

# *The Torah Project*

## **Genesis 49**

### **Genesis 49:1-2**

*Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, “Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what will befall you in the latter days. Gather together and hear, O sons of Jacob, and listen to Israel your father.”*

## Genesis 49:3-4



*“**Reuben**, you are my firstborn; my might and the beginning of my strength, pre-eminent in rank and preeminent in power. Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father’s bed; then you defiled it – he went up to my couch.”*

**1 Chronicles 5:1** Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father’s bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; so that he is not enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright.

**Judges 5:15** The princes of Issachar came with Deborah, and Issachar faithful to Barak; into the valley they rushed at his heels. Among the clans of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.

## Genesis 49:5-7



*“**Simeon** and **Levi** are brothers; their swords are implements of violence. Let my soul not enter into their conspiracy; let not my glory be united with their assembly; because in their anger they slew men, and in their self-will, they lamed an ox. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel. I will disperse them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.”*



***Gen. 37:19-20** They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer! Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, ‘A wild beast devoured him.’ Then let us see what will become of his dreams!”*

***Deuteronomy 18:2** “They [the Levites] shall have no inheritance among their countrymen; Adonai is their inheritance, as He promised them.”*

**Joshua 19:9** The inheritance of the sons of Simeon *was taken* from the portion of the sons of Judah, for the share of the sons of Judah was too large for them; so the sons of Simeon received *an* inheritance in the midst of Judah's inheritance.

**Exodus 32:26-27** Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, "Whoever is for Adonai, *come* to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him. He said to them, "Thus says Adonai, the God of Israel, 'Every man *of you* put his sword upon his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate in the camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor.'"

*→ a Levite*

**Numbers 25:7-8,14** When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he arose from the midst of the congregation and took a spear in his hand, and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman, through the body. So the plague on the sons of Israel was checked... Now the name of the slain man of Israel who was slain with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father's household among the Simeonites.

## Genesis 49:8-12



**Judah** – you, your brothers shall praise. Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies. Your father’s sons shall bow down to you. Judah is a lion’s cub. From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, and as a lion, who dares rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience [or ‘assemblage’] of the peoples. He ties his foal to the vine, and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine. He washes his garments in wine, and his robes in the blood of grapes. Wine-dark eyes, and his teeth white from milk.”

## Genesis 49:13



**Zebulun** will dwell at the seashore, and he shall be a haven for ships, and his flank shall be toward Zidon.”

## Genesis 49:14-15



*“**Issachar** is a strong-boned donkey, lying down between the sheepfolds. When he saw that a resting place was good and that the land was pleasant, he bowed his shoulder to bear burdens, and became a servant at forced labor.”*

**1 Chronicles 12:32** Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command.

**Deuteronomy 33:18** Of Zebulun he said, “Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going forth, and, Issachar, in your tents.”

## Genesis 49:16-18



*“**Dan** shall avenge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan will be a serpent in the way, a viper in the path that bites the horse’s heels so his rider falls backward. For Your salvation do I long, Adonai.”*

## Genesis 49:19



*“As for **Gad** [“troop”], a troop will troop on him, but he will troop on their heel.”*

## Genesis 49:20



*“As for **Asher**, his food shall be rich, and he will yield royal delicacies.”*

## Genesis 49:21



*“**Naphtali** is a hind let loose who delivers beautiful sayings.”*



**Matthew 4:13-16** And leaving Nazareth He went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

### Genesis 49:22-26



*“**Joseph** is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring. Its branches run over a wall. The archers bitterly attacked him, and shot at him and harassed him, but his bow remained firm, and his arms were agile, from the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (From there he shepherds the stone of Israel). From the God of your father who helps you, and by the Almighty who blesses 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 surpassed the blessings of my ancestors up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. May they be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of the one exiled [or ‘consecrated’] from his brothers.”*

