

**JOSEPH, HELPED BY
THE ALMIGHTY**
Genesis 49:13-50:2

INTRODUCTION

After pronouncing blessings on each of his sons in Genesis 49, Jacob is gathered to his people. He instructs his sons to bury his body back in Canaan. Genesis 49:1-12 covers Jacob's blessing on the 4 eldest sons. This study will scan through the remaining sons, and specifically focus on Joseph. Of all Jacob's sons, Joseph has a strength of character the others do not have. This imparted strength of character comes from God – *Isaiah 40:29-31, 1 Corinthians 15:10, Colossians 1:29*. We observe **Joseph, Helped By The Almighty**.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read through Genesis 49. Following Jacob's first four sons born to Leah (verses 1-12), we see the blessings pronounced upon each son in birth order. Each of us surely wants a blessing from the Lord too. What kind of blessing will you get? What do you want for your life? What will you DO with your life? Concentrating on **Joseph, Helped By The Almighty**, we will consider the strength of character our Lord wants each of us to develop for His glory. *Selah*

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

I. Genesis 49:13-21 & 27. Jacob speaks personal, blessings on the rest of this sons. His blessings also prophesy concerning the tribes that will come from each son. All imperfect, but still chosen and loved by God.

o Zebulun	Land may have bordered the seas.	<i>Deuteronomy 33:18-19</i>
o Issachar	"Reward", they settled in a good land, the Jezreel Valley.	<i>Joshua 17:17-23</i>
o Dan	"Judge", this tribe introduced idolatry, took the easy way. Samson.	<i>Judges 18:1-31</i>
o Gad	"Troop", joined with Reuben & Manasseh – always fighting.	<i>1 Chronicles 5:26</i>
o Asher	"Happiness", one of the most blessed sons.	<i>Deuteronomy 32:24-25</i>
o Naphtali	Gives godly words. Most of Jesus' ministry took place in this land.	<i>Deuteronomy 33:23, Isaiah 9:12</i>
o Benjamin	Son of Jacob's right hand, a violent warrior tribe – yet still beloved.	<i>Deuteronomy 33:12</i>
	<u>God knows the way you will go and where you will end up.</u>	<i>Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 4:1</i>

II. Genesis 49:28-50:2. Jacob dies in the presence of his family. Jacob finished his race well. He knew God fed him all his life and the Angel redeemed him from all evil, and blessed him richly. May each of us also finish well. *Selah*

III. Genesis 49:22-26. Joseph's blessing. Read this Scripture several times. As you do, notice what made Joseph strong in the end. Though he was shot at and hated, he was still a fruitful bough. What can we learn from him?

1. Joseph endured unfair attacks. Archers shoot from a distance, and the arrows are often unexpected. Unseen, cruel, attacks even came from those he should have been safe with (his brothers). Joseph was also under attack through envy, physical temptations, and character assassination. But he kept his eyes on the Lord.
2. Joseph stood his ground, and did not respond. Even when he could strike back, Joseph didn't. He did not go out and try to make the wrong done to him right. There was no revenge or getting even. God gave him the strength to not shoot back. *Matthew 5:38-45*

"You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you. Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established, believe in the prophets and you shall prosper." *2 Corinthians 20:17a, 21b*

CONSIDER Joseph had a strength of character we all should desire. This strength came by the hands (power) of.....

o The Mighty God of Jacob	Make room in your heart for Him	<i>Psalms 132:4-5</i>
o The Shepherd	Be led and fed by Jesus	<i>Psalms 23:1-6</i>
o The Stone of Israel	Stand secure and settled in Him	<i>Isaiah 28:16</i>

"By the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty who will bless you..." Genesis 49:25

PRAY

- o that you will run your race with *strength of character*. Pray for strength of character for your friends and family also.
- o that you would endure hardship as a good soldier.
- o for the church body to have a desire to be involved in the church as a family member.
- o for each one of our missionaries, that they would have the strength to endure as they lay down their lives for their Lord.