

Bible Summary -Genesis 49

End of Days

Jacob gives his last words to his 12 sons by speaking prophetically about the last days. Jacob uses a term, אַחֲרֵי הַיָּמִים, b'akharit hayyamim, which translates to, End of Days. This same term, in a similar circumstance, is echoed in the Torah in Numbers 24 and Deuteronomy 31-32. Each section adds to the hope for the end of days. Jacob gives the hope of a coming King that will bring prosperity, health and the desire of nations to obey Him. Balaam in Numbers 24 brings the End of Days hope that evil will be destroyed. Moses in Deuteronomy 32 brings the final hope that both the land and the people will be atoned for and cleansed. The three passages form a package that allows believers in King Jesus to hold on to this coming kingdom regardless of current circumstances.

Scriptures: Genesis 49:1-12; John 2:1-11; Numbers 24:9-18; Matthew 16:13-18; Revelation 20:7-10; Deuteronomy 31:29-32:43

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** question listed.)

1. Jesus sought out and ministered to the lost, the outcasts of his time. What can we learn from this and how can we do the same?
2. God's promise for the Israelites, as prophesied through Jacob, is for eventual prosperity, good health, and victory over their enemies.
 - a. Do those same promises apply to the church today?
 - b. If so, could there be dangers of holding these promises of victory and prosperity for the short term?
3. Would you describe yourself as a hopeful person?
 - a. If so, what has been the foundation of your hope?
4. We know based on today's message that at the end of days, God will reign and rule in a wonderful world. Does knowing that add to your hope? Should it?
5. One day we will be like Jesus. What should that mean to us today?