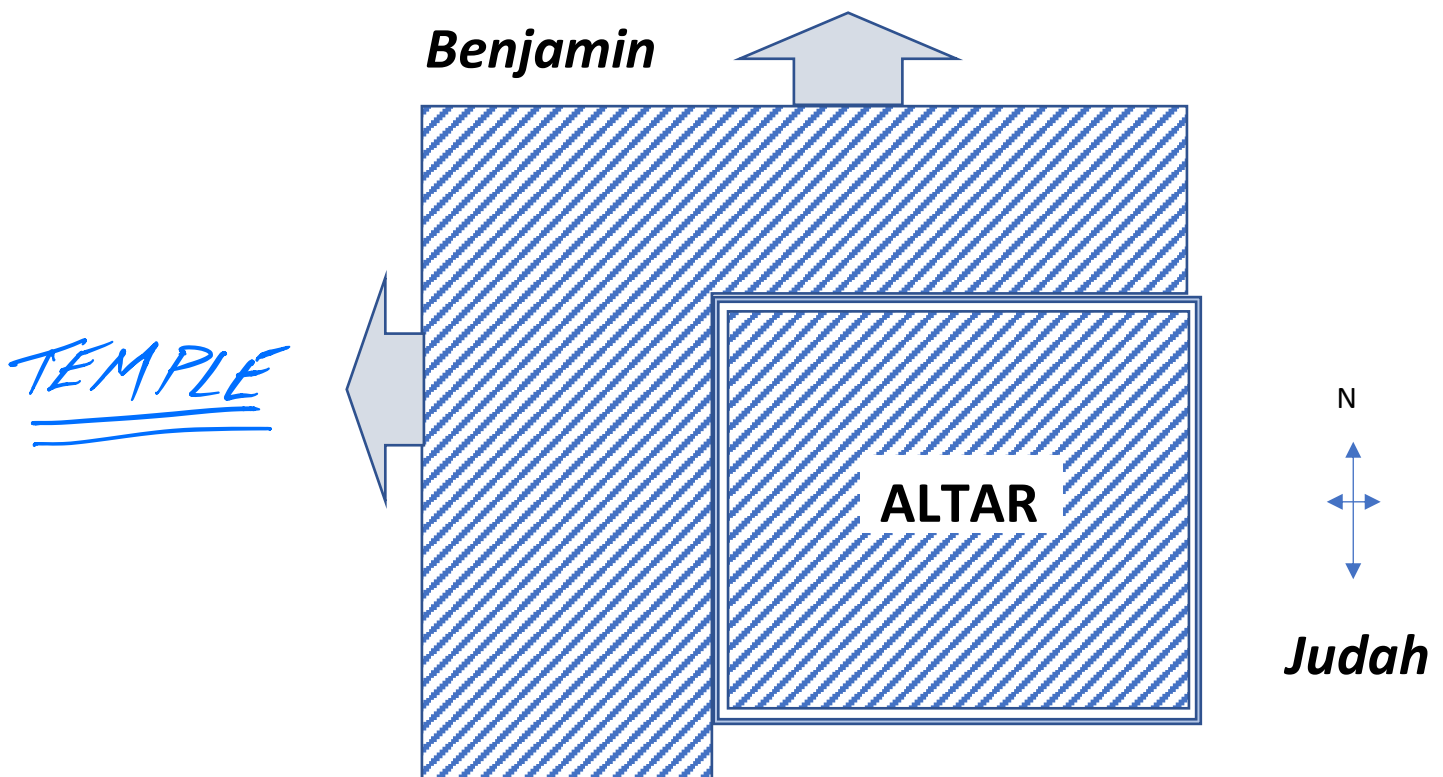


## Genesis 49:27



**Benjamin** is a ravenous wolf. In the morning he will devour prey, and in the evening he will distribute the spoils.”

“Altar” = אָלְטָר  
↓  
אָלְטָר = “Wolf”



**Deuteronomy 33:12** Of Benjamin he said, “The beloved of Adonai – he shall dwell in safety by Him. He will cover him all the day long, and dwell between his shoulders.”

# Boundaries of the Twelve Tribes

Joshua 13-19

