of your neighbor and not covet what belongs to others nor treat your own blessing as if it is something to be sorry for or repented of.

Joseph, however stands out among them. Jacob goes all out here the greatness of each of these earthly blessings. Jacob tries to give them all to Joseph no doubt there is in his memory a day in which he has gone into his blind father as as he is now blind and his sons are before him and you remember he was wearing Esau's clothes and he saw being so hairy that the, The pair of the goat approximated him well and and that whole situation.

And one of the things that was a great feature of that day was. When Esau came in to get a blessing and and Isaac said when he figured out what Jacob had done, he said there's nothing left for you. I've given him so much what can I give you?

And so you hear Jacob saying in verse 26 the blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of of my ancestors up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills, they shall be on the head of Joseph. On the crown of the head of him who is separate from his brothers and so he describes

him.

As a fruitful not just a fruitful bowel fruitful, well what does that mean that means you never runs out of water that means that's similar to the the tree planted by the water and psalm one which bears fruit in and out of season it's a fruitful bowel who's branches run over the world the fruitfulness the blessedness can't be stopped it keeps growing its spreads into and over everything when others try to stop him and they.

They hate him verse 23, it's his bow that overcomes their bow his bow remained in strength the arms of his hands were made strong the the blessings that he receives verse 25 at the end blessings of the deep that lies sorry buzzings of heaven above and the blessings of the deep that lies beneath another words everything and all of creation that's how God talks about the creation isn't it the heavens and the earth and under the earth you remember the combining of those things using everything.

Is being marshled employed for the blessing of Joseph and then especially the most important part of the creation what was the crown jewel the great the greatest part of all that God created in the heavens and the earth and and under the earth was it not man whom he said let us make man in our own image and he said be fruitful and multiply and so he makes sure that that he focuses on blessings of procreation being fruitful and multiplying blessed.

Things of the breasts and blessings of the womb you have this massive blessing and of course, he puts the one who blesses at the center at the center of it all calling him saying that this blessing comes by the hands of the mighty one of Jacob. From there is the shepherd so it's by God's power it's by God's protection and provision he is the stone of Israel by God's perfect reliability by the God of your father he is the God who in his power and in his protection and in his provision and in his perfect reliability has bound himself to him by covenant God of your father.

Who will help you the almighty. Who will bless you and so we see all these blessings of the other brothers and then especially when it comes to Jacob sorry to Joseph the the increased blessing that it is a blessedness, that is not just from God, but displays the goodness of your God.

So that when we were talking about thankfulness a moment ago and wanting to resist the idea that we shouldn't be thankful that we should be embarrassed of or even feel guilty about the good things that God has given to us or built into us it's not just an issue of thankfulness but it's an issue with praise.

And goodness is being displayed and we should love to display his goodness does that mean that we're going to be stingy that we're going to despise others that we're going to look down upon them absolutely not pride and praise do not go together you cannot hope to advance your own name or think highly of yourself while desiring that God would be praised and God would be honored.

And so one of the primary purposes of your blessing is the worship of God in the display of his goodness so that even if you do become one through whom others are blessed, then you would you would not want your left hand to know what your right hand is doing because it is the almighty hand of God that has given the blessing and so all earthly blessing has the God of heaven as its origin and the glory of that God as its end as its goal.

The Lord God gives earthly blessing and different areas and different proportions. But frankly when we read about all of these different blessings living in this nation at this time in history and some of you have traveled and have been places that were poor or even now and you can read of the the great neediness.

Just going through the list of of the blessings of the Lord gives how greatly you have been blessed. Every single one of you how much you have been given and the thankfulness and the praise and the desire to display his glory and make sure that it is all attributed to him and employed in his service it belongs to you it belongs to you more even than to many in the world now and the majority of those who have been in this world are marvelous privileges ought to make us marvel at him.

Failure to appreciate them despises his goodness and his praise. Which brings us at last having considered not only that all blessing is gracious but that all our even our earthly blessing is great and that the greatness of it is designed to proclaim the glory of God and respond to him and display him thank him and praise him we come in the last place to how infinitely greater is eternal blessing in Christ.

The praise. Empower of Judah among Israel, we see in verses eight nine. You are. He whom you are brothers, so prays. Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's wealth from the prey my son you have gone up.

He bows down he lies down as a lion who saw rats and the praise and power of Judah among Israel gives way to something that is far greater. He says the scepter shall not depart from Judah nor a law giver from between his feet until Shiloh comes and to him shall be the obedience of the people you remember John in Book of Revelation chapter 5.

And there are the seals the seals of the coming of the Kingdom of God and and there are there's no one who can open them and and John is weeping because there's no one who can open them and you remember what is told to him. Don't weep. The lion of the tribe of Judah he is the one who brings in the kingdom.

He is the one to whom the kingdom belongs so that which belonged to Judah among the brothers and verses eight and nine that the kingship would come from him and the, The line of the tribe of Judah and then he doesn't say the in Revelation five merely the seed of the David of David but the root of the branch of David the fact that the the king ship that was promised to David in second Samuel seven where we in God's providence have just been these these last couple of weeks that it wasn't fulfilled ultimately in Solomon or in the others about whom you read in first and second kings.

It's ultimately fulfilled in Christ, isn't it? There's a prophecy here about Christ being the one from whom the the one to whom it belongs. The scepter that is the kingship the power the the rod that says the authority and and the rule of the king the scepter shall not depart from Judah nor

a lawgiver from between his feet until silo comes.

Now it may be because Jacob is prophesying here that the Holy Spirit carries him along to say or to name the place where the tabernacle would spend a little bit of time. So if that is the case then until Shiloh comes it means until the one who, Has gone with us the one in whom it says God tabernacled among us comes until Jesus our priest comes and yet the these same Hebrew constants if it's two words until him to whom it belongs comes and to him.

So be the obedience of the people. In that case, you know, both of these last two lines in verse 10 are talking about the kingship of Christ that there is a kingdom there is a blessing as as this is the family in whom all of the families of the earth are to be blessed that there is a kingship and a blessing here, that is not just for Jews.

That it's for you here this morning even though you are Gentiles from one of these other families and the family of Abraham but you were given by God to be blessed in the family of Abraham and to be blessed especially in Judah indeed to Christ it is all blessedness that all blessedness belongs to him and not just in this life but especially not just in this this world but especially in the world to come that is the simplest reading of verse 10.

So the whole idea is until tribute to him comes and to him shall be the obedience of the people's and hopefully you have a translation that's a little bit more literal than the New King James and verse 10 because it is not just people on which can be a collective but people's amine multiple people's all of the people until Jesus comes and tribute comes to him from the ends of the earth and all the people bowed down and render him obedience.

In fact what is being described here in Genesis 10 is actually what Psalm 72 describes will happen when King Jesus comes and Psalms 72 the kingship of King Jesus and all the trivia coming to him and all the authority belonging to him it's a blessing to everyone who's underneath him, he he hears the poor and he is the one who who comes to the rescue of the oppressed.

And so there is an eternal blessing in Christ that is at the center of all of these prophecies about earthly blessings yes, there's many things said about particular tribes of God's people to remind us that when we see God giving us these things in our lives we say how greatly I have been blessed in this life, but the blessing for Judah isn't really an immediate blessing.

It's a blessing that looks forward to the day that the lion from the tribe of Judah has finally brought into fullness his forever rain that Psalm 72 looks forward to and Hebrews one looks forward to and says about the Lord Jesus that son and moon in the heavens that they're all we're going to wear out but his throne is forever, he will change them out like a garment.

Perhaps some of you girls and maybe boys too. I know but perhaps some of you girls have had something that you were going to go to and you had your you know top 17 picks of what you might wear which just shows you how well you have been blessed by the Lord and how grateful you ought to be and you go in and you put one on you stand in front of the mirror, you don't like that one and so you switch out to the next one.

That's the way the permanence of the kingdom of Christ is compared that the this entire earth and heaven this entire age even with all of its rich blessings that we hear about this passage is to be changed like a garment because the kingship of Christ and the blessedness of that kingship for unending ages in the in the world to come is so much greater so much more permanent so that even as we thank God for and praise God in and employ into.

His glory all the blessings of this world we should be straining forward we should be straining forward to have the kingship of Christ proclaimed and all of those who will belong to him by faith gathered in and his church built up so that in that last day when when he returns and he changes them like a garment as it were the great eternal blessing to which all temporary blessings point forward will be unto his.

Unending thankful. Thanksgiving and prays unto him. So as you begin to enjoy that you belong to him by faith enjoy that he is your king put to death sin not just because of what it might do to you and to your children but because it is against the Lord Jesus your Creator and your Redeemer and your king you are enjoying something greater than any of your earthly blessings.

Because you are enjoying a kingship and the blessedness of that kingship that will go into all eternity that will outlive even the sun. Blessing in this life is by grace we're all sinners we don't deserve it and we may be blessed greatly in earthly things but all of it is on to the glory of the one who blesses us by his grace, but even then it is pointing us to an infinitely greater blessing already begun in the kingship of Christ that has come.

Let's pray.

Our Father in heaven we thank you for your help as. We moved through this portion of your word, we pray that the truth of it you would. You would fix in our minds and that you would make fruitful in our hearts. Lord grant to us lives of repentance that see the how much you hate sin and how dangerous is your judgment against it and the consequences that it may have for us and others we pray that you would make us to rejoice over your grace that there's blessing for sinners such as we are and we pray that as you as you open our eyes to see how blessed we are and to be thankful to you and to employ it in your service.

That you had point us especially to Christ reminding us. Of him and his kingdom that has come and is coming we pray that that you would make us to rejoice at being a part of that kingdom that being in him you have made us already part of the new creation there's so much here Lord and we pray that your spirit would keep opening it to us and making it fruitful in us unto your glory and Jesus and whose name we ask it amen.