

The Patriarch's Receive their Blessings

Genesis 49

“Each of us should be encouraged by these prophecies. Here we see God’s righteous judgment on sin, but as we trace the prophecies we see these judgments turned to blessing. Sin has consequences. But if you are suffering from what others have done—perhaps from the sin of a parent, like the descendants of Simeon and Levi—do not think that you are therefore excluded from God’s favor or that it is impossible for you to gain God’s favor again by godly living. God punishes children for the sin of the fathers “to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me” (Exod. 32:14), but he...also brings blessings where he sees repentance (Exod. 32:14; Jer. 18:8; Joel 2:13). Do not despair even if you are suffering for your own sins. If you are suffering from sin, draw near to God and find that he is far more ready to forgive and transmute the punishment than you are to come to him.” Boice

- I. The Old Testament teaches us about the character of God. It is important to study and know the God we’ve come to love, serve and revere, the triune God of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. In the book of Genesis, we learn that God created the heavens and earth, all animal life, the two genders of mankind, male and female, and marriage, which is shown to be between a man and a woman alone. We learn of the fall of mankind and how sin entered His creation. We learn about God’s archrival Satan, the author and progenitor of all that is opposed to God’s holiness and will. We learn of a redeemer from man’s sin, God’s one and only Son Jesus Christ, who saves anyone who would believe upon Him for the forgiveness of their sin and its eternal condemnation of hell. We also learn that God picked a family to carry the seed of His Son. A family that would become the great nation of Israel, which is still in existence today. In all that God has done, we see His love, grace, mercy, and justice at work to not only thwart the will of Satan and his evil world system, but to someday bring about a new heaven and earth. Like with the great patriarchs of old, we are a part of God’s great redemptive plan that guarantees believers the privilege of being with Him to enjoy the wonderful kingdom He has in store for all **who choose Him and His ways, over Satan and his ways.**

Ps. 25:8-10 *Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. 9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. 10 All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.*

- II. It is hard for us to understand why God would want anything to do with disobedient, selfish, murderous, immoral, prideful men who showed little regard for what it meant to serve, obey and worship Him. They did not deserve His grace and mercy, nor the privilege of being a part of His covenant love for them. Yet, He chose to bless them out of his faithfulness to the covenant promises he made to their great grandfather Abraham, grandfather Isaac, and father Jacob. What we see with Israel blessing his sons, are God's attributes of perfect grace, mercy and justice being given to men who seem to have repented and put their focus back on God. He didn't spare them of the consequences of their sin but blessed and judged them according to how they had lived under His covenant love toward them.

Gen. 49:1-2

"Grace is God choosing to bless us rather than curse us as our sin deserves. It is His benevolence to the undeserving." "A brief biblical definition of mercy is 'the gift of God's undeserved kindness and compassion'... In God's mercy, He shows leniency. He withholds punishment from sinners even though they deserve it." "God is just, and His justice is an indispensable part of His character in the same way that His love and mercy are indispensable. Without His justice, sin would run unchecked. Evil would win. There would be no reward for obedience. We could not respect a god who was not just" (gotquestions.org).

- III. As Israel gave each son his blessing, he, through the Holy Spirit, determined the future of each Israeli tribe that would come from them. It shows us that how we live our faith can have a tremendous impact on the spiritual wellbeing of our family, the church and others. *The aim of the God-sent consequences of forgiven sin are (1) to demonstrate the exceeding evil of sin, (2) to show that God does not take sin lightly even when he lays aside his punishment, (3) to humble and sanctify the forgiven sinner. Thus Hebrews 12:6 teaches that "the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." This is immensely important to teach in a day when there is an imbalance of emphasis on the Father's forgiving tenderness to the exclusion of the Father's forgiving toughness. Thus many people have no categories to handle the consequences of the sins in their lives except to become less biblical and God-centered in their interpretation of life. By the power of truth and the Spirit we must learn to revel in the grace of God, the forgiveness of sins, the hope of glory, the joy of the Lord at the very same time that we may be suffering from the consequences of forgiven sin. We must not equate forgiveness with absence of painful impact. John Piper*

Gen. 49:3-21

1 Chron. 5:1-2

Deut. 33:6

Gen. 34:1-2,13-16, 25-30

Joshua 19:1

Joshua 13:33

Joel 2:13-14

Heb. 7:14

Rev. 5:5

Gen. 3:15

Gen. 22:18

Phil. 2:9-10

Gal. 3:28

Matt. 4:12-16