

The Belonging: A Study in Genesis 37-50
Session 9 – Jacob’s Last Words
Genesis 49

If you want to leave a legacy, live a legacy.

Jacob’s blessings of his sons were also prophetic. God granted him wisdom to foretell the future of his descendants.

I. The Longing to be Blessed

Genesis 1:27-28	God blessed Adam and Eve
Genesis 12:3	Abraham
Genesis 27:34	Esau
Genesis 27:26-29	Isaac’s blessing for Jacob

Because God is not bound by time, He saw the fulfillment of the legacy of each of the sons. Their legacy was not set in stone, but directly related to their choices. Their choices impacted their descendants.

II. Breaking the Curse – Genesis 49:6-12

Generational Sin (*The Belonging*, p. 216-217/LP p. 301-303)
Exodus 20:6; Deuteronomy 5:9-10

Judah

III. Being a Blessing

Judah

“A family blessing begins with meaningful touching. It continues with a spoken message of high value, a message that pictures a special future for the individual being blessed, and one that is based on an active commitment to see the blessing come to pass” (*The Gift of the Blessing*, p. 27).

- Meaningful Touch

Jacob – Genesis

Jesus – “Jesus was a model of someone who communicated the blessing to others.

“Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God...’ And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:13-14, 16, NKJV).

“Jesus was not simply communicating a spiritual lesson to the crowds. If he was, He could have done so by simply placing one child in the center of the group as He did on another occasion (Matthew 18:2). Jesus was demonstrating His knowledge of a child’s genuine need” (*The Gift of the Blessing*, p. 51).

Newborns

- A Spoken Message

Each of the patriarchs “spoke” a blessing over their sons.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21a).

- Attaching High Value to the One Being Blessed
Through the spoken blessing you are acknowledging that you place high value on the person you are blessing.
- Picturing a Special Future for the One Being Blessed
Jacob used a different word picture with each of his sons to bestow the blessing.
Judah – Genesis 49:8-9
- An Active Commitment to Fulfill the Blessing
Each child is unique. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom as you commit to “train up a child in the way they should go (according to their bent).

(*The Gift of the Blessing*, by Gary Smalley and John Trent, PH.D., Inspirational Press, New York, NY, p. 27)

